JANUARY, 1997 VOL 2 ISSUE 1 GHGLCC

CHAMBER News

Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

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GHGLCC
1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006

New Year Begins with Dinner / Travel Seminar

President Coy Tow Hosts Travel Seminar/ Drawings for Door Prizes

Monday, January 6, 1996, Allen Park Inn
6:00 PM Social, 7:00 PM Dinner/Program

The Chamber's January Dinner/Business Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 1997 at the Allen Park Inn located at 2121 Allen Parkway, just east of Montrose Boulevard (next to KHOU, Channel 11 TV Station).

This month's program will consist of a panel discussion on ***Gay and Lesbian Travel Options for 1997 and beyond!*** President Coy Tow will moderate the discussion. The panel will consist of four travel industry business owners within the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, in addition to one representative from Go Go Tours, Planet RSVP. Participants include **Coy Tow**, Uniglobe First Choice Travel, **David Greiss**, Advance Damron Vacations, **Sandra Wilkins**, The Travel Partnership, **Tim Gibson**, All Around Travel, and Go Go Tour representative **Warren Diana**, Planet RSVP. Each panelist will briefly discuss the many issues and options concerning Gay and Lesbian Travel. Topics will include discussions on gay travel to functions like The Gay Games in Amsterdam, and Gay Ski Week in Aspen,Colorado; planning an RSVP Cruise, Exotic Travel Voyage, and/or Budget Travel. A Question and Answer session will follow each speaker. Drawings for door prizes will be held. Come join us for an exciting and informative evening! Who knows.... ***you may win a grand prize!***

The cost for dinner and program is $20 for members; $25 for guests. Parking is free. It is required to RSVP for all who wish to attend this meeting. Please call the Chamber hotline at (713)523-7576 by Thursday, January 2, 1997 to RSVP. Please note that if you make reservations for guests who do not show for dinner, you are responsible for payment of those dinners. Guests who join the Chamber of Commerce that night prior to dinner will enjoy the discounted member cost of $20 for the dinner. If you need, or would like a special entree (i.e. vegetarian, vegan, low fat / sodium, etc.), please indicate so when making your reservation.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce *(GHGLCC)* fosters and promotes the economic development and vitality of gay, lesbian and supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information and networking opportunities for its members. Promoting a positive image of the diversity of gay and lesbian citizens, and to further strengthen our position in society, the chamber provides opportunities for the personal, professional and social growth of its members. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity.

Committee Reports

Social

Green/White Advisors is hosting a Social/Mixer at their offices on Thursday, January 23, 1997 from 5:30 til 7:30 PM. Stop by their offices at 1225 N. Loop West, Suite 1030. Call Bill Green at 713.869.1144 for detail or directions. ***Mark Your Calendars!***

The November Mixer at Mortgage Associates was the start of the Holiday parties! The attendance was great with many members in attendance along with several guests. John Frels along with his fabulous associates were wonderful hosts. Thank you, John! The food was catered by James Ainesworth and was exquisite! *(Several people tried to talk James out of his Artichoke Dip Recipe, but he would not devulge his secret!)*

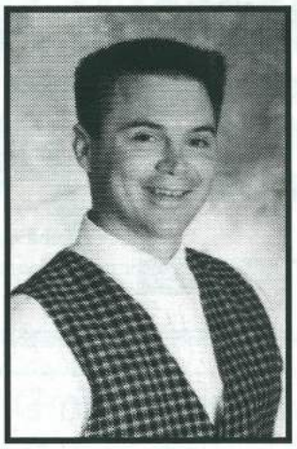
Remember, we are always looking for members to host our monthly mixers/socials. The event format is totally up to the hosts. This is a great opportunity for members to meet other members and community leaders. If interested, please contact Helene Rouse at 713.524.1850.

Internet

Connect to the Chamber Web Page on the World Wide Web, courtesy of John Freeman at Echo Communications and Amy Looper at 7-Seventeen Group, Inc. The URL address is ***http://www.echonet.com/ghglcc.*** Contact Amy Looper at 7-Seventeen for information regarding the Web Site.

Newsletter

The Newsletter Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 22 to discuss improvements with the layout and design of our monthly publication. We will continue to meet every 3rd Thursday of the month. If you'd like more information or have any questions or comments, please contact Matthew Pennington at The Houston Voice 713.529.8490 or Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics 713.528.7654. ***The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month).***



President's Message

By Coy Tow

The new board is eager to get the new year off to a great start and the program committee wants to assure that the January meeting is well attended. The January dinner meeting will feature the Chamber's own expertise in the world of travel. This should be a great meeting with lots of important tips about gay and lesbian travel opportunities in 1997 and beyond!

Much behind the scenes work is being accomplished by our committees and board members to assure the Chamber members continue to receive value from the organization. We are currently gathering phone numbers, addresses, and contact names for the community partnership program so that we may form a true community wide coalition for communication, planning and promoting the gay and lesbian community. The directory committee will meet in January to begin putting an excellent marketing piece together that can be distributed around the world. The membership committee is working on renewals and needs all of our help in growing this organization and sharing the news that the Chamber is the group to belong to for promoting the business and social welfare or our Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian community.

New leadership roles are developing as we continue to grow and take on more projects. We are forming a Business Exposition committee which will be under the leadership of Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney. The bottom line is that there is a place for all of us to make incredible contributions and receive personal rewards if we only step forward and become involved. Like any organization, the greatest rewards will come to those who participate in an active manner!

The board and committee chairs and anyone else who would like to be involved in the planning process for 1997 will be in retreat on January 18, 1997 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. If you have ideas, concerns, or suggestions, please join us or forward your comments to the chamber address. Together we will all build a better place to live, work, and share the gifts that life allows.

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday and a Prosperous New Year!

Business Expo

January Business/Dinner Meeting

January 6, 1997

6:00 - 7:00 PM

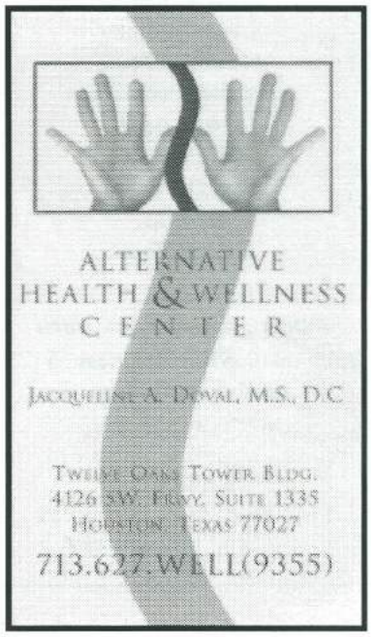
Reserve Your FREE Expo Table

by calling Dan DiDonato at

Preferred Graphics

713.528.7654

(Limited Space!)



Minutes from the Board

Minutes of the Board Meeting for November 18, 1996

Location: The Lovett Inn **Time:** 6:00 PM

Board Members present: Tom Fricke, Patrick McKee, Sandra Wilkins, James Coy Tow, Jackie Doval, Suzanne Anderson, Greg Jeu; **Committee Chairs present:** Matt Pennington, Laura Hudman, Dan DiDonato, Bill Green, Ken Council, Ron Shelby,Kevin Davidson; **Guests present:** Anita Renterita, Debbie Phinney, Joyce Gayles, Tony Carroll.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mr. Coy Tow, President

A motion was made and approved to accept the Minutes of the October 21, 1996 meeting.

Treasurer Report - Tom Fricke

The Treasurer reported income and expenses with a Total of $5,806.54 in current assets.

Membership Committee Report - Laura Hudman

Laura reported that she would begin her Committee Report at the general meeting with welcoming new members and guests. The Committee is composing the renewal letter to Charter Members and a form for resubmittal of membership fees.

Program Committee Report - Dan DiDonato and Bill Green

Dan and Bill reported that Marcia Carlton would be the entertainment for the December general meeting. Also, the information for the Toy Drive for AFH would be disseminated among the membership. The Committee is researching new meeting space for the Chamber. Tom Fricke requested that he review the contract and that a board poll be taken prior to contracting the association.

Newsletter Committee - Matthew Pennington

The Newsletter Committee reported that the newsletter was on schedule.

Social Committee - Helene Rouse

The Committee reported the success of previous mixers and reminded the bo[illegible] of the Mixer in December planned for December 12, 1996 at Suzanne Anderson [illegible]es.

Benefits Committee - Ron Shelby

Ron presented a letter that would be submitted to the membership regarding benefits. (Letter attached to Secretary Minutes) The goal of the committee was to have no conflicts of interest with committee members. The Committee submitted its goals and plan report (Attached to Secretary Minutes) regarding research of retirement plans and discount card program activity.

Business Development & Corporate Policy - Harold Shultz and Rick Schroeder

The Committee submitted a written report to the President. A recommendation was made for Corporate Membership fees to be $500.00 and offer sponsor positions. Multiple objectives and plans were submitted in the report.

Old Business

Tom Fricke was charged with developing Year-end Awards. Tom discussed the awards, and indicated that Certificates of Appreciation would also be awarded to Past Board Members and Committee Chairs.

New Business

Committee Structure for 1997 was discussed. A Board Retreat is planned for January 18, 1997 at 9:00 A.M.

Anita Renterita presented information regarding the Chamber participation and leadership in developing and managing a Business Expo. Anita agreed to Chair the Committee for the Chamber.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Committee Reports

Membership

Everyone on the membership committee wishes each and every member of the Chamber a very happy and prosperous new year!!! Becoming more involved in committees in 1997 could mean a more prosperous year; through your participation you will likely find an increase in your business. I personally have found it is an excellent way to meet and get to know more members than I would otherwise. So... if you're interested in participating on the membership committee, please join us at out next committee meeting at Jalapeno's Restaurant on Wednesday, January 15 at 11:30AM or give me a call at 713.520.7237. Thanks! Laura Hudman of OutSmart magazine.

Benefits

The Benefits committee is now compiling a list of businesses willing to offer discounts to members. If you fall into that category, or want to help on this committee, please call Ron Shelby at 350-4731.

Program

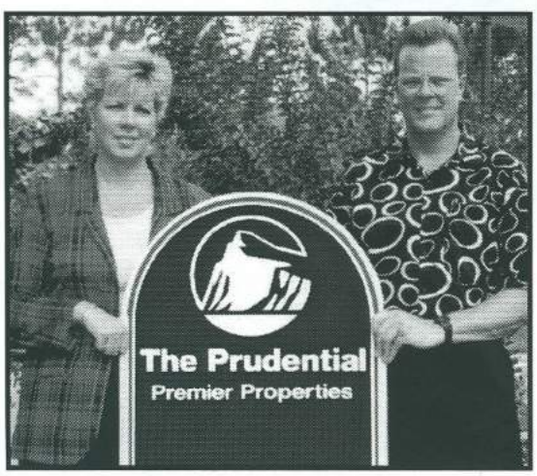
We are continuously working to improve our programs, striving to meet the needs of our membership. We are looking for a few good people to join our committee to help facilitate these new ideas/ changes. If you also know of any entertainer who might consider entertaining our membership for our monthly dinner meetings on a "pro gratis" basis (free meal would be provided), please contact the program committee chairs. In January, we begin our free Mini-Business Expo for the 6:00 PM social/cocktail hour prior to the dinner meeting. Call Dan DiDonato to RSVP your expo table.

Please come by our next Program Committee meeting which will be held on the first Wednesday following the dinner meeting (January 8, 1997) at Baba Yegas at Noon. Please contact the Program Chairs Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics (713.528.7654) or Bill Green at Green White Advisors (713.869.1144).

January, 1997

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 *New Years Day*	2	3	4
5	6 *Dinner Meeting Allen Park Inn Downtown 6 PM*	7	8 *Program Com. Noon, Baba Yegas* *Directory Com. 1:00, Baba Yegas*	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 *Membership Committee Jalapeno's Rest 11:30 AM*	16	17	18 *Board Retreat*
19	20	21	22 *Newsletter Committee 811 Westheimer Suite 202 6 PM, 528-7654*	23 *Green/White Advisors Mixer 811 Westheimer Suite 202 5:30 - 7:30*	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

"SIBLINGS SELLING DWELLINGS"



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Happy Holidays

from the Newsletter Staff

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notes From the Board

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

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

Welcome New Members!

Synchronized Montrose Chiropractor	Stephanie McGhee, DC
Today's Health Center	Daniel A.Boudreaux, DC
Muscle Mechanics Inc.	John Aaron Villarreal
Memorial Oaks Funeral Home	Kimberly D.Short
Newbart Products	JimBartley

Birthday Celebration This Month

Fred Walters	1/1
Linda Landry	1/7
Lance Looper	1/8
Stephanie McGhee	1/11
Patrick McKee	1/15
J.C. Michalek	1/16
Linda Gibbs	1/16
Debbie Phinney	1/17
William Johnson	1/21
Joyce Gayles	1/23
Clyde Williams	1/28

Volunteers Needed!

The **Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce** needs YOU! We are looking for individuals to get more involved with our committee system. If you would like to see improvements or change within our organization, we invite you to participant. Programs, social events, and Chamber policies are all decided at either the committee level or at the Board level. Your participation is what makes us a viable, growing, and ever changing entity!

GHGLCC
1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, TX 77006

Address Correction Requested

FEBRUARY, 1997 VOL 2 ISSUE 2 GHGLCC

CHAMBER News

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Dan DiDonato
Joyce Gayles
Patrick McKee

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMUNICATIONS
Dan DiDonato
Newsletter / Marion Coleman
Public Relations / J.C. Michelak
Internet / Dan DiDonato
Directory / Greg Jeu

MEMBERSHIP
Todd Partridge

PROGRAM
Joyce Gayles
Tony Carroll

SOCIAL
Kenneth Council
Helene Rouse

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1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006

February's Program - Marketing 101

How to Successfully Market Your Self and Your Business

Todd Partridge hosts Panel of experts

Monday, February 3, 1997, Allen Park Inn 6:00 PM Social, 7:00 PM Dinner

Please RSVP by Thursday Evening January 30

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce February Dinner/ Business Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 1997 at the Allen Park Inn which is located at 2121 Allen Parkway, just east of Montrose Boulevard (next to KHOU, Channel 11 TV Station). Social hour begins at 6 PM followed by Dinner and Program at 7 PM.

The cost for dinner and program is $20 for members; $25 for guests. Parking is free. It is required to RSVP for all who wish to attend this meeting. Please call the Chamber hotline at (713) **523-7576** by Thursday, January 30, 1997 to RSVP. Please note that if you make reservations for guests who do not show for dinner, you are responsible for payment of those dinners. Guests who join the Chamber of Commerce that night will enjoy the discounted member cost of $20 for the dinner. **If you need, or would like a special entree (i.e. vegetarian, vegan, low fat / sodium, etc.), please indicate so when making your reservation.**

GHGLCC Board Presents Special Awards

At our January 6th Chamber meeting, the Board presented special recognition awards for 1996. From Left to Right: **Laura Hudman** (OutSmart Magazine) was selected as "Outstanding Member", **Dan DiDonato** (Preferred Graphics) was honored with the "Membership Development" award, **Richard Wiederholt** (Basic Brothers) received the prestigious "President's Award" for vision and leadership, and **Susan Upchurch** accepted the "Community Service" award for PFLAG Houston.

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Committee Reports

Communications

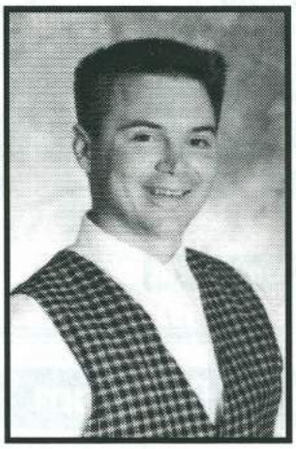
The Communication Committee is a new committee formed from many hours of discussion at the 1997 GHGLCC Retreat. This committee is chaired by Dan DiDonato/Preferred Graphics and its primary function is to oversee the operation of 4 subcommittees related to the dissemination and collection of information to our membership and the general public. The committees are as follows:

Newsletter. Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. ***Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month).***

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

Resource Guide/Directory. Chaired by Greg Jeu (Up & Out Communications). This committee's primary responsibility is to produce a quality directory/resource guide for the Gay / Lesbian Communities in Houston and around the nation. Please contact Greg at 713.520-7237 for additional information.

Public Relations. This revived subcommittee is chaired by Houston Voice editor J.C. Michelak. The first committee meeting for 1997 is scheduled for February 20. If interested, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713.529-8490.



President's Message

By Coy Tow

At our January meeting we recognized the outstanding contributions of many of our members and board during our first year. It is essential for all of us who dedicate the extra time, resources, and energy to know that it is appreciated and is contributing to the overall mission of the chamber. I am very proud of Dan DiDonato for leading the chamber in membership recruitment, PFLAG for all they continue to do for this community, and Laura Hudman for her overall dedication as our "member of the year".

The President's award was given to Richard Wiederholt for his huge contributions toward the vision and organizational structure over the past year. Richard was not only a founding board member but had been gathering information, bylaws, and other resources from similar organizations around the world for quite some time. When we all gathered to begin the process of forming the Chamber, Richard already had many of the answers and provided us with examples of mission statements, other organizations benefits, fees, etc. The following words are excerpts from a letter I received from Richard after he received his award:

> "The Chamber board has done a remarkable job during the first year and I want to commend you all for your efforts. Your diligence, persistence, and organization is paying off, and I believe when you look at this Chamber in two more years, you will be amazed at what you have created.
>
> The Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce has long been a dream of mine and I thank all of you for making this dream a reality. There are many wonderful organizations that exist in our community, but I believe the Chamber of Commerce will be the only viable one which brings everyone together and which will show the city of Houston what an impact we have on its economy and spirit. We need to always remember to show a diversified and united front as we grow in numbers and work on our goals."
>
> *- Richard Wiederholt*

These words capture the very spirit of our organization and the reason we must all be dedicated to promote the Chamber to everyone we know who share our mission and goals! The Chamber is positioned perfectly to lead the community to economic empowerment and to influence the leaders of our city in regards to policy making concerning business, tourism, or even politics. We owe it to ourselves to build an environment that achieves unity and promotes our own community!

