

EPAH gramme

EXECUTIVE & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

Volume 21 Issue 8

August, 1999

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EPAH Donates Over \$5,000.00 to AssistHers