Business Expo

February Business/Dinner Meeting

February 3, 1997

6:00 - 7:00 PM

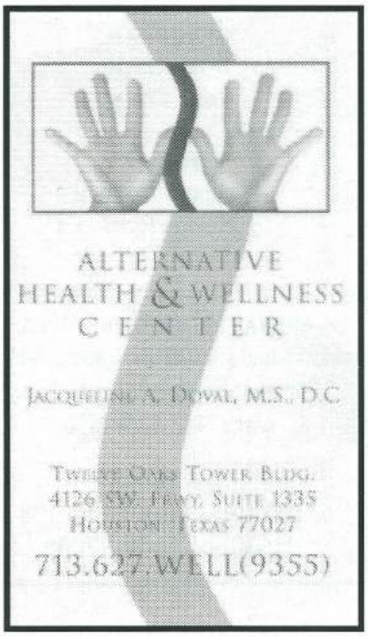
Reserve Your FREE Expo Table

by calling Dan DiDonato at

Preferred Graphics

713.528.7654

(Limited Space!)



1997 Off and Running!

On January 18th, the Board hosted a dynamic day long retreat to review the Chamber's performance in 1996, and develop a plan of action for 1997. All participants agreed that the Chamber had a remarkable first year. The Chamber benefited us most by providing strong and flexible leadership, projecting a positive and professional image to the community, unifying diverse sectors of our community, enthusiastically recruiting quality members, and achieving great results with large corporations by recognizing their gay and lesbian employees. Other areas identified as most needing improvement were program development, media coverage, and active, effective committees. To address these needs, it was decided to reorganize the committee structure, in addition to creating two new committees. The committee structure for 1997 (and leadership) is as follows:

Membership Committee	Todd Partridge, Chair
Finance Committee	Bill Green, Chair
Program Committee	Tony Carroll / Joyce Gayles, Co-Chairs
Social Committee	Helene Rouse / Ken Council, Co-Chairs
Communications Committee	Dan DiDonato, Chair
Community Affairs Committee	Cheryl Conner, Chair

At our February 3rd Chamber meeting, a description of each committee's responsibilities will be provided so that individual members can identify which committee would most benefit from their personal and professional contribution. The Board strongly invites all members to have a voice in the direction and development of GHGLCC in 1997, and urges each member to complete the Comment/Suggestions Form, and fax it to our administrator, Kevin Davidson, at fax 713/669-0452, by February 3.

What I most want from my GHGLCC in 1997 is:

_____

_____

To achieve this, I suggest:

_____

_____

I am willing to work on the appropriate committee to achieve this goal
☐ yes ☐ no

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

Committee Reports

Membership

I am elated to announce that Todd Partridge, realtor with Gary Greene has enthusiastically come forward to serve as new Chair for the Membership Committee. His desire to serve was evident from the start of his membership with the Chamber, as he immediately became a part of our committee! I have greatly enjoyed serving as the Chair since June of this past year. I would urge you, too, to get involved in one of our many committees this year as the professional and social relationships can be truly rewarding. There are many new goals for 1997 that can better be met with your help! If you are interested in the next Membership Committee meeting it will be held at 11:30 a.m., Wed., Jan.29 -(Note:bring your lunch with you!). If you have any questions regarding your membership or the location of the upcoming meeting please contact Todd Partridge at (713)660-8222.Thanks! Laura Hudman.

Social

Remember, we are always looking for members to host our monthly mixers/socials. The event format is totally up to the hosts. This is a great opportunity for members to meet other members and community leaders. If interested, please contact Helene Rouse at 713.524.1850.

Program

We are continuously working to improve our programs, striving to meet the needs of our membership. We are looking for a few good people to join our committee to help facilitate these new ideas/ changes. If you know of anyone who would consider entertaining our membership for our monthly dinner meetings on a "pro gratis" basis (free meal will be provided), please contact the program committee chairs.

Please come by our next Program Committee meeting which will be held on the first Wednesday following the dinner meeting February 8, 1997) at Baba Yegas at Noon. Please contact the Program co-chairs Joyce Gayles or Tony Carroll if interested.

February, 1997

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3 *Dinner Meeting* *Allen Park Inn* *Downtown* *6 PM*	4	5 *Program Com.* *Noon, Baba Yegas*	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 ***Board Meeting 6:00 PM***	18	19 *Communications* *811 Westheimer* *Suite 208* *6:00 PM*	23	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

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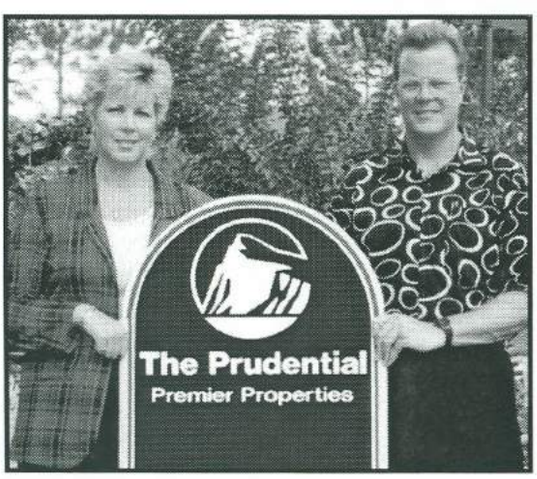

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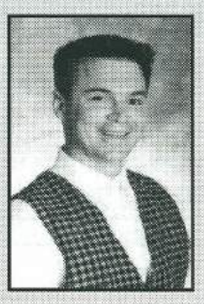

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notes From the Board

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

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

Welcome New Members!

Peter Foley
Doug Winnie
Don Burnett
Dean Witter
N3 Consulting Inc.
The Genesys Group

Birthday Celebration This Month

Jim Bartley	2/1
Stephen Nally	2/2
Louann Henderson	2/2
Jim Manen	2/13
Linda Marshall	2/15
Al Ferriulo	2/19
Sandra Hall	2/23
Tammy Manning	2/25

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GHGLCC NEWS
the impact network

APRIL, 1997 VOL 2 ISSUE 4

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Administrator
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Scott Garrison
Patrick McKee

Communications
Dan DiDonato

Community Affairs
Cheryl Conner

Finance
Bill Green, CPA, CFP

Program
Joyce Gayles
Tony Carroll

Social
Ken Council
Helene Rouse

Ethics and Legal
Dale Englefield
Debra Hunt

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Guest Speaker/Author Dan Baker to Address Gay Issues in the Workplace

Dan Daker, Author, ***Cracking the Corporate Closet***, 1995
Deputy Director, Gay Games IV 1994, New York City
Editor in Chief, *Quotient*,
The Newsletter of Marketing to Gay Men & Lesbians

Monday, April 7, 1997
Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main Street
6:00 PM Social, 7:00 PM Dinner

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce kicks off our second quarter with a dynamic program and a new meeting location, The Wyndham Warwick Hotel. This dinner meeting begins at 6:00 pm with a networking social hour, followed by our seated dinner and guest speaker, Mr. Dan Baker.

Dan Baker began his career as a gay activist while attending graduate school at the University of Hawaii in the early 1970s. He organized the 1st Gay Pride Parade in Honolulu in 1975. Moving to New York in the 80s, Dan was treasurer of ACT UP/New York in 1989 and 1990. In 1994 he served as Deputy Director of Gay Games IV, managing a full-time staff of over 100 people, plus several thousand volunteers, and received a standing ovation at the Opening Ceremonies for his efforts. Later that year he joined with Harold Levine to found *Quotient*, a newsletter about marketing to the gay and lesbian community.

In 1995 Dan, along with Bill Henning and Sean Strub, authored *Cracking the Corporate Closet*, (published by HarperCollins), a groundbreaking study of corporate policies that affect lesbians and gay men. The book was based on an extensive survey of corporations as well as interviews with corporate policy-makers and gay and lesbian employees.

On April 7 Dan will share his extensive knowledge and experience in a lively talk about the continuing progress our community is making in the corporate world with non-discrimination policies, and domestic partner benefits. He'll also discuss how our community is moving forward in the areas of acceptance and validation of gay and lesbian people everywhere.

We are so pleased to bring such a quality program to our members and their guests. Please make plans to attend, and bring friends and associates who are potential new members. We're up to something good, with our snappy new look, upscale meeting location, and dynamic committees, working to bring you exciting plans and programs throughout the year. Please join us in welcoming Dan Baker to Houston and to our community.

RSVP is required by April 3 to (713) 523-7576. The cost for dinner and program is $20 for members; $25 for guests. It is required to RSVP for all who wish to attend this meeting. Please note that if you make reservations for guests who do not show for dinner, you are responsible for payment of those dinners. Guests who join the Chamber of Commerce that night will enjoy the discounted member rate of $20 for the dinner. *If you would like a special entree (i.e. vegetarian, vegan, low fat / sodium, etc.), please indicate so when making your reservation.*

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

Committee Reports

Communications

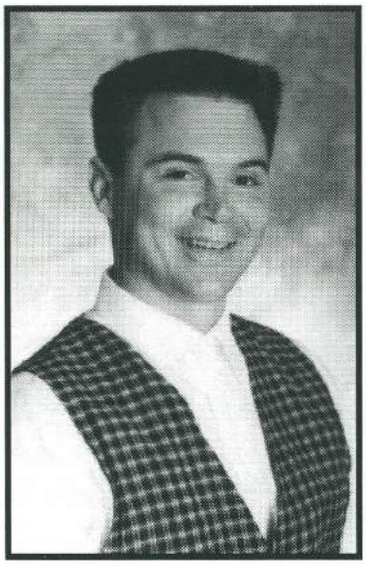
This committee is chaired by Dan DiDonato/Preferred Graphics and its primary function is to oversee the operation of 4 subcommittees related to the dissemination and collection of information to our membership and the general public. The committees are as follows:

Newsletter. Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713.523.2521) for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. ***Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month).***

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

Resource Guide/Directory. Chaired by Greg Jeu (Up & Out Communications). This committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Communities in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the Marketing Brochure, please contact Greg at 713.520.7237.

Public Relations. This revived subcommittee is chaired by Houston Voice editor J.C. Michelak. The next Public Relation committee meeting is scheduled for April 24. Call J.C. at 713.529.5490, if you'd like to help out.



President's Message

By Coy Tow

The last several months have been such a treat as the board and committee chairs have assumed responsibility and began to truly enhance the Chamber in so many ways. We all have so much to look forward to as the Chamber forges ahead with additional benefits, educational and networking opportunities, and enhanced exposure to our local community and the World!

Like any organization we can only hope to be successful if each member takes ownership and becomes involved to assist the individual chair persons to accomplish the many tasks at hand. We hope to deliver as promised an excellent marketing piece about our local community and specifically about our Chamber, including your advertising and your business information. We plan to have an incredible Business Expo in the Fall, and we plan to continue our efforts to deliver excellent programs and mixers. None of these things can happen unless all of our members participate along the way!

Special Kudos go out to the newsletter and program committees for the great work they are doing to deliver excellent communication and beneficial programs that will enhance the overall image of the Chamber.

Remember that we are at the Wyndham in April and with our fantastic speaker all of us must invite as many prospective members as possible. This is a dynamic time to be Gay or Lesbian in a world that is slowly recognizing our presence and power. Come out, Come out, Wherever you are!

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New Marketing Resource Guide

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GHGLCC Marketing Committee

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Vice-President's Message

By Sandra Wilkins

I am bursting with pride and excitement about the giant leap forward our Chamber is making in 1997. I'm sure you'll share my enthusiasm about the fabulous new look of our newsletter, and just wait until you see the re-designed Membership Applications. We owe this achievement to Marion Coleman and her talented team, so remember to say thanks next time you see her.

All of our committees are working non-stop to make this a great year. During our dinner meeting next week we'll have some very exciting announcements about the publication of our resource directory in the summer, and the business expo set for October.

Perhaps one of the most rewarding benefits of my GHGLCC involvement is making so many new friends these past 18 months. It is a joy to me to be connected with such bright, motivated and caring individuals. As I sit in on various committee meetings, I am amazed by the energy and talent that each of you bring to our Chamber. We are well on our way to becoming a model organization of our kind in the USA, and worldwide.

It will be a special treat for me to share with all my new friends, my lifelong friend, Dan Baker, as our guest speaker for the April meeting. Dan and I were college sweethearts at UT many years ago, and discovered years later that we were both gay. One of America's most respected gay leaders, Dan has for many years been on the cutting edge of all the issues that affect our lives. I treasure our 25+ year friendship, and am grateful for the inspiration he's given me, and the admirable example he sets for all gay people to follow. Please do make definite plans to attend this excellent dinner meeting. You'll leave informed, refreshed and inspired!

What I most want from my GHGLCC in 1997 is:

_____

_____

To achieve this, I suggest:

_____

_____

I am willing to work on the appropriate committee to achieve this goal
☐ yes ☐ no

Name:_____ Phone:_____

Email:_____ Fax:_____

Committee Reports

Membership

This enthusiastic committee is looking for eight more members to help us meet our goal of increasing the benefits and services that come with a Chamber membership. If you really want exposure for yourself and your business, join us at the next membership meeting. Contact Patrick Mckee at Advantage Capital Corporation (713.668.6069) or Scott Garrison at Merrill Lynch (713.840.4816) for more details.Coming up soon - look for a Membership Drive with a contest.... more details to follow.

Community Affairs

The Community Affairs committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three subcommittees: Community Partnerships, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). We currently are looking for leadership for the Pride Parade subcommittee to facilitate our participation in this year's Pride Parade. Please call Cheryl at (713) 432-0705 if interested. Next committee meeting time/location to be announced.

Social

April's Mixer is scheduled for Thursday, April 24. Location to be announced. The next Social Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21, at 7:30 PM at Cafe Adobe.

Program

We are continuously working to improve our programs, striving to meet the needs of our membership.

May's program is planned to consist of information concerning Domestic Partner Policies amoung businesses and June's program will focus on Downtown Houston's Redevelopment Project and how it may affect our Montrose businesses.

The next Program Committee meeting is on Wednesday, April 9, 1997 at the River Cafe on Montrose Blvd. at 12 (Noon). If you'd like more information, please feel free to contact Joyce Galyes at 713.667.6047 or Tony Carroll at 713.522.3045.

New Committee Chairs

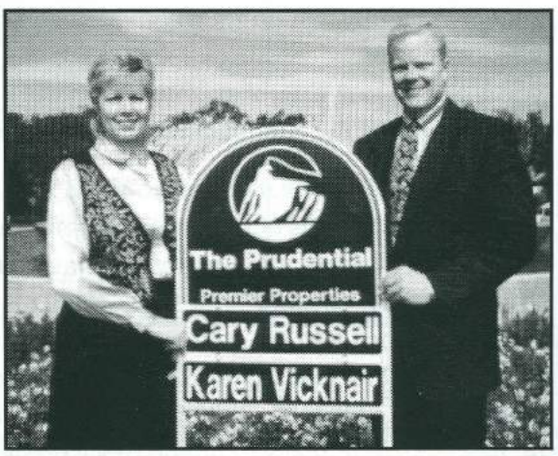
Left to Right: J.C. Michelak (Media Relations), Anita Renteria (Business Expo), and Patrick McKee (Membership)

New Board Members

Left to Right: Dan DiDonato, Laura Hudman, Bill Green, Marion Coleman, Tony Carroll. New board member not in photo: Joyce Gayles.

"Siblings Selling Dwellings" Marketing Houston Home Buyers and Sellers

Since Cary Russell of Caryco Real Estate merged with the Prudential Premier Properties 18 months ago, Cary Russell and his sister Karen Vicknair have had a tremendously successful response to marketing themselves as "Siblings Selling Dwellings".

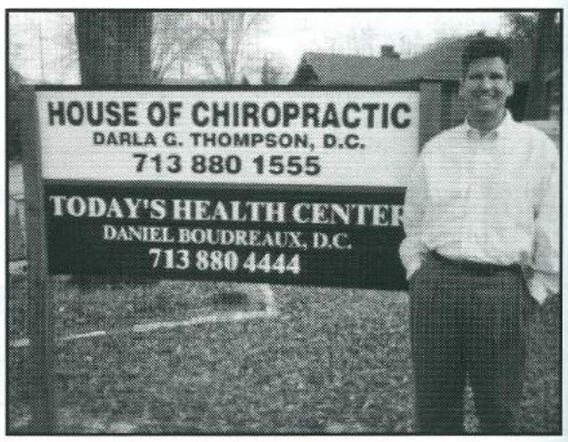


Russell states, "I asked Karen to come into the Real Estate business with me as a working partner three years ago because she has strengths that I do not have and I have strengths she doesn't have. It has been a perfect match and we thoroughly love working together". Russell further states, "Karen was leaving a highly successful, but stressful 20 year career in advertising and was looking for new challenges. That's when I asked her to give Real Estate a try. I am so glad she did! We both have an intense passion for working with buyers and sellers of Real Estate". Vicknair says, "I really do enjoy working with buyers because it is my personal challenge to find them what they want. Plus, I get such satisfaction out of helping them do just that". Vicknair further says, "Cary on the other hand works very well with sellers. His desire and passion to work with sellers shows by his successful listing record - especially with FSBO's (for sale by owner)".

"The response to their "Siblings Selling Dwellings" marketing approach has been received by buyers and sellers as an added bonus because with "Siblings Selling Dwellings" you get *two for the price of one*, states Russell. Russell goes on to explain, "We both work on each deal together from start to finish. We know exactly where each deal stands at any given time. Our buyers and sellers absolutely love this approach because whether they have me or Karen on the phone they know that they can rely on both of us knowing the status of their transaction and that we can answer any question or help them through any concern".

Russell is celebrating 20 years in the Real Estate business. He became a Real Estate agent after graduating with a BBA in finance from Sam Houston State University in 1977 Cary then became a Real Estate broker in 1979 and has owned his own company since the recent merger with the Prudential Premier Properties in July 1996.

New Member Opens Practice



Dr. Daniel Boudreaux, more commonly referred to as *Dr. Daniel* recently opened his office located at 506 Heights Boulevard. *Dr. Daniel* says, "Joining the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce has been one of the best things I have done in years." He further states, "I appreciate Cary Russell for inviting me to Chamber functions during the later part of 1996. That enabled me to see what the Chamber was all about and after I attended a couple of functions, I knew this was the group for me."

Cary Russell met *Dr. Daniel* when he sold him a home in Garden Oaks during the summer of '96 and Cary also has become one of *Dr. Daniel's* best and loyal patients.

Business Expo Update

The Business Expo, tentatively named ***Empower '97***, is starting to come together, and we are very excited about the progress we're making! The planned date is October 11, 1997, which is National Coming Out Day. The GHGLCC has applied for the use of the George R. Brown Convention Center, and has verified availability for that day. The goal is sale of 185 booths, with an additional 15 donated to community organizations such as the MDS Foundation of Houston. With over 200 members in the GHGLCC, and booth space priced at under $300, this goal should be easily achievable. The committee is also organizing sales material for interested exhibitors, sponsors and underwriters. The goal of the Expo is to provide a focused forum for organizations interested in doing business with the gay community -- it is not restricted to gay-owned businesses. The market we are trying to reach, however, is the gay market, so plans are in the works for nationally recognized keynote speakers and entertainers to attract gay consumers to the show. Cochairs Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney will be giving an update at the April meeting. We will accept booth reservations at that meeting!

Lovett Inn Hosts Shell Gay & Lesbian Group

The Lovett Inn recently hosted a workshop for members of Shell's Gay & Lesbian community. The workshop, sponsored by Shell Oil, was attended by 15 members of Shell's Gay & Lesbian employee group SEAShell (Support, Equality, and Awareness at Shell). The focus of the first day of the workshop was to help SEAShell establish a clear mission and a concise series of achievable goals. The second day provided Awareness training for attendees on issues pertinent to the Gay community.

The workshop was facilitated by Liz Winfeld of Common Ground, a Massachusetts based consulting firm specializing in workplace education specific to sexual orientation. Common Ground works with all types of organizations to incorporate these issues into their diversity education and management programs, help employers investigate and implement domestic partnership benefits, and offer HIV/AIDS education to a variety of workplaces. Liz Winfeld, along with the partner, Susan Spielman, wrote the book "Straight Talk About Gays In The Workplace".

Members Dine at Local Eatery

Joyce Gayles, Bill Green, and Cary Russell were seen lunching at Renata's Restaurant. Cary Russell drew the business cards of Bill Green and Joyce Gayles at recent Chamber meeting.

Joyce, Bill and Cary said it was a great opportunity to get to know fellow Chamber members and learn of each others interests, backgrounds, careers, and hobbies.

Joyce Gales is a Psychologist, Bill Green is a Finacial Planner, and Cary Russell is a Real Estate Broker. They all urge other Chamber members to take advantage of the ***"Draw a Card and Meet a Member for Lunch"*** Program.

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April, 1997

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 **Dinner Meeting** **Wyndham** **Warwick** **6 PM**	8	9 **Program** **Committee** **Noon, River Cafe**	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Communications 713.528.7654 for info **Board Meeting** **6:00, Lovett Inn**	22	23	24 **Public Relations** Call 713.529.8490	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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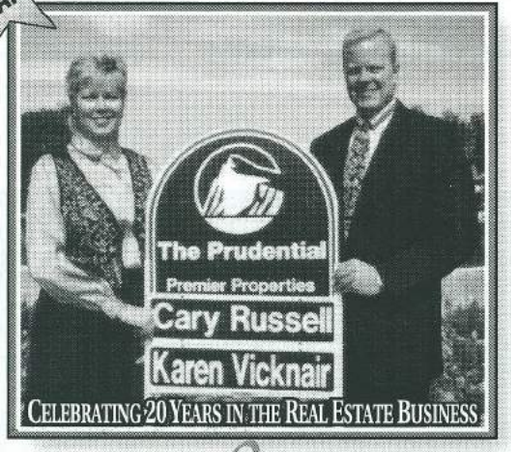

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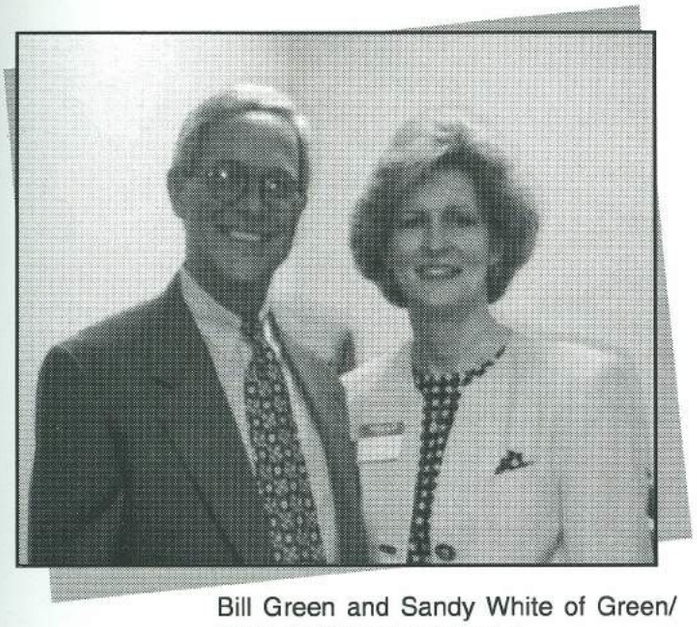

Bill Green and Sandy White of Green/ White Advisors host Social

From Left to Right: Cary Russell (Prudential Premier Properties), Bill Green (Green/White Advisors), Marion Coleman (House of Coleman), and Trudy Denney attend mixer at Green/White Advisors

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notes From the Board

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New Format to Newletter

The newsletter committee (chaired by Marion Coleman) is designing a new look to our monthly newsletter. Would you like to advertise? Reserve your space now! Call Marion Coleman (House of Coleman) at 523-2521, or Dan DiDonato (Preferred Graphics) at 528-7654 for rates.

Welcome New Members!

Jewel Day, D.D.S.	Dentist.
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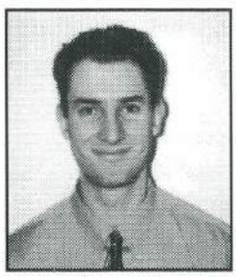
GHGLCC NEWS
the impact network

MAY, 1997 VOL 2, ISSUE 5

Carpenter, Levy, McKittrick

A Dynamic Trio

Dale Carpenter


Glenn Levy

Melanie McKittrick

Monday, May 5, 1997
Wyndham Warwick Hotel
5701 Main St.
6:00 pm Social
7:00 pm Dinner

Rapid Rising Champions of Gay/Lesbian Workplace Concerns Speak at May Meeting

Sharing both impressive undergraduate backgrounds (Yale, Rice, and Duke) and high profile professional affiliations (Vinson & Elkins, Rice University, Texas Commerce Bank), Dale Carpenter, Glenn Levy and Melanie McKittrick are passionate about diversity in the workplace and gay-lesbian rights in that setting. These movers and shakers will address the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce at its May 6, 1997 meeting.

Dale Carpenter, an associate at Houston's prestigious Vinson & Elkins, has recently guided that law firm through the adoption of its domestic partner benefits program. Carpenter, who has also gained a great deal of recognition as State President , Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, has published several legal pieces related to gay-lesbian rights, and writes a monthly column for *The Houston Voice*.

Glenn Levy is currently helping create a program at Rice University to develop leadership skills in undergraduate students where he has also sponsored several gay and lesbian student groups. He is co-chair of the newly-established Corporate Network Group, and has recently organized a public panel discussion on diversity and the gay and lesbian community.

Melanie McKittrick, Texas Commerce Bank National Association's Senior Vice President and Director of Corporate Diversity, is also a guest lecturer on business ethics at Rice University. She also sits on the Board of Directors of Leadership Houston, was Director of the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, and was active in the Texas State Bar Committee for Providing Legal Services to the Poor.

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

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

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713.523.7576
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Houston, Texas 77006

Committee Reports

Communications

This committee is chaired by Dan DiDonato/Preferred Graphics and its primary function is to oversee the operation of four subcommittees related to the dissemination and collection of information to our membership and the general public. The committees are as follows:

Newsletter

Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713) 523-2521 for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber meeting (3rd Monday of each month).

Internet

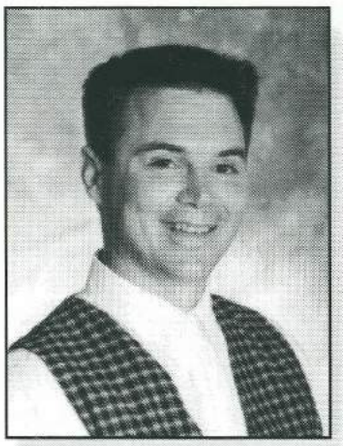
Connect to the Chamber Webpage on the world wide web, courtesy of John Freeman at Echo Communications and Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics. The URL is **http://www.GHGLCC.org** and the new e-mail address is **info@GHGLCC.org**. Contact Dan DiDonato (Preferred Graphics) for information regarding the website.

Resource Guide/ Directory

This committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional marketing brochure for the Gay and Lesbian communities in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact Greg at (713) 520-7237.

Public Relations

This revived subcommittee is chaired by *The Houston Voice* editor J.C. Michelak. The next public relation committee meeting will be announced. Call J.C. at (713) 529-*8490 if you'd like to help out.*



President's Message

by Coy Tow

Today is the day to become more involved in your Chamber of Commerce! Soon we will all have opportunities to share the exciting events of Gay Pride and unite with the community to demonstrate a community of success, progress and hope. The Chamber has the ultimate responsibility in our mission to promote and build the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce to be a leader in this and all community efforts.

We are going to have our kickoff event for the Community Partnership effort on June 26, 1997 at 7:30 pm in the fellowship hall of Bering United Methodist Church. All community leaders of gay and lesbian clubs, events, organizations and causes will be invited to meet and share information in order to better serve the community as a whole.

The Gay Pride Parade is another opportunity to promote the Chamber and take part in the celebration. The board is currently seeking volunteers to assist in this effort.

If you have not been an active part of the success of the Chamber growth thus far, perhaps now is a perfect time to become more involved and build the relationships that result in new customers, friends and fun! We need your contributions toward growth in membership, increased exposure, and long term success.

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

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

To achieve this, I suggest...

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Name _____ **Email** _____

Phone ( ) _____ **Fax ( )** _____

Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

Have you had your shots? If not, you're in serious danger. If you haven't caught "Chamber Fever" yet, you're going to! Some marvelous source has lit a burning fire under the seats of your board members and committee chairs. We're moving at lightning speed to make our Chamber a model for the country.

Membership, Program, Newsletter and Internet Committees are cooking with nitro. You'll want to read each of the committee reports in the newsletter to catch up on all the exciting things that are happening.

Of special interest is the exciting project of producing a dynamic guide to gay Houston, sponsored by GHGLCC. Under the leadership of Greg Jeu, this committee will produce a publication that will be slick, upscale and provide and impressive overview of Houston's gay and gay friendly community. The theme throughout the piece will be that Houston's way cool and gay cool! It will highlight art, theatre, restaurants, night life, shopping, sports, and our leaders in the gay and lesbian community. We're shooting for national advertisers like Calvin Klein and Kenneth Cole to dress a local gay celeb and purchase a full page ad! There will be great opportunities for all local, gay friendly establishments to advertise in the guide as well. Of course, Chamber members will enjoy special rates to place their own ads.

In tandem with this project is the production of a hard cover Membership Directory which will include photos of all Chamber members (if so desired), as well as all their personal and business contact information.

It's an exciting time for GHGLCC as we move forward with a myriad of projects to benefit our membership and show off our organization. Please take a moment to think about how you might make a contribution of your personal skills and talents, and work with a committee that interests you most. You'll find the committee chairs and telephone numbers provided in each committee report. Get involved and make a difference!

Would you like to advertise your business to the Global Gay and Lesbian Communities as well as the Houston Area Community?

A New Marketing Resource Guide
is being developed by the
GHGLCC Marketing Committee.

Committee Reports

Membership

Co-chaired by Scott Garrison & Patrick McKee, the Committee mission for 1997 is threefold

1. Attract new members
2. Demonstrate value of membership
3. Retain current members

We will accomplish these goals by encouraging existing members to work with the Committee in sponsoring new members through the Membership Incentive Program. For every new member who joins and uses an existing members' name as their primary sponsor, the members' renewal will be credited $10.

Also, members voluntarily working with the Committee will act as Ambassadors at the monthly dinner meetings to greet and introduce guests to other members.

The Committee is developing a membership packet to be sent/given to potential new members that will include the membership brochure/form, newsletter, and a one-page statement of quotes from existing members of the "Top Ten Reasons Why I joined the GHGLCC".

The Membership Committee encourages any Chamber member to join or assist the Committee. If you are interested, call Scott at 840-4816 or Patrick at 668-6069.

Community Affairs

The Community Affairs Committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three subcommittees: Community Partnerships, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). We currently are looking for leadership for the Pride Parade subcommittee to facilitate our participation in this year's Pride Parade. Please call Cheryl at (713) 432-0705 if you're interested. The next committee meeting time and location are to be announced.

Program

The Program held their April meeting on Wednesday, April 9th. We are looking forward to some interesting programs and events for the summer months and beyond. June's program will feature a presentation on Downtown Redevelopment and its impact on the Montrose area and gay/lesbian businesses. Don't miss this one! July's meeting will be a fun and informal opportunity to network by the pool, while enjoying a buffet style dinner and entertainment at the Lovett Inn.

The next Program Committee meeting is scheduled for May 7th at 12 noon at River Cafe.

Member Profile

Stephanie Y. McGhee, D.C., Synchronized Montrose Chiropractic

Stephanie McGhee graduated in 1993 from the TEXAS CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE in Pasadena Texas, with a six week rotation in Neurosurgery. She has a thriving practice in the Montrose area and is a certified member of the American Red Cross Protect your Back program. Stephanie provides an array of services to the community such as volunteering at the Montrose Clinic with the indigent program to name one. She is also a member of the Log Cabin Republicans and a member of the Executive Womens Golf Association. Her favorite pastimes are her family, helping in the community and golf. Stephanie, married for six years and divorced for four years, has two wonderful children Ryan, age seven and Raegan, age five.

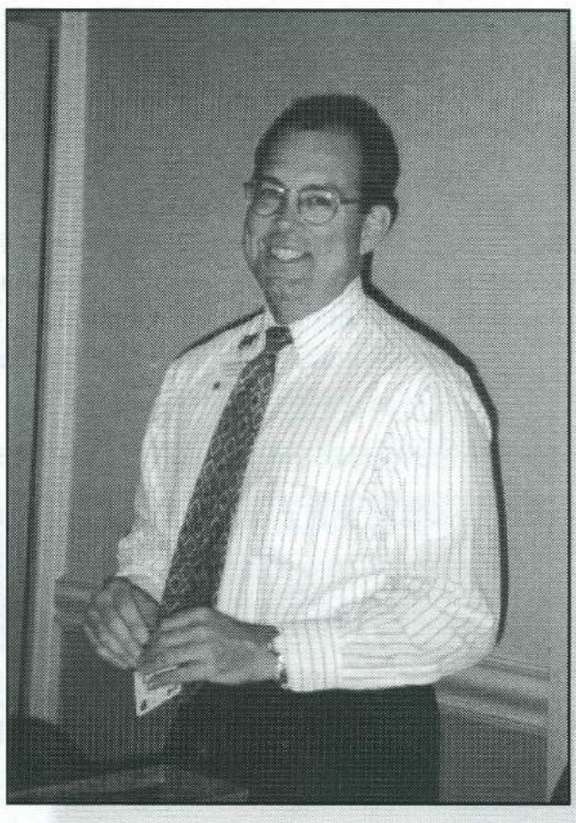
As a member of the GHGLCC she sits on the Social and Memberships committees and is involved with the outreach program for new members. Her future media plans are to write a health column for the *Houston Voice*.

On a personal note, after meeting and interviewing Dr. McGhee I found her to be one of the most outgoing and friendly people I have encountered. Her charm, wit and devotion to her clients and the community gave me the feeling at she could accomplish anything set in front of her.

Chamber Sightings

From left to right, guest Catherine Carpenter, PFLAG member Blake Weissner, Kim Arlinghaus and guest Lin Wilkins.

Empower '97 Expo Co-chairs Anita Renteria (l) and Debbie Phinney (r) welcome guest Jimmy Wilkins (c).



Hard-working Membership Co-chair, PatrickMcKee.

Business Expo Moving Forward

The Business Expo, named **Empower '97**, has begun to move forward and we are excited about the progress we're making! The date for the Expo is October 11, 1997, which is National Coming Out Day. The GHGLCC has already secured the use of the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Anita Renteria, Co-chair of Business Expo.

The goal is the sale of 185 booths, with an additional 15 donated to community organizations such as the MDS Foundation of Houston. With over 200 members in the GHGLCC, and booth space priced at under $300, this goal should be easily achievable. The committee is also organizing sales material for interested exhibitors, sponsors and underwriters.

The goal of the Expo is to provide a focused forum for organizations interested in doing business with the gy community -- it is not restricted to gay owned-businesses.The market we are trying to reach, however, is the gay market, so plans are in the works for nationally recognized keynote speakers and entertainers to attract gay consumers to the show.

Co-chairs Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney will be giving an update at the May meeting...and yes, they will be accepting booth reservations at that meeting! For further information please call 462-1354.

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More Chamber Sightings...

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

Anita Renteria, John Frels, Debbie Phenny, and Marion Coleman at The Dianas.

M A Y

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Dinner Meeting Warwick, 6 PM	6	7 Program Committee River Cafe, Noon	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Communications 528-7654, Noon Board Meeting Lovett Inn, 6 PM	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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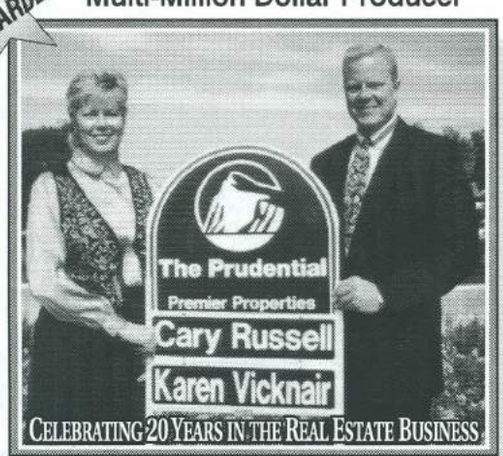

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Off The Wire...

AOL Refunds?

HOUSTON (AP) Houston attorney Jim H. Pearson wants America Online to put up or shut up when it comes to its offer to refund customers their $19.95 monthly flat fee.

In a novel move, the class-action attorney filed a $19.95 million refund request Friday for Texas AOL customers. He estimates that between 500,000 and 1 million AOL users live in the Lone Star state. The $19.95 million figure applies to the lower estimate.

Make that check out to the Harris County District Clerk's Office, the request says.

First City Towers

HOUSTON (AP) Crescent Real Estate Equities has signed a contract to buy a major stake in the 49-story First City Tower in downtown Houston for nearly $80 million, according to realty sources.

The proposed deal has been made with FirstCity Liquidating Trust, the seller.

FirstCity Liquidating Trust was created to sell off the assets of the former First City Bancorporation. The liquidating trust owns a two-thirds interest in the 1.35 million-square-foot First City Tower.

Crescent's primary strategy is to invest in office and commercial properties in energy belt cities that are expected to make great gains in the years to come.

Last year, Crescent pulled off one of the biggest realty deals in the city's history _ the $206 million purchase of the Greenway Plaza office project.

Possible Tax Overhaul

AUSTIN (AP) Lone Star businesses are waiting to exhale as Texas Legislators consider how to recoup revenue lost by a reduction in property taxes. House lawmakers spent last week considering the biggest change in the state's tax system since a sales tax was imposed in 1961.

The overhaul would shift the emphasis from property taxes to more business and sales taxes. The plan also would eliminate dozens of exemptions and subject more companies to a state business tax. It would increase the number of goods and services that will have to have a sales tax, as well as boost other taxes. That means more money out of the pockets of many businesses or more charges passed along to customers.

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Announcements

Notes from the Board

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

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

New Format to the Newsletter

The newsletter committee, chaired by Marion Coleman, is designing a new look to our monthly newsletter. Would you like to advertise? Reserve your space now! Call Marion Coleman at the House of Coleman at 523-2521, or Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited© at 526-5190.

Welcome New Members!

Steven C. Foster ..... RocketBoy Communications
C. Patrick McIlvain .. C. Patrick Ground Transportation and Services
Tom Williams ..... Fox Diner
Carlos Berlin ..... Fox Diner
Mark Babbitt ..... Houston's Laff Stop
Shirley A. Pettis ..... Alliance for Affordable Healthcare
Dennis Draper ..... Alley Theatrte

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Houston, Texas 77006

Address Correction Requested

GHGLCC NEWS
the impact network

JUNE, 1997 VOL 2, ISSUE 6

GREATER HOUSTON
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Business $175.00
Corporation $500.00

For membership information call
713.523.7576
1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006

Diann L. Lewter

Downtown Redevelopment and Its Impact on the Montrose Area and Gay/Lesbian Business

Diann L. Lewter, of Central Houston, Inc. and Houston Downtown Management District, is the featured speaker for the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce meeting on June 2, 1997. Diann, a mover and shaker in the downtown redevelopment initiative, will give Chamber members an overview of the redevelopment process and will welcome questions related to its impact on our community and its businesses. According to Diann, "the revitalization and prosperity of downtown goes hand-in-hand with the renewal of our inner-city neighborhoods."

Diann is Director of Business Development for Central Houston, Inc., a non-profit

corporation established to support businesses and institutions with interests in the downtown area. She is also responsible for Economic Development for the Downtown Management District. She notes that ... "with more than $800 million in development projects scheduled to be underway this fall, downtown is poised to become the premier place not only to go to work each day, but also to enjoy the arts, do your shopping and call home".

RSVP is required by May 29th at 713-523-7576. PLEASE NOTE: If you fail to RSVP for the dinner meeting, members will incur an additional $5 charge when you sign in. It's extremely important for us to coordinate out number of participants with the hotel. Please be responsible and make the RSVP call! The cost fore the dinner meeting is $20 for members and $25 for non-members or guests. Valet parking at the Warwick is $3 if you mention you're attending the GHGLCC meeting. Free parking is available in the "self-parking" lot for Warwick on Fannin.

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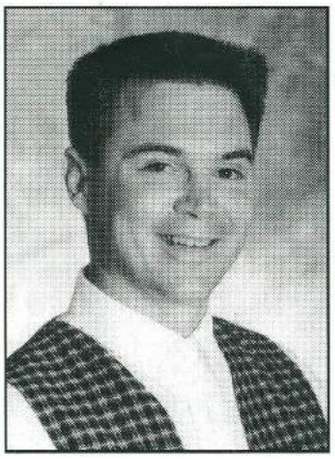
Resource Guide/Directory

Chaired by Greg Jeu (Up & Out Communications), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Committees in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact Greg at 713-520-7237.

Public Relations

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



Presidents Message

by Coy Tow

What do we as Chamber members expect out of our membership? This is an important question that all of should ask whenever we commit our time or money to any endeavor. The Chamber board continuously monitors the value equation to each of our members and seeks to continue to add benefits or services that will ultimately justify each members time and money.

As a member of this growing organization we hope that you will consider some of the following added benefits as our attempt to continue to reward your membership decision.

Community Partnerships is an organized effort to provide opportunities for communication among all Gay and Lesbian organizations and groups.

Benefit? The community becomes better organized and all of us as individuals share in better opportunities for communication, networking, and overall clout.

Improved programs and meetings that offer educational opportunities and networking.

Great career and community growth opportunities.

Exposure to the community at large through our Fall Business Expo at George Brown Convention Center.

Incredible community exposure to drive sales and identify new customers.

Our promotional piece that is currently being developed will offer advertising opportunities for not only the Houston market, but to other markets throughout the world.

Exposure to broad markets of consumers, prospective tourist, Gay and Lesbian clientele who are considering moving to Houston, plus great resource information about our diverse community.

Remember the greatest reward comes to those who invest themselves into the organization! We value your talent, ideas, questions and concerns!

We need most of all your participation in adding value to the Chamber so that we may continue to accomplish great things!

To your continued success!

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

_____

_____

_____

_____

To Achieve this, I suggest...

_____

_____

_____

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

h Yes h No

Name_____Email_____

Phone ( ) _____Fax ( ) _____

Vice Presidents Message

by Sandra Wilkins

I'm sure those of you who attended our May 5th meeting will agree it was one of our best yet. The Wyndham Warwick Hotel and its friendly, professional staff are working very hard to make our meeting space and our dinner absolutely first rate. We enjoyed the Versailles Room, with a beautiful view from the 12th floor, plenty of space for our Member Exhibit Table, a roomy sign-in area and cash bar. We appreciate Ruth Rendon and her staff for such generous accommodation.

In addition to the setting, the program presented by Texas Commerce Banks' Melanie McKittrick, Director of Corporate Diversity, was outstanding. Melanie captured the entire audience with her talk about TCB's journey toward being a model corporation for gay and lesbian employees. We learned just how dedicated TCB is to their goal, from the very top of the organization. So impressed with Texas Commerce's efforts, our hard-working President's Award recipient, Richard Weiderholt, immediately got on the phone and contacted his banks to inquire about their non-discriminatory policies. He now plans to switch on of his accounts to TCB as a result of this meeting.

All of us need to look diligently at the various industries with whom we do business. It is out responsibility to place our trust and hard earned dollars with those companies who respect our community and our basic civil rights. Look at your bank, your accounting firm, your investment company, your medical providers, you mortgage company, your car dealership, your grocery store, dry cleaners and retail suppliers, and ask, "are they working as hard as Texas Commerce Bank to respect me as I am?" If not, then perhaps the power of the gay dollar will go a long way as we trek out the door to find those companies who do have non-discrimination policies in place to do our business with. Make the phone call. If they don't have such a policy, ask if you can refer them to Corporate Network Group, who will help them develop such a policy. If they have no interest in doing so, cancel you business and find someone who does! Our Chamber is about COMMERCE! Let's all take a pro-active attitude toward making real change occur.

Would you like to advertise your business to the Global Gay and Lesbian Communities as well as the Houston Area Community?

A New Marketing Resource Guide is being developed by the GHGLCC Marketing Committee

Call 713-520-7237

for advertising information.

Committee Reports

Membership

The membership is coming up many new and different ideas to enhance the Chamber as a whole. In development right now are: a subcommittee to review corporate Chamber benefits, monthly breakfast meetings (for those who can't always attend the Monday night general meetings), and a Toastmasters-type meeting to improve speaking and presentation skills.

Also under consideration are enhanced methods of advertising and disemminating info for Chamber members. Committee co-chairs Scott Garrison and Patrick McKee have also been contacting members to encourage them to renew and refer new members. And don't forget, for every new member you sign up, your renewal will be $10 less!

The next membership committee meeting will be Wednesday, June 11th at 11:30 am. Location TBA. For more information, call Scott Garrison at 840-4816 or Patrick McKee at 668-6069

Community Affairs

The Community affairs Committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three subcommittee: Community Partnerships, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). We are currently looking for leadership for the Pride Parade. Please call Cheryl at 713-432-0705 if you're interested. The next committee meeting time and location are to be announced.

Program

The Program is holding their committee meeting on Wednesday, June 11 at 12:00 noon at the River Cafe.

Member Profile

SCOTT D. GARRISON Financial Consultant, MERRILL LYNCH

Scott Garrison

Scott D. Garrison attended both the University of Delaware and the University of Maryland where his course of studies included government and politics with a concentration in Russian culture. He is currently working as a financial consultant for Merrill Lynch and is actively involved in the Gay community.

Some of his professional accomplishments include being on a campaign management team for an African-American female pro-choice Republican congressional candidate, who received an increased percentage of votes because of the teams efforts. He has also been in the financial service industry for eight years due to the fact that it is challenging and allows him to help people. Scott says he will always go the extra step for his clients and wants to do the same for the GHGLCC, where he serves as the membership co-chairman.

Scott moved to Houston in 1992 and is now comfortable with the idea of being "out" to his co-workers. He has five year old daughter who lives with her mother in New Jersey. He enjoys spending time with his other half Jim, who he has been with for three years now. They met while bowling, a hobby he still enjoys as a member of the Montrose Monday Night Bowling League. He is also a member of EPAH.

He is currently working towards providing more visible value added service and benefits for chamber members through the membership committee. After listening to Mr. Garrison, it becomes apparent that he is an affable and intelligent man with a strong sense of community combined with a dedicated work ethic. These qualities are helpful not only to the GHGLCC, but to the whole community in general.

Sightings

Seen at the May Chamber dinner meeting, from left to right, Richard Clark, Harold Shultz, Paula Andries, Elizabeth Polk, Melanie McKittrick, Richard Bielec.

Annise Parker

Regis Donaghey and John Copous of In-Crate-Able gift crates and Richard Silva of Oursmart magazine.

Is Diversity Equal Rights or Special Rights? Is Diversity Acceptance or Tolerance

by Cary Russell

What does diversity mean to you? The GHGLCC members that attended the May '97 monthly meeting were treated to a thought provoking quest speaker that spoke on diversity.

Many thanks go out Melanie McKittrick of Texas Commerce Bank as well as the other Texas Commerce Bank staffers that make up the Diversity Committee. Their work has very much been needed in the workplace and I hope other companies will take Texas Commerce Banks lead in diversity.

Diversity to me is not special rights and it is not tolerance. It is equal rights and acceptance. I used to think that tolerance was a good idea, but it is not at all. When you tolerate someone, something or a situation it means you are not seeing things as they are, rather you are biting your lip and being stubborn. You are allowing those barriers to be rigid and stern. It is similar to tolerating a toothache, broken toe or tax audit.

Acceptance is actually seeing the other persons point of view and accepting that persons point of view. You may or may not agree with that persons point of view, but you can accept that person, their view, and who and what they are.

Texas Commerce Bank is demonstrating acceptance for all, not just gays and lesbians, but to all walks of life whether red, yellow, black, white, gay, straight, mentally challenged, physically challenged and more...

I thought that Melanie McKittrick rose to the occasion of being the only speaker on the dais and everyone who attended walked away with a good feeling of diversity and acceptance.

Top Energy Merchants Grow Fast to Gain share of Deregulated Market

HOUSTON (AP) _ The top energy merchants have set off a flurry of deals that is transforming some of Houston's largest natural gas and power marketers.With an estimated $210 billion in annual sales, the lure of garnering a share of the deregulated power market, has spurred mega-deals such as:_Enron Corp.'s pending acquisition of Oregon-based Portland General Corp._NGC Corp.'s agreement to take over Destec Energy._PanEnergy Corp.'s pending takeover by Duke Power Co.

"Size and scope are really the name of the game _ that's why you are seeing these combinations," said Ronald J. Barone, a stock analyst at PaineWebber in New York.Competition is so fierce that newcomers are already too late to the game of selling power to utilities or municipalities. "Those companies that haven't built up power marketing aren't going to at this point," said Carol Coale, senior natural gas analyst at Prudential Securities in Houston.

Two of the largest transactions, led by Enron and NGC, were examples of major gas marketers acquiring companies that will give them broad electric power generation capacity.That's not to say competition _ and consolidation _ won't continue.In theory, natural gas companies should be able to use the people and computer technology they've developed trading natural gas, Ms. Coale said. But making that move is much more difficult in reality.

"Still, a lot of the gas marketers haven't done much on the power side," Coale said. "If you're going to recruit someone with power marketing experience, you're going to pay up." PanEnergy, El Paso Energy Corp. and Coastal Corp. are still relatively small players in the power marketing arena.

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sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1	2 Dinner Meeting Warwick-6pm	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Membership Committee 11:30am-TBA Program Development Committee 12 noon-River Cafe	12 Networking Breakfast Mixer 7:30 a.m. Location TBA Call 713-668-6069 for information	13	14
15	16 Board Meeting Lovett Inn-6pm	17	18	19 L.I.B. featured speaker, Carla Jay Renaissance Hotel 6:30 pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Community Partnership 7 pm Bering United	27	28
29	30					

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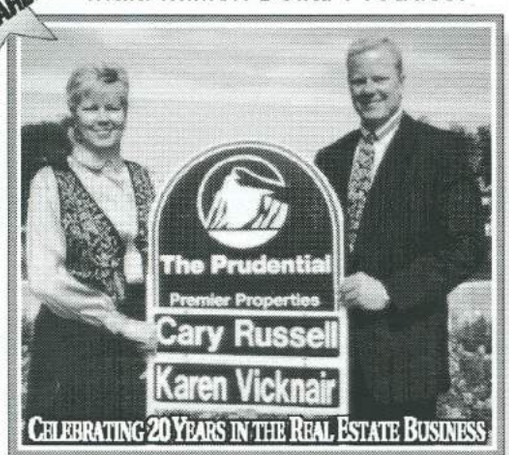

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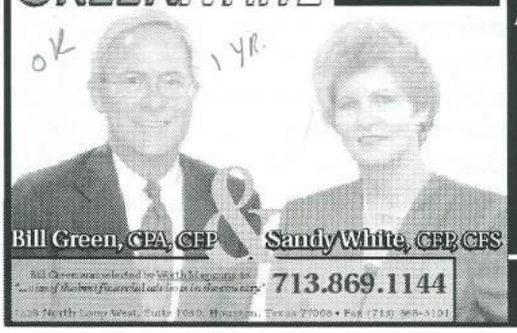

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Want to Exhibit your Company at the June 2nd Meeting?

Tables will be provided to GHGLCC members who wish to exhibit their company's goods and/or services. Contact Joyce Gayles at 667-6047 or Tony Carroll at 522-3045 to reserve your place. Limited to 12 members. Advance reservations required.

Dale Carpenter Testifies for Bill Outlawing Employment Discrimination

For the first time in Texas history there was a hearing before the House of Representatives' State Affairs Committee for a bill that would outlaw employment discrimination against gay and lesbian people. Monday, May 1997, Dale Carpenter, of Houston's Vincent and Elkins, was slated to testify early in the day before the committee;however, the number of bills under consideration delayed his testimony until just past midnight when it was well received by the legislators, both Republicans and Democrats.

Mr. Carpenter expressed his interest in speaking to the Chamber in the near future.

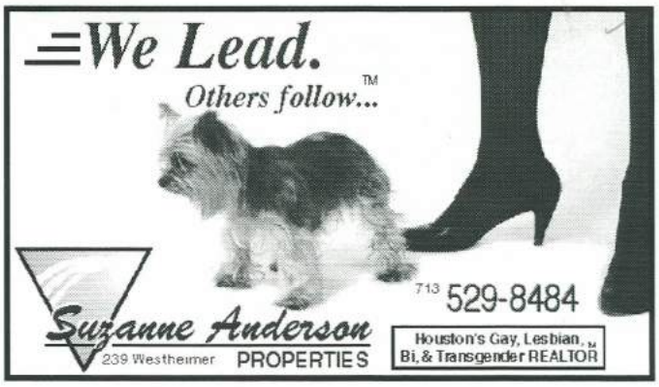
Empower '97 Picking Up Steam

The Empower '97 Committee has met and is actively working to sell booths for the October 11th event. Booth sales are brisk; remember, chamber members get a discount, but there are limited booths available, and all prices go up as of June 15, so buy yours now! (corner booths are getting scarce!)

The George R. Brown is the confirmed venue. The expo will be from 10am-6pm on Saturday in order to focus attendance. Entertainment is planned throughout the day to keep attendees interested in spending National Coming Out Day with us. We have contracted GES Services to provide the booths, which will come with back and side rails (draped) and identifying signs. they will design the floor layout and provide registration desks. If you need more information about buying your booth space today, call the Empower '97 Hotline at 713-462-1354. Advertising opportunities are available too!

We're very excited at the response we've been getting from companies we've approached about participating in Empower '97. We have strong interest in sponsorships from such quality companies as Texas Commerce Bank, Continental Airlines, Girlfriends magazine, Wells Fargo Bank, and Common Concerns Long Distance company, just to name a few. The Chamber is proud to have the Human Rights Campaign and the AIDS Foundation of Houston working in cooperation with us to produce this event.

We get calls everyday from interested companies, so act now. Don't miss out on the premiere event of the Chamber's 1997 calendar!



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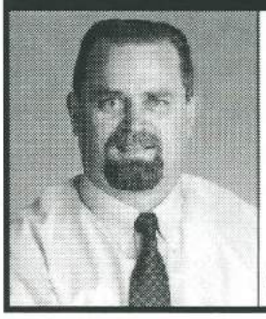

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Announcements

Notes from the Board

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

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

Newsletter Advertising

The newsletter committee, chaired by Marion Coleman, is designing a new look to our monthly newsletter. Would you like to advertise? Reserve your space now! A one month business card size ad is only $30. If you reserve between 3-6 months the rate is only $25 and if you reserve space for 7-12 months your rate is only $20. Call Marion Coleman at the House of Coleman at 713-523-2521, or Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited© at 713-526-5190.

Welcome New Members!

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Tom Grass	John Daugherty Realtors
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GHGLCC NEWS
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JULY, 1997 VOL 2, ISSUE 7

An Informal Evening of Fun and Networking with JUDY FROW

Chanteuse, Comedienne, Business Person, Motivator

July 7, 1997 at 6 pm

The Lovett Inn · 501 Lovett Boulevard

Judy Frow

An informal evening of fun and networking will feature one of our favorite entertainers, Judy Frow and her accompanist, Jim Benton, doing their energetic stand-up routine. Judy has appeared locally with Stages Repertory Theater, Theater under the Stars and the Texas Renaissance Festival, and was the original Artistic Director of Bering and Friends. Realizing long ago that she was a terrible waitress, Judy turned to the business world to supplement her income as a performer. She has held starring roles as receptionist, file clerk, administrative assistant, executive secretary, and most recently trust officer with a national investment management and trust company.

She is the owner of Judy Frow's Show Business, a contract theatrical company whose mission is to rescue Houston's corporate and professional community from dull seminars, boring meetings, and other potentially harmful business functions. Her unique approach to corporate entertainment has been featured in Houston Business Journal and D.B.A. Houston.

With over twenty years in professional theater and an equal amount of time in the corporate world in both the U.S. and her native Canada, Judy is uniquely qualified to end the era of the boring business meeting.

This evening will provide the perfect opportunity for you to bring guests who may be potential Chamber members. There will be lots of time to meet and greet people, thus increasing our membership. Prizes will be given to the persons who bring the largest number of guests.

Please call to make reservations for yourself and your guests, and remember there is a $5.00 charge for members who arrive without reservations. The reservation number is 713-523-7576.

• • •

RSVP is required by June 30th at 713-523-7576. PLEASE NOTE: If you fail to RSVP for the dinner meeting, members will incur an additional $5 charge when you sign in. Please be responsible and make the RSVP call! The cost for the dinner meeting is $20 for members and $25 for non-members or guests.

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

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Committee Reports

Newsletter

Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713-523-2521) for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month)

Internet

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

Resource Guide/Directory

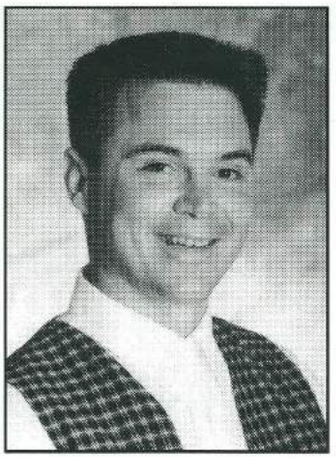
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Committees in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at 713-529-8490.

Public Relations

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

Community Affairs

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



Presidents Message

by Coy Tow

I am very excited about the progress the Chamber is making in increasing benefits and business opportunities within our community. I would like to specially recognize the members who are devoting a great deal of time to committees which will continue to improve the Chamber by increasing benefits, activities, educational opportunities, membership, and eventually business and commerce for the City of Houston's gay and lesbian community.

Many of you are still watching and waiting to see what the Chamber of Commerce is going to do for you. Well my fellow members, we are all "The Chamber of Commerce" and the value comes from our participation through active work and positive constructive input. I can promise that the more you put in, the more you will directly see the benefit of new relationships, new ideas, new opportunities, and possibly more to your bottom line.

What are your bottom line needs? What does the Chamber need to do to push forward and fulfill the obligations and expectations that each of us expect from our membership? We would love your input and your involvement in helping us to achieve our mission! Together we can represent the true needs which are diverse in nature, but united in the spirit only Houston's gay and lesbian community can embrace.

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

_____

_____

_____

_____

To achieve this, I suggest...

_____

_____

_____

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

❑ Yes ❑ No

Name_____ Email_____

Phone ( ) _____ Fax ( ) _____

Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

Our GHGLCC has another six months of progress under our belts, and one of the driving forces behind our rapid achievement of goals is Board Member Emeritus, Richard Weiderholt. You see him everywhere, a whirling dervish of vision, energy and commitment to the goals of our Chamber.

Richard is especially dedicated to two immediate goals: bringing more large coporations on board to join or support GHGLCC, and developing our mentorship program. On July 20, 1997 Richard's company, Basic Brothers, will host an open house to celebrate 15 years as an "out and proud" clothing store in the Montrose community.

Board Member Emeritus, Richard Weiderholt

To help achieve these goals Richard has generously offered to donate 15% of Basic Brothers' sales that day to fund these projects. The dictionary defines mentor as "an experienced and trusted adviser." When asked how he saw a mentor, Richard said, "a person who helps another grow personally and professionally."

GHGLCC wants to take these concepts and provide support, information and guidance not only to small businesses, or our younger, less experienced members, but also to work with large corporations to encourage them to underwrite mentorship programs to make it easier for their corporate employees to come "out" on the job. We recognize that corporations don't necessarily want their employees to come "out" for no reason, but if by doing so they become more productive, then that would be an enormous benefit to the company. Our goal in working with corporations would be to put programs in place that would help facilitate this process for the employee who chose to do so.

These ideas embody so much of what our Chamber is all about. People helping grow and prosper. To this end we would like to form a new committee to guide GHGLCC's Mentorship Propgram. This committee will define the goals and develop procedures for their implementation. If you would like to contribute to this effort and serve on this committee, please give me a call at 713-526-4471.

Committee Reports

Membership

The membership committee has focused its efforts on bringing all of the terrific ideas under development of fruition. Among these are: networking breakfasts, see the related article in this issue, presentation workshop, similar to Toastmasters, enhanced message dissemination, i.e., fax and email, corporate membership benefits, and member recognition programs.

Also, don't forget our recruitment incentive program: for every new member listing you as their sponsor, you receive $10 off your membership renewal. If you know a business willing to have membership applications on display, please contact either Patrick (713-668-6069) or Scott (713-840-4816) to set therm up.

The next committee meeting is Wednesday, July 9 at 11:30 am at Jalapeños Restaurant (Kirby near Westheimer.

Program

The Program is holding their committee meeting on Wednesday, June 11 at 12:00 noon at the River Cafe.

Would you like to advertise your business to the Global Gay and Lesbian Communities as well as the Houston Area Community?

A New Marketing Resource Guide is being developed by the GHGLCC Marketing Committee

Call 713-529-8490

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Member Profile

Cheryl Conner of RefCheck Investigative Service Company

Cheryl Conner

Cheryl Conner has attained many achievements in her life. Indeed, the Sam Houston State University graduate's resume speaks volumes. Having obtained her degree in Education, she embarked on a lengthy career with the State of Texas from 1982 - 1995, first as Enforcement Office Supervisor for the Comptroller of Public Accounts (1982-1991), followed by a stint as Director of Programs for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (1991-1995).

Conner left her employ with the State of Texas to start her own investigation business, RefCheck Investigative Service Company. As proprietor, Conner's business encompasses all venues of investigations. RefCheck utilizes their computer databases to track, gather and report information on individuals and corporations. The information gathered can pertain to lost heirs, criminal background checks, bankruptcies, missing persons, etc.

Conner is a founding board member of the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GHGLCC). Conner's background in Cultural Diversity and Sensitivity Training along with her Leadership skills have served the board well. "We have always been committed to doing business with other businesses in the Chamber," said Conner.

In addition to her impressive professional credentials, Conner's resume should note her personal benevolence. She is supportive, thoughtful and always pleasant in demeanor. Moreover, she is a caring and giving member of the community. Her outlook on life is equally refreshing.

"I am most proud of my loving partnership with Stephanie Hamilton," said Conner. "We recently celebrated our seventh anniversary in our newly purchased home in the Westbury area. We are both active members, and participate in the leadership, of Bering Memorial United Methodist Church on Harold Street in Montrose."

The couple has three "lovely (or not so lovely) children" - two dogs and one cat. Their life centers around their relationship with God, one another, their families and friends. "We love to party, camp, dance, travel, sleep and socialize," said Conner. "Not necessarily in that order."

RefCheck is located on 5959 West Loop South, Suite 525 in Bellaire.

• • •

Sightings

Tony Carroll, Suzanne Anderson, Bruce Smith and Deborah Bell.

GHGLCC Pride Float '96.

Helene Rouse, David Scott and Laura Hudman.

Alley Summer Line-up Features Family Fare with Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest*

The door opens and an unexpected guest arrives in Agatha Christie's mysterious thriller *The Unexpected Guest.* When a stranger comes in the Llongelert House out of a dense South Wales fog looking for help for his ditched car, he finds a woman standing over her dead husband's body. Dame Agatha knows the recipe for an exciting murder mystery: a corpse, a host of shifty suspects, some misleading clues and a determined inspector. Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest* is part of the Alley's *SummerChills* series, the annual summertime series of fun, lighthearted productions, at popular prices, for the entire family to enjoy.

The Unexpected Guest opens on July 11 and runs through July 27. For more information call 713-228-8421.

Office Space Sublease

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

Chamber Networking Breakfasts are Back!

Those of you who have very good memories will remember the last Chamber breakfast. For everyone else, we will be having the networking breakfasts each month. On Thursday, June 12, several Chamber members met at the Marriott on the West Loop at 7:30 am to re-start the morning meetings. Each member gave a brief introduction of his/her business and described what would be good referral for their business from other Chamber members. Then, we brainstormed about what other topics and subjects wold be appealing in order to draw more Chamber members to the breakfasts in the future. One member present stated that he would really appreciate the ability to talk with other business owners about issues and problems that he faces, since he does not have peers at his place of business he can talk to. After describing his business problem dilemma, he asked us for feedback. Of course, we each had our own "advice" and ideas.

The conclusion of those at the breakfast was that this "forum" would be a good part of future breakfasts. We look forward to seeing more Chamber members at the next networking breakfast on Thursday, July 10 at 7:30 am at the LePeep Restaurant, 4702 Westheimer near Loop 610. You can most definitely invite and/or bring non-member guests. If you have any questions/comments, please call Patrick McKee at 713-668-6069.

Breakfast Mixer Perfect Timing for Insurance Agent

by Dale Englefield

One of the challenges of owning your own business is that you don't really have peers "on premises" to help you keep you "on track." It's difficult to know whether you're getting heartfelt advice from an employee, and then what employee really wants to witness, much less participate in, a demonstration of proprietary self-doubt just before the rent is due?

By the time I arrived at the breakfast mixer on June 12 I had been agonizing over a big decision since the beginning of March. Though I had solicited advice from several people (none of them business owners), the hard and fast answers I had been hoping for had given way to "warm fuzzies" and expressions of personal support. Nice people, but they just didn't "get it."

Making an awfully deep sigh, I decided to go ahead and reveal to all these coffee-drinking, muffin-munching business people--right here in the middle of everybody who might ever want to do business with me--that, well...I was clueless. Without missing a beat, three of them spoke up and said how they knew exactly what I was going through and what I should do about it and how it would work out in the end and that it didn't really matter that much because I was already doing a great job anyway and please pass the cream. By the end of the conversation, the agony had stopped and the spring was back in my step. Thank you all.

Come to the breakfast mixers. Bring your questions and advice. And...if you see me there, you can ask me how to solve at least one problem you might have.

Image... until they get to know you, it's what's on the surface that counts. With that, do you want your image quickly splashed on paper? Or do you want House of Coleman to ink a better job?

Marion E. Coleman
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J U L Y

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
		1	2	3	4 *Independence Day*	5
6	7 Monthly Meeting Lovett Inn-6pm	8	9 Membership Committee Meeting-11:30 am Jalapeños Restaurant on Kirby near Westheimer	10 Networking Breakfast Mixer 7:30 a.m. LePeep-4702 Westheimer Call 713-668-6069 for information	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Board Meeting Lovett Inn-6pm	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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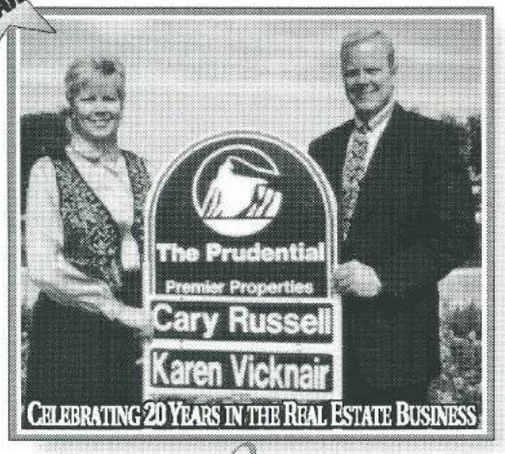

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Membership Drive Is The Focus Of The July Meeting

The July meeting of the GHGLCC, at the Lovett Inn, will be a festive celebration of the summer holiday where we will welcome members and their guests. All previous guests of the Chamber who have not as yet become members will be invited. It will be a great opportunity for current members to visit with prospective members and encourage them to join. The Chamber will award prizes, offered by Chamber members, to the member who brings the most guests and to the member who signs up the most new members at the meeting/party. Also, any member who brings 5 guests will attend the meeting/party free of charge.

Entertainment will be provided by Judy Frow, a comedienne who will make us all laugh. Lea Bogle will share her knowledge of trade show participation and how to get the best results for our business.

Let's all become ambassadors of the Membership Committee for this Chamber event and spread the word about the many benefits (networking, advertising, mentoring, EXPO, etc.) of becoming an active, participating member of the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

EMPOWER '97 Update

Booth sales are picking up! For those of you who have decided to participate and buy a booth for your business at this major marketing event but haven't sent in your check yet, the wait has cost you. Prices for booth space have gone up as of June 15, as advertised in this newsletter, at meetings, and on booth reservation forms. All booth prices have been raised by $50.00, and will continue to go up as we near August. Send in your check now to avoid future price increases and secure your space. Choice spots are going first-come/first-served basis, and corner booths are almost gone (only 5 left).

As a reminder, we have secured the George R. Brown for Saturday, October 11th, National Coming Out Day, from 10 am to 6 pm. The latest sponsors and exhibitors include Gallery Furniture, Texas Commerce Bank, and the Alley Theater. We are working with two major Houston radio stations for participation as exhibitors and advertising avenues. Start telling your customers, friends and family about this event to help us draw a huge crowd. Again, the format of EMPOWER '97 is exhibits by any business (not necessarily gay owned) interested in doing business with the gay community. Admission for attendees will be a food donation to Stone Soup Pantry. We are presenting EMPOWER '97 in conjunction with the Human Rights Campaign and the AIDS Foundation of Houston. The entertainment committee is working hard on filling the day with exciting performances and speakers. We hope you saw the interview on the GHGLCC and EMPOWER '97 with Debbie Phinney, EMPOWER '97 co-chair, in the June 6 issue of the Texas Triangle. Look for a feature article on EMPOWER '97 in the July issue of OUTSMART magazine, and for promotional material during Pride Week!

Don't forget that advertising space is available, too. The EMPOWER '97 program will include a listing for all exhibitors, and display ad space is available. Call the EMPOWER '97 hotline for more information at 713-462-1354

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Announcements

Notes from the Board

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

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

Newsletter Advertising

The newsletter committee, chaired by Marion E. Coleman, has designed a new look to our monthly newsletter. It's a great time to advertise! Reserve your space now! A one month business card size ad is only $30. If you reserve between 3-6 months the monthly rate is only $25 and if you reserve space for 7-12 months your monthly rate is only $20. Call Marion at the House of Coleman at 713-523-2521, or Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® at 713-526-5190.

Welcome New Members!

Aaron Cortez	Coldwell Banker United Realtors
Norma Saenz	Michael W. Kemper Salon
Denise Rindhage	Neptune Pool Cleaning Service

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Address Correction Requested

GHGLCC NEWS
the impact network

AUGUST, 1997 VOL 2, ISSUE 8

GREATER HOUSTON
GAY & LESBIAN
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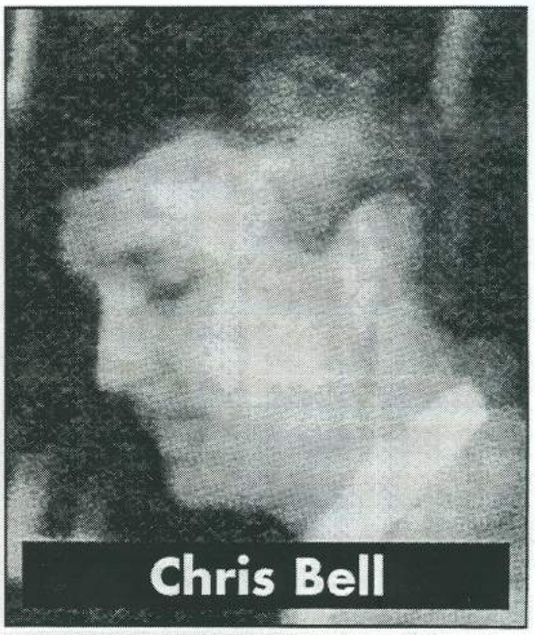
For membership information call
713.523.7576
1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006

CHRIS BELL

City Council Member and Friend to our Community to Address Chamber at August Meeting



Monday, August 4th, 6pm

Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St.

Chris Bell was elected to the Houston City Council, At-Large Position 4, on February 15, 1997, in a special election to fill an unexpired term. Chris is an attorney with Bell & Henry, LLP and is a graduate of South Texas College of Law. While attending law school, Chris worked as a reporter for KTRH Radio and, in 1991, was awarded Best Radio Reporter by the Texas Associated Press.

Being an award winning radio reporter and an attorney makes Chris an interesting and dynamic speaker. He has from the beginning of his pursuit for public office been a strong and open advocate for the gay and lesbian community, and continues to champion equality and diversity within city government. Council Member Bell is a warm and open person who is approachable and forthcoming with information and opinions.

Chris will discuss issues that are pertinent to our business and professional community, and is looking forward to exchanging ideas and answering our Chamber members' questions.

We anticipate a good attendance for this important meeting, so please call in your RSVP early, and no later than Friday, August 1st to the GHGLCC hotline, (713) 523-7576.

• • •

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

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

Committee Reports

Newsletter

Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713-523-2521) for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month)

Internet

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

Resource Guide/Directory

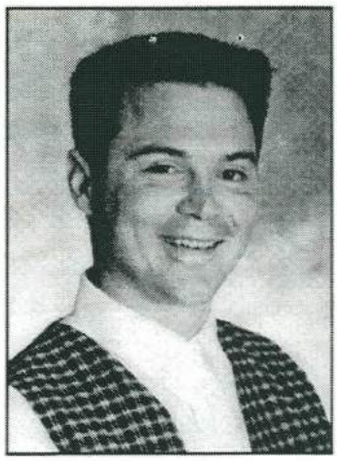
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Community in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice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

Public Relations

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

Community Affairs

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



Presidents Message

by Coy Tow

Have you bought your booth for Empower '97?

Have you signed up to help make this event a terrific success?

National Coming Out Day in Houston, Texas will showcase the economic strength of our community at the George R. Brown Convention Center. With a combination business Exposition and community celebration we hope to truly bring out the entire gay and lesbian community!

The Chamber membership must be the strength behind this event and it will indeed take all of us to make it a terrific success! Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney have worked hard on behalf of all of us to get top rate entertainment and to pack the day with great speakers and community events.

Please get involved by telling your friends and signing up to take part in this fantastic day to be gay!

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

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

To achieve this, I suggest...

_____

_____

_____

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

❑ Yes ❑ No

Name_____ Email_____

Phone ( ) _____ Fax ( ) _____

Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

By sponsoring Expo '97, The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce will make a powerful statement about the size, clout and personality of our community. This event has the ability to show the City of Houston what a successful and diverse group our membership represents. The success of this event will have enormous repercussions for the future growth and recognition of GHGLCC as a dynamic organization, leading the progress of Houston's gay and lesbian community.

It is incumbent on every single member of GHGLCC to support this event, and actively work to ensure its success. What does this mean? It means that you and your business or profession must purchase a booth and be visible at Expo '97. It means that you must get on the phone and tirelessly solicit friends and associates who are not Chamber members to participate as well. It means that for the next 10 weeks you will talk about the event with enthusiasm to everyone you come into contact with.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney, Co-Chairs of Expo '97, we are guaranteed exceptional media coverage of this event. People will know that this will be a Saturday in October to remember. We already have the support of highly visible Houston entities, like Texas Commerce Bank and The Houston Press. Nationally recognized entertainer, Judy Tenuta is confirmed. Community support is coming from AIDS Foundation Houston and Human Rights Campaign.

This event has overwhelming national implications for our Chamber. We must make it a resounding success. To do so will require the effort and dedication of each and every member of GHGLCC. Get your booth reserved, call and ask how you can help volunteer time and energy to support this most important undertaking.

Call the Empower '97 Hotline at (713) 462.1354 to register and receive additional information.

Would you like to advertise your business to the Global Gay and Lesbian Communities as well as the Houston Area Community?

A New Marketing Resource Guide is being developed by the GHGLCC Marketing Committee

Call JC at 713-529-8490

for advertising information.

Committee Reports

Membership

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

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

But in our continuing efforts to try and be everything to everyone, a Speakers Training Forum will be held in September (details next month); Networking Breakfasts will continue to be held monthly (the nest at LePeep at Shepherd/59, Tuesday, August 12 at 7:30 a.m.); and existing programs are presently being reviewed and enhanced

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

Program

The Program is holding their committee meeting on Wednesday, June 11 at 12:00 noon at the River Cafe.

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713.521.7741

Member Profile

MARK GREINERT Manager, Midtowne Spa of Houston, Inc.

Mark Greinert, originally a native of New York where he was born and raised, now calls Houston his home.

His contributions to the community are many, as he has served for a year in the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Log Cabin Republicans and is also the manager of the Midtowne Spa of Houston. In the later role he has also been able to do something for the community by organizing benefits for both Montrose Outreach Program, and Aids Foundation Houston. He is also instrumental in helping coordinate education and outreach programs concerning the prevention of HIV.

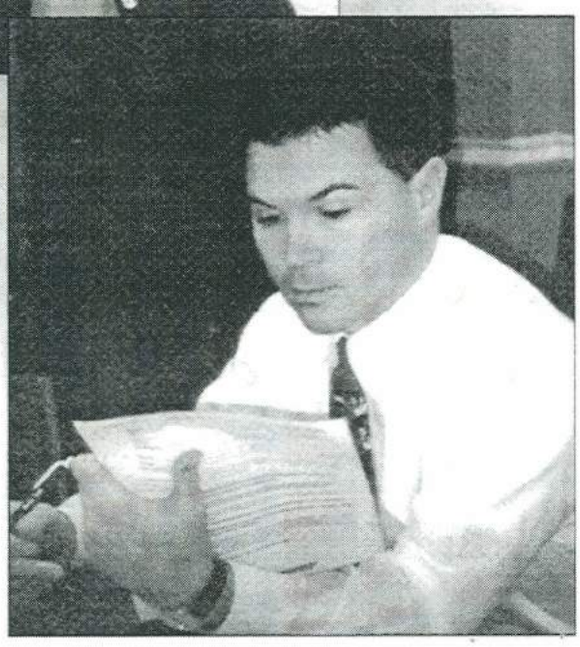
Mark Greinert

His Family life is a stable one consisting of a three year relationship with his lover Jon, as well as the care and raising of their "children," Chuckie, Ryan, Vanna and Kitten.

In his professional life he has worked in the computer service field for twelve years and in the health and fitness field for the last eight. His motto for living is "do everything to the fullest extent of your abilities and do what you can to make the world a better place."

Sightings

Board Vice President Sandra Wilkins and Secretary Laura Hudman



Board President, Coy Tow

OFFICE SPACE SUBLEASE

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

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Last Call For Booths!

EMPOWER '97 Update

LAST CALL FOR BOOTHS! August 15th is the deadline for buying your booth space at EMPOWER '97 to be held on October 11, 1997 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. By the time you read the next issue of this newsletter, it will be too late. Our committee is very excited and proud to announce we have booked JUDY TENUTA as the feature entertainer for EMPOWER '97. Remember, this event will be free to the public (with a donation of a canned or dry good food item for Stone Soup Pantry). We have also gotten a commitment from KHMX 96.5 to do radio promotion for the event. Last month's Gay Pride parade pulled an estimated 50,000 people. With radio and print promotion and Judy Tenuta as entertainment, we are expecting a huge turnout! The word is already getting out about the event—look for articles in This Week in Texas and in the Houston Voice! Don't miss this amazing opportunity to showcase your business to the target gay, lesbian and supportive market. Ad space is also available—call the hotline for more information at713-462-1354.

Newsletter Notes!

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

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

The Chamber Networking Breakfast

Tuesday, AUGUST 12 at 7:30 am

Le PEEP Restaurant · 3810 Farnham in Shepherd Plaza

One block north of 59 between Shepherd & Greenbriar

Invite and/or Bring Non-member Guests. Be prepared to describe a good referral for your business.

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

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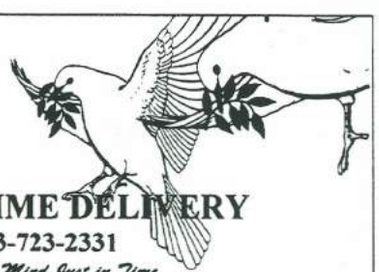
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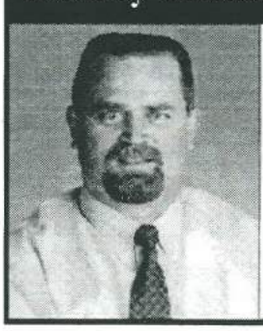
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Why EMPOWER '97?

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian community represents an estimated 400,000 people in the Greater Houston area (based on 10% of population figures). The economic impact of single or dual income households, typically with no children, is tremendous.

As a business owner or representative, EMPOWER '97 offers your company an opportunity to meet and network with other businesses, but more importantly, to access the gay and lesbian consumer market. According to the **Wall Street Journal** (10/25/95), "Throughout Texas, homosexual men and women are choosing to patronize businesses that seek out and cater to the gay community. And they don't have to look far. More gay and straight businesses are aggressively pursuing gay customers--advertising in gay and lesbian publications and promoting themselves as either gay-owned or operated, or "gay friendly."

SPONSORS (as of 07/10/97)

Houston Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages
OutSmart Magazine
Houston Voice
Houston's Laff Stop
This Week In Texas
Computer Factory
Premier Paging
Mortgage Associates of Texas
Mortgage Credit Reports, Inc

Exhibitors (partial list)

Houston Press
Texas Commerce Bank
Uniglobe Travel
Suzanne Anderson Properties
Pack N Send
Basic Brothers

EMPOWER '97 at 713.462.1354

Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
1109 Hyde Park #178
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 523-7576
Fax: (713) 864-8523

GHGLCC

EMPOWER '97

An event to promote the Economic $trength of OUR Community

Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
1109 Hyde Park #178
Houston, Texas 77006

GHGLCC EMPOWER'97
Business EXPO Oct 11, 1997
10:00am-6:00pm

GHGLCC presents EMPOWER '97, an event to promote the economic $trength of OUR community. EMPOWER'97 will include:

- **Trade Show:** George R Brown Convention Center with 200+ exhibitors
- **Keynote Speakers:** Invited guests include Hon. Willie Brown Mayor San Francisco, Dan Butler (star of TV's Frazier) representing HRC, Dan Baker- Co-Author "Cracking The CorporateCloset"
- **Panel Discussions and Seminars**: Topics to address issues significant to gays & lesbians
- **Program:** 24 page Color Advertising supplement to promote event
- **Highly Publicized Event**: Radio/PrintMulti media advertising translates to HIGH traffic for exhibitors
- **Entertainment:** Nationally recognized head liner entertainment featuring **JUDY TENUTA**
- **Community:** Fund raising events for AIDS Foundation's Stone Soup and Human Rights Campaign
- **Accessability- FREE** event to the community

EMPOWER '97 HOTLINE
713.462.1354

PROGRAM ADVERTISING

EMPOWER '97 will produce a min. 24 pg 8X11, 4 color cover, advertising supplement and guide to compliment the EXPO. Each exhibitor will receive a **free listing**. Display ad rates are as follows:

Color	
back cover	$2000
inside bkcover	$1000
inside fr cover	$1000

Black/white

full page	$700
½ page	$375
1/4 page	$199

Rates based on camera ready art. Color/design/special placement available for additional fee. To advertise or for additional information contact Marion Coleman @713.523.2521 **HURRY!**

Deadline for ads August 15, 1997.

Please Note: Booths must be paid in full before free listing is placed.

EXHIBITOR RESERVATION FORM

Name_____

Company_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Phone( )_____

Booth Size: 10x10 w/ backdrop/3' side drapes/IDsign (tables & chairs available for minimal charge)

10X10 reg_____$275. (Member)
10X10 reg_____$375. (Non-member)

10X10 Corner_____$325. (member)
10X10 Corner_____$425. (non member)
(limited quantity)
Dbl. Booth_____$475 (member)
Dbl. Booth_____$650 (non-member)
Dbl. Booth Corner or end cap add:
$50. (member) $100 (non-member)

Speciality booth sizes & placement available on first serve basis. **DEADLINE August 15, 1997.**

Reserve your booth today! Makes check payable to GHGLCC 1109 Hyde Park # 178 Houston Tx 77006

Alley Actors Lead Forum For Students to Explore Great American Classics

Alley actors Shelley Williams, Bettye Fitzpatrick, Ruddy Cravens and others will lead five consecutive discussions about two classic plays to be staged at the Alley next season: *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller and *Long Days Journey Into Night* by Eugene O'Neill. The forums–for students age 16 and older–will create a thorough understanding of the literature, while studying the background of the playwright, the works' social significance and other relevant issues.

Participants are encouraged to read the two scripts prior to attending the forum; copies may be checked out at any branch of the Houston Public Library (call 713-236-1313) for the branch nearest you).

The forums will be held on August 2, 9 and 16 at the Henington-Alief Regional, Houston Public Library at 7979 S. Kirkwood. The forum is free and open to the public however, reservations must be made as seating is limited. To make reservations, call the Henington-Alief Regional Branch Public Library at 281-568-3330.

Two One Acts Presented by EZ Credit Theater

On August 1 & 2, Dos Chicas Productions and EZ Credit Theater in conjunction with Zocalo Theater present a night of drag in two one act plays by Charles Busch; *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* and *Sleeping Beauty or Coma.* The plays feature Seth "Stallion" Adelson, Francesca "ChaCha" Castaldi, Paul "Big Girl" Drake, Alan "Headhunter" Hall, Bob "Morgasm" Morgan, Bill "Scapegoat" Payne, and Anne "Little Girl" Zimmerman with live music by Matt Meeks.

The audience is encouraged to come dressed in drag and participate in a post-show fashion event with the cast with winners receiving a really tacky prize.

Tickets are $5 and reservations can be made by calling 713-862-1626. The show starts at 9 pm at the EZ Credit Theater, 314 Main Street, downtown between Preston and Congress. A portion of the proceeds from this production will be donated to Steven's House, an intermediate care facility for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Local Dancers Headed for Gay Games in '98

From August 1-August 8, 1998, Bob Pavey and Lee Ingalls will be participating in the Ballroom Dancing sport of the Gay Games in Amsterdam Netherlands representing Houston, TX. If you would like to offer your financial support, contact either Bob or Lee at 713-877-8458

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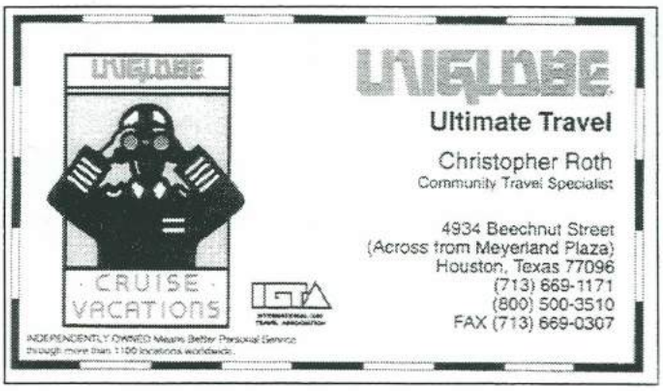

Announcements

Notes from the Board

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

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

Welcome New Members!

Steve Baker & Russell Byrd	TriAngle Video Productions
Mark Hoyer	American Express Travel
William Allen Wirth	Attorney at Law
Gary Brewton, MD	OnCol Medical Associates PA
Marc R. Archuleta	Home Loan Corporation

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Newsletter Advertising

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

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Houston, Texas 77006

Address Correction Requested

GHGLCC NEWS
the impact network

SEPTEMBER, 1997 VOL 2, ISSUE 9

GREATER HOUSTON
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For membership information call
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Dayna Steele

DAYNA STEELE

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

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

Dayna Steele has reigned for years as "Houston's First Lady of Radio" because of her knack for conducting highly entertaining and revealing interviews, her insider's track on the local and national music scene and her commitment to broadcast excellence. A native Houstonian, Dayna's radio career began in 1982 at KLOL. She was featured as one of the top female disc jockeys in the country on the FMQB "Women of Rock" CD in 1995 and was nominated as "Radio Air Personality of the Year" in 1996 by Billboard Magazine. Dayna was the only woman nominated. In 1996, Dayna moved to FM 97.1, a new talk radio station, to host *97 TALK* from 10 a.m. to noon daily.

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

***STEELE** continued on page 4*

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

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

Committee Reports

Newsletter

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

Internet

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

Resource Guide/Directory

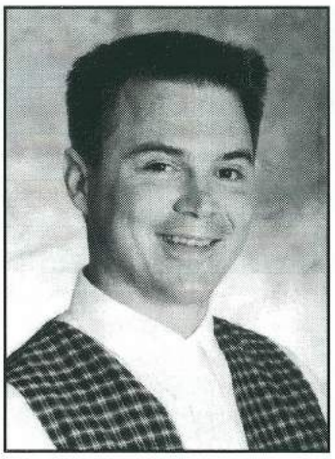
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Community in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice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

Public Relations

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

Community Affairs

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



President's Message

by Coy Tow

Today it's OK to be GAY!

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

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

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

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

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

To achieve this, I suggest...

_____

_____

_____

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

❑ Yes ❑ No

Name_____ Email_____

Phone ( ) _____ Fax ( ) _____

Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

EMPOWER '97....IT'S COMING!
Mark your calendar - Saturday, October 11

THE CHALLENGE:

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

THE REWARD:

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

THE CHALLENGE:

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

THE REWARD:

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

ANY QUESTIONS?

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

ghglcc

It does a business good.

Committee Reports

Membership

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

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

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

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

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Member Profile

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STEELE *continued from page 1*

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

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

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

OFFICE SPACE SUBLEASE

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

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Join Us!

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

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

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

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

Newsletter Notes!

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

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

The Chamber Networking Breakfast

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 16 at 7:30 am

Fox Diner • 905 Taft

Invite and/or Bring Non-Member Guests.
Be prepared to describe a good referral for your business.
Bring any business problem or Chamber issue on your mind to the breakfast.

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SEPTEMBER

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

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

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EMPOWER '97

ninety-seven 97 MCMXCVII

October 11 is Fast Approaching. Empower '97 is Free to the Public and is Featuring the Outrageous

JUDY TENUTA

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

October 11 is fast approaching. The event is free to the public, features entertainment headlined by the outrageous Judy Tenuta, and will be promoted on MIX 96.5 KHMX radio. The *Houston Press* will have one of their same-sex single mixers at EMPOWER '97, and will advertise it for us. Our own ad campaign is starting to run in *OutSmart* magazine, the *Houston Voice*, and the *Texas Triangle*. We will extend the booth date in these ads and follow them with ads targeted at getting the community at the event.

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

• • •

Coming Next Month

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

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

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

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

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

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

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We'll see you at Empower '97

New Special Interest Committee being Formed to Initiate and Plan Events

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

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

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

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

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

Members Seeking Your Services...

Caterer/Entertainer

Suzanne Anderson Properties is now accepting bids for a Caterer and an Entertainer for a December 11 function.
If you are interested, please call 713-529-8484.

Catering for the December Chamber Meeting

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

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

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Would you like to advertise your business to the Global Gay and Lesbian Communities as well as the Houston Area Community?

A New Marketing Resource Guide is being developed by the GHGLCC Marketing Committee

Call JC at 713-529-8490
for advertising information.

Ribbon Cutting Open House

Head to the New Pharmacy - *Stat!*

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

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

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

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

STATSCRIPT *continued on page 11*

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Member Articles

Recycling Toner/Ink Makes Sense

by Sheila Greene

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

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

Most of my business has been recycling of the toner cartridges and ink jet cartridges which are found in laser printers, copiers and fax machines. The toner cartridge is opened, examined for internal wear or damage, and internal parts are thoroughly cleaned. Worn or damaged parts are replaced with high quality components and toners which give excellent print quality and quantity. The ink jet cartridges are filled by a machine which pressure-fills them in the same manner they are filled by the manufacturer. All cartridges are print-tested and have a 100% guarantee. A recycling program begins with two cartridges; one empty and another filled with toner or ink. Call my office and I will be there to pick up the empty one. A completely refurbished cartridge will be in your hands within a week.

I have been in this business for two years and have found that many companies are increasingly eager to do whatever they can to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to our landfills. Recycling printer cartridges can be the beginning of a more comprehensive workplace recycling program. Please take a minute to look around your office and see what items are being "trashed." Maybe some of that can be turned into extra cash. It can also be an added benefit to be able to tell clients or customers that you are doing your part to make this a "greener, cleaner" place to live. As a member of the GHGLCC, I look forward to meeting and working with many of you. So call me, Sheila Green, at 281-331-1071 to get your home or office started in a recycling program.

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

STATSCRIPT *continued from page 8*

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

Do You Have a Web Page?

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

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

Announcements

Notes From the Board

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

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

Newsletter Advertising

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

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

Welcome New Members!

Peter Poit

Grant Martin

Tim Kent
Jaguar Couriers of Texas, Inc.

Bob Lawson
AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.

Francisco Sanchez
Carrerio Miranda, Inc.

Michael Romedy
Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection

GHGLCC
1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006

Address Correction Requested

GHGLCC NEWS
the impact network

OCTOBER, 1997 VOL 2, ISSUE 10

GREATER HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Coy Tow

Vice President
Sandra B. Wilkins, M.A.

Treasurer
Bill Green, CPA, CFP

Secretary
Laura Hudman

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Cheryl Conner

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Bill Green, CPA, CFP

Program
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Tony Carroll

Social
Ken Council
Helene Rouse

Ethics and Legal
Dale Englefield
Debra Hunt

Annual Membership Dues
Individual $100.00
Business $175.00
Corporation $500.00

For membership information call
713.523.7576
1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006

Rep. Debra Danburg

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

Debra Danburg

Monday, October 6, 6pm
Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St.

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

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

Rep. Danburg has received many

***DANBURG** continued on page 11*

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

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

Committee Reports

Newsletter

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

Internet

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

Resource Guide/Directory

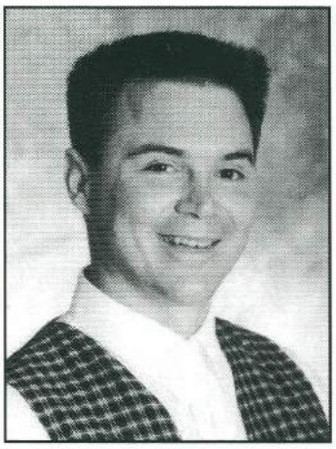
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Community in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice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

Public Relations

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

Community Affairs

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



President's Message

by Coy Tow

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

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

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

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

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

PRESIDENT *continued on page 11*

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

_____

To achieve this, I suggest...

_____

_____

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

❑ Yes ❑ No

Name_____ Email_____

Phone ( ) _____ Fax ( ) _____

Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

In October the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce celebrates its second annual meeting. How perfect that on October 11 our Chamber will host EMPOWER '97, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. This event is the result of GHGLCC's rapid growth and the important position we occupy in the gay community. Who would have imagined that in two short years our organization could boast so many remarkable achievements, culminating with EMPOWER '97?

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

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

These accomplishments should make each member very proud.

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

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

IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR Empower '97

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

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

Committee Reports

Membership

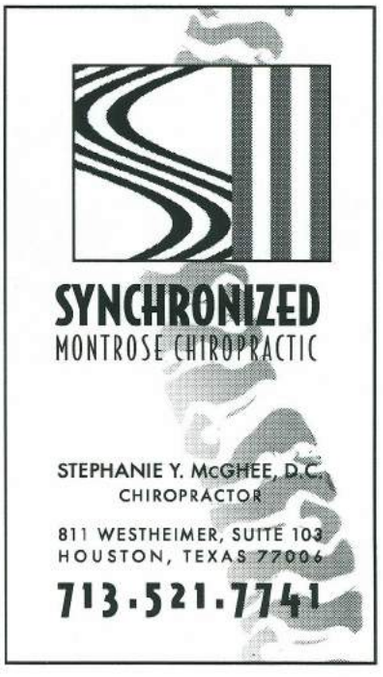
Stephanie McGhee and Scott Garrison have been working on a membership directory. Target completion date is mid October. You asked for it...our committee delivers!

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

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

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

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



STATSCRIPT Pharmacy Ribbon Cutting A Huge Success

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

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

◀ *Charles Bice, Bill Southward and Perry Anderson*

We'll see you at Empower '97

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Home Equity Borrowing for Small Businesses–Not Just Swimming Pools!

by Debra Danburg
State Representative--House District 137

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

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

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

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

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

Home equity reform is particularly important for small business owners, so much that:

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

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

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

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

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Private Male Health
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Special Rates
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Our new COLOR ads...
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OutSmart
Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine
713/520-7237

Special Interest Group
Steering Committee

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

Our committee is formed to assist our members to make events, discussion groups and/or meetings happen! Examples may include business seminars, business networking events, social gatherings, discussion groups, or possibly "town meetings." Each function will have a common thread or "key interest" topic-- most likely, but necessarily related to business.

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

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

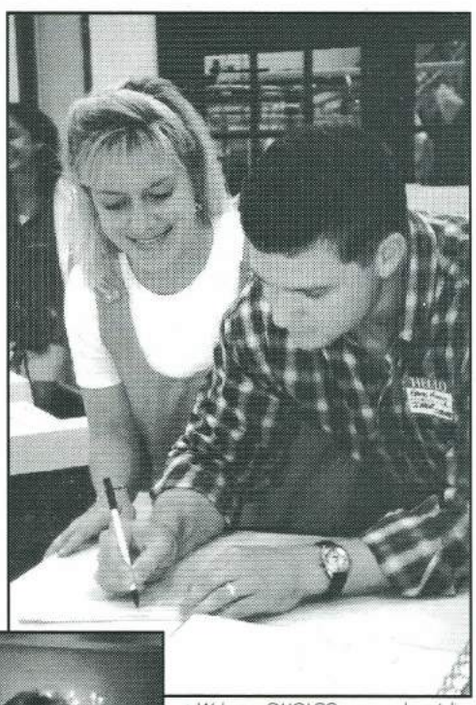
Please call me at 713-528-7654 any time of the day for further information or to present new or alternative ideas.

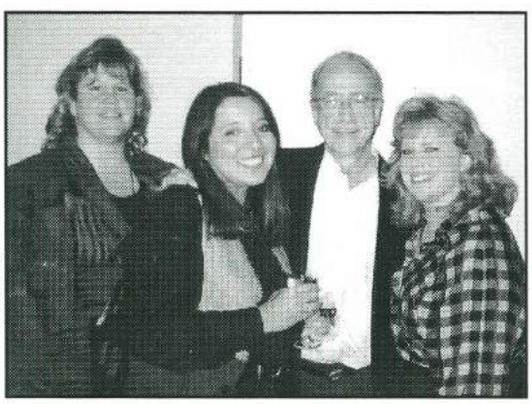
• • •

Member Sightings

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

▲ *Stephanie Scott and Shirley Pettis.*





▶ *Lea Bogle, Anita Rentertia, Richard Wiederholt and Debbie Phinney.*

▶ *Kim Arlington and Scott Garrison*

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

Get Social

by Cary Russell

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

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

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

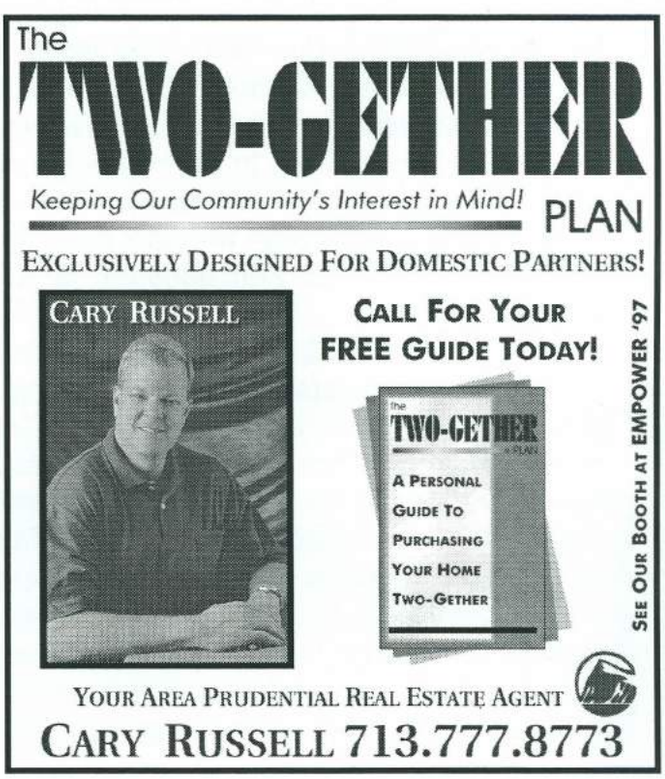
Mark your calendar for October 25, Saturday 7:30 pm to be at the home of yours truly, Cary Russell and Rufus Sharpe as we open up our home to Chamber members, my previous customers, present customers, future customers, in-laws, outlaws, neighbors, friends, relatives and even ex's.

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

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

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

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



October 11th
10 am - 6 pm

Empow

It's Free, It's Fun...a

Empower '97 Ready to Go October 11

by Anita Renteria

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

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

See you there!!!

Anita Renteria & Debbie Phinney
Co-chairs

Schedule of Workshops

SCHEDULE FOR ROOM #1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Empower '97

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t's Fun...and It's Final

Schedule of Workshops

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Schedule of Workshops

Schedule for Room #2:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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4:30
6:00
6:30

VERY
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ITED!!

ver '97 at the George R. Brown Convention Center

nd It's Finally Here!

Schedule of Workshops

Schedule for Room #2:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tentative Schedule

10:00 EMPOWER opening procession with Houston Pride Band

10:20 Welcome to EMPOWER '97 by Cow Tow, GHGLCC president

10:30 Second Community Partnership meeting; all organizations welcome

12:00 New October! Lesbian rock band

12:30 Fashion Show; organized by Basic Brothers

1:00 Dayna Steele, from 97 Talk Radio interviews New York's Dan Baker, co-author of Craking the Corporate Closet; Dr. Kimberly Arlinghaus, MD, psychiatrist, on coming out as a professional; Rick Schroder, Shell Oil, on SeaShell, the gay and lesbian employee group; and Suzanne Anderson, on being an out lesbian business owner.

During breaks between interviews, string trio Shades of Gray will perform.

3:00 Vicki Shaw, comedienne extraordinaire

3:30 Music Express–Karaoke, musical group and D.J.

4:30 Hightailers; Gulf coast rock and blues–swamp boogie!!

6:00 Trade Show exhibits close

6:30 Gay Comedy Jam (Kevin Maye and Scott Kennedy), Nancy Ford, and JUDY TENUTA!!

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

PRESIDENT *continued from page 2*

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

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

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

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

DANBURG *continued from page 1*

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

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

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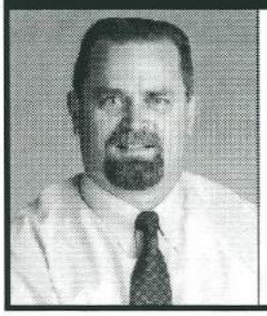

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Announcements

Notes From the Board

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

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

Newsletter Advertising

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

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

Welcome New Members!

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

GHGLCC
1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178
Houston, Texas 77006

Address Correction Requested

GHGLCC NEWS
the impact network

NOVEMBER, 1997 VOL 2, ISSUE 11

GREATER HOUSTON
GAY & LESBIAN
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Community Affairs
Cheryl Conner

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Bill Green, CPA, CFP

Program
Joyce Gayles
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Social
Ken Council
Helene Rouse

Ethics and Legal
Dale Englefield
Debra Hunt

Annual Membership Dues
Individual $100.00
Business $175.00
Corporation $500.00

For membership information call
713.523.7576
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Houston, Texas 77006

PFLAG HOUSTON

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

Monday, November 3, 6pm
Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St.

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

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

Their Mission: Support, Education, and Advocacy.

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

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

***PFLAG** continued on page 11*

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

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

Committee Reports

Newsletter

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

Internet

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

Resource Guide/Directory

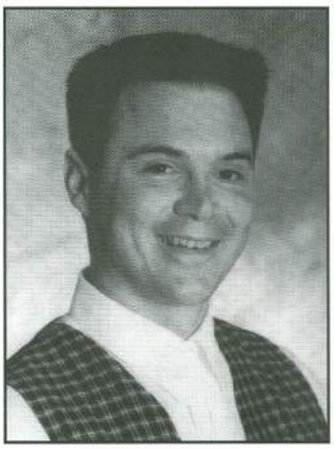
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Community in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice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

Public Relations

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

Community Affairs

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



President's Message

by Coy Tow

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

October 11th was quite a day in the history of GHGLCC. No doubt all of our heads and hearts are swelled with pride at the huge success of EMPOWER '97. On a very nasty, rainy day 1,500 to 2,000 folks attended the expo, netting over 1500 pounds of food for AFH's Stone Soup Pantry, and lots of happy gay and gay-supportive people visiting the exhibitor's booths. I've never seen so many cheerful, upbeat souls in one place at one time to champion the economic power of the gay community. The vendors were happy; the entertainers were happy; the organizers were happy; the participants were happy.

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

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

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

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

Committee Reports

Membership

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

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

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

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

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

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

_____

To achieve this, I suggest...

_____

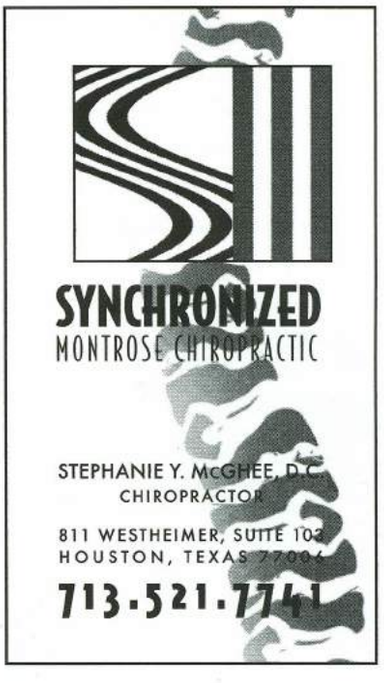
_____

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

❑ Yes ❑ No

Name_____Email_____

Phone ( ) _____Fax ( ) _____



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

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

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

In 1994, *WORTH* published the first list of the country's top 60 financial advisors, when there were less than 100,000 people calling themselves financial planners. In 1996, the list was updated and broadened to 200. The advisory field has more than tripled since 1994, to over 300,000. *WORTH* editors revisited the advisers selected from last year, accepted several hundred ne nominations for review, and expanded geographical coverage so readers can select a planner near to them.

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

Gay Press Emerges as Fastest Growing Ad Market

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

"According to our calculations, the gay press has once more emerged as the fastest growing print/ad market in the U.S.," stated Dave Mulryan, partner of Mylryan/Nash. "For the past three consecutive years, gay-press ad revenues have grown faster than those, in both mainstream press and other niche markets." In comparison, he noted, ad revenues in mainstream newspapers grew just 12.9% over 1996, as reported by the Newspaper Association of America, and ad spending in mainstream magazines grew 11.2% according to the Publisher's Information Bureau. Meanwhile, as revenues in the Hispanic press grew 11% according to Hispanic Business News and advertising directed at African Americans grew an estimated 2.1% according to Target Market News (no print-only breakdown was available).

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

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Empower '97

NEWSLETTER BULLETIN

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

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

We were proud of a lot that day, but especially of the care most exhibitors took in decorating and presenting their booths. We looked GOOD!! We were also proud of the attendees who came out despite the rain, and who spent such quality time going to each booth and talking with each vendor. Even the George R. Brown and the GES Exhibition company staff were impressed, and they see a lot of shows.

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

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

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

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

See you at Empower '98

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A Letter of Thanks

October 13, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Tow:

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Sara Speer Selber
Executive Director

Member Profiles

Cary Russell - Prudential Premier Properties

by Mark Greinert

Cary Russell has been a member of the community for all his life. He became a member of the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce because he likes to network and socialize with gay business people. Cary is also a member of Houston Association of Realtors and the Texas Association of Realtors. He has a BBA in finance.

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

Denise Rindhage - Neptune Pool Cleaning Service

by Mark Greinert

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

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

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

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

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

Get Social

by Cary Russell

Here's what we've got planned!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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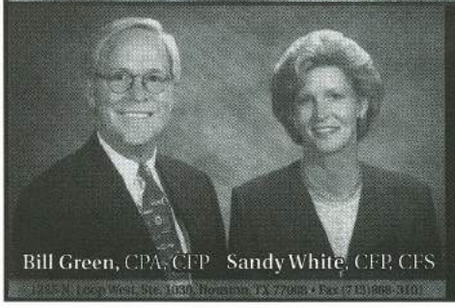

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November Board Elections

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

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

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

Richard Bielec

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

Scott Garrison

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

Debra E. Hunt

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

Patrick McKee

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

Jan Pasternak

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

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

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

Rick Schroder

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

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

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

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

Richard Wiederholt

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

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

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

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

Carla Valenzuela

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

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

Stewart L. Zuckerbrod, M.D.

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

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

NOVEMBER

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

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Newsletter Notes!

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

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

PFLAG *continued from page 1*

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

PFLAG in Houston

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

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

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

Do You Have a Web Page?

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Announcements

Notes From the Board

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

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

Newsletter Advertising

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

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

Welcome New Members!

Madeleine Manning .....Grace Lutheran Church

Daryl Hickman .....Outrage, Inc.

Jon Gossett .....Houston Grand Opera

Viki Gotting .....Milam House

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

People with AIDS Coalition-Houston

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

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

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

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

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Address Correction Requested

GHGLCC NEWS
the impact network

DECEMBER, 1997 VOL 2, ISSUE 12

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Dan DiDonato
Joyce Gayles
Patrick McKee

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Patrick McKee

Communications
Dan DiDonato

Community Affairs
Cheryl Conner

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Ken Council
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Debra Hunt

Annual Membership Dues
Individual $100.00
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For membership information call

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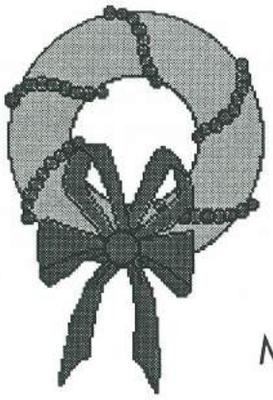
Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce presents

A Holiday Dinner Buffet



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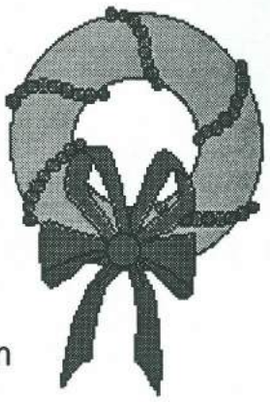


Monday, December 1, 6pm - 9pm
Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St.

HOLIDAY PARTY - NETWORKING - BUFFET SUPPER - STROLLING SINGERS

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

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

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

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

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

In its 25 years of existence, HSPVA has pro-

***HSPVA** continued on page 11*

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

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

Committee Reports

Newsletter

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

Internet

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

Resource Guide/Directory

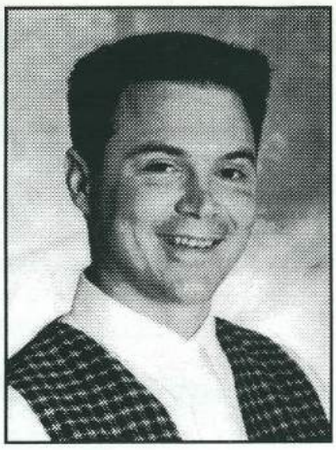
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Community in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice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

Public Relations

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

Community Affairs

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



President's Message

by Coy Tow

What a Year!

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

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

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

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

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

Do You Have a Web Page?

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

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

Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

The time has come for the founding parents of the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce to step aside and usher in the second generation of leadership. I am so pleased to hand over the Vice President's responsibilities to Richard Wiederholt, who along with the other new officers, Anita Renteria, Bill Green and Dan DiDonato have contributed so much to our Chamber's growth and recognition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

_____

To achieve this, I suggest...

_____

_____

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

❑ Yes ❑ No

Name_____ Email_____

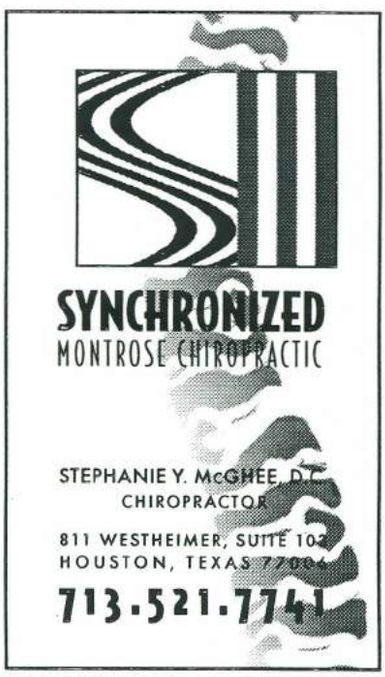
Committee Reports

Membership Committee

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

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

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



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Get Social

by Cary Russell

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

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

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

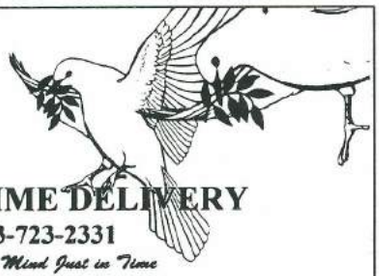
We plan another springtime camping trip around April or May 1998.

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

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

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

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



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DECEMBER

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

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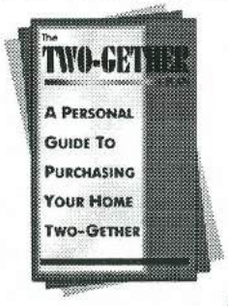

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Newsletter Notes!

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

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

Empower '97

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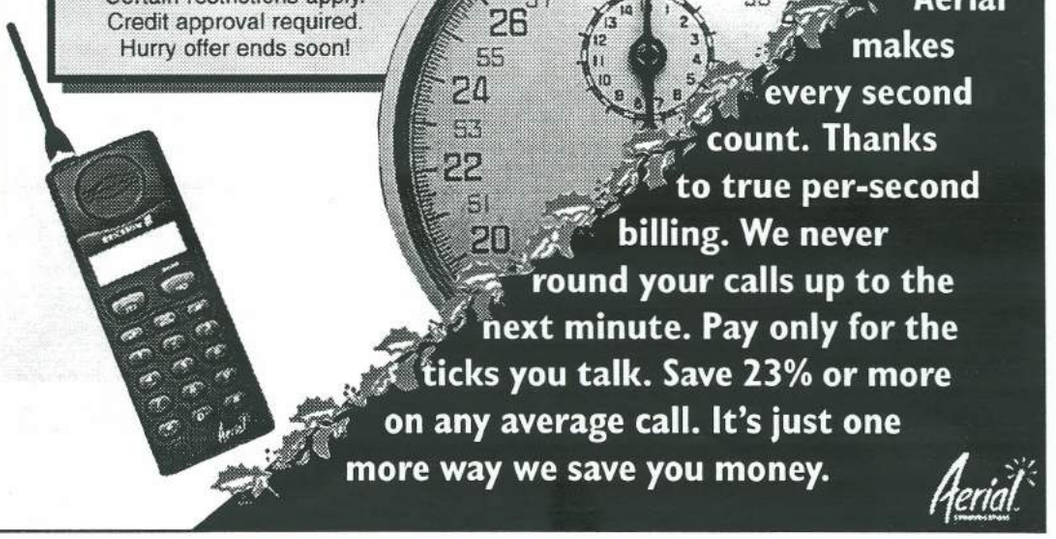

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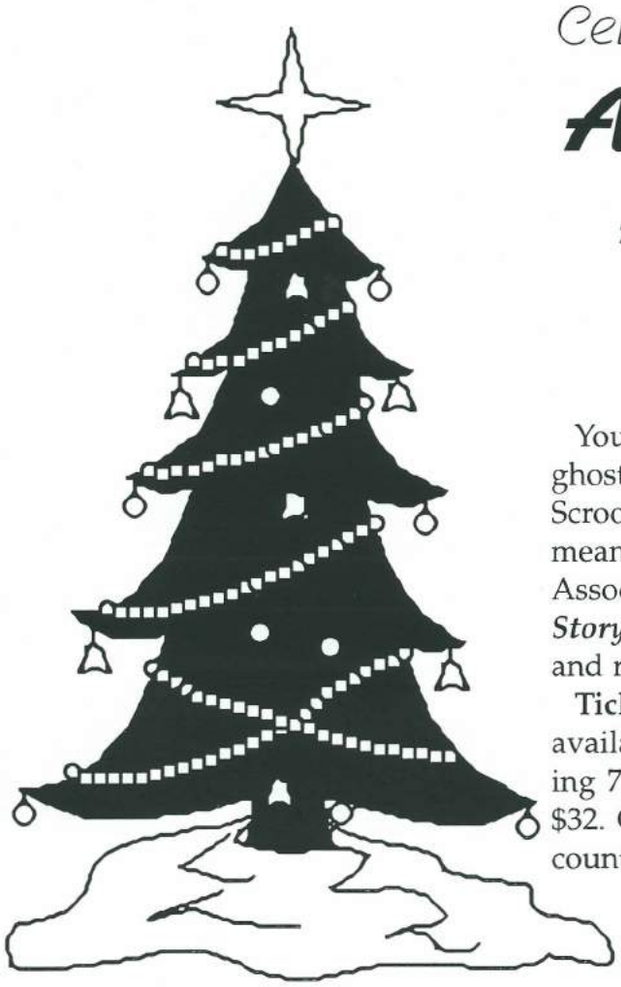


Celebrate the Holidays with the Alley's

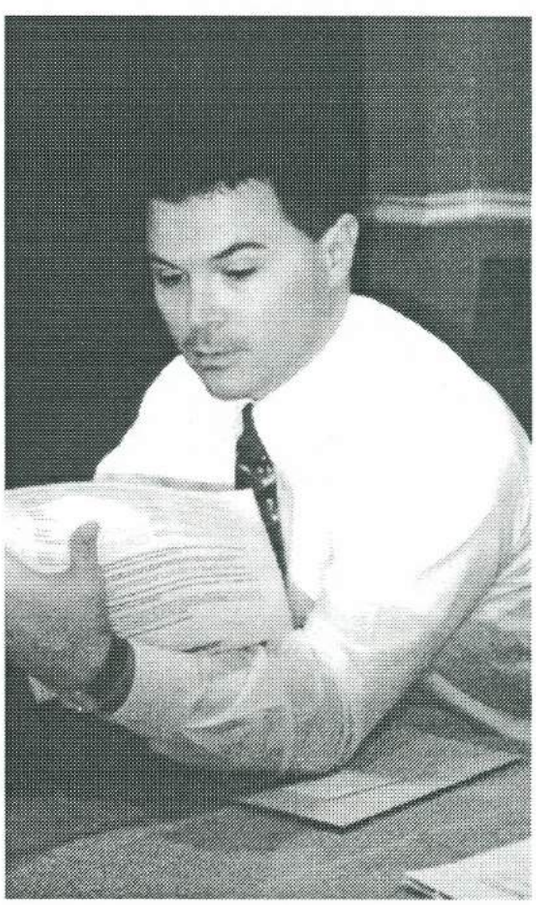
A Christmas Carol,

A Ghost Story of Christmas

9th Consecutive Season

You will be captivated with the massive, multi-level set, eerie ghostly apparition dancers and the moving account of Ebeneezer Scrooge's heart-wrenching journey that brings him to the true meaning of Christmas. Adapted and originally directed by Alley Associate Director Michael Wilson, **A Christmas Carol,** ***A Ghost Story of Christmas*** begins performance on the Large Stage, Nov. 28 and runs through Sunday, Dec. 28.

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



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

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

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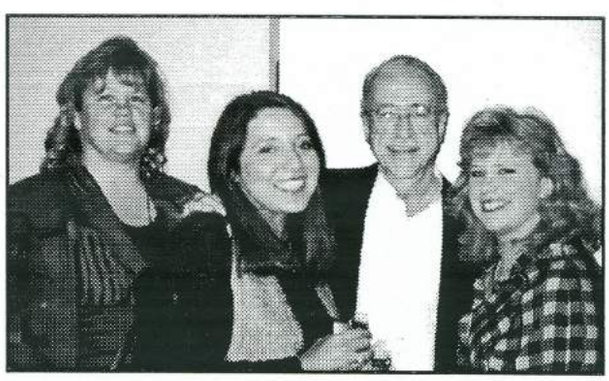

Members Lea Bogle, Anita Renteria, Richard Wiederholt and Debbie Phinney

HSPVA *continued from page 1*

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

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

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

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

"The arts remain one of our state's most diverse and exciting assets, and HSPVA has been an important contributor to excellence in art education and performance."
Ann W. Richards, Former Governor, State of Texas

Committee Reports

Internet Committee Report

Members may now submit information via the CGHGLCC internet web site. Log on to www.GHGLCC.org to submit:

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

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

Special Interest Group Steering Committee Report

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

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Announcements

Notes From the Board

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

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

Newsletter Advertising

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

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

Welcome New Members!

Robert Brooks .....Prime Timers Houston

Scor Hedrick .....Executive Professional Assciation of Houston

George Froming .....Image Cleaners

Randy Mitchmore D.D.S. .....LifeSmiles

Jack Naderhoff. ..... Jack Naderhoff

Kevin Pittman .....Acker-Blum & Associates, Realtor

Lee Ingalls .....Team Houston

Tonya Grant .....Momentum Mortgage

Keith Russell .....Momentum Mortgage

Grace Yung .....Paine Webber

Gary Gibson .....Retro Gallery

David Greenhall . . .RSVP Creative Catering/The Wealthy Chef

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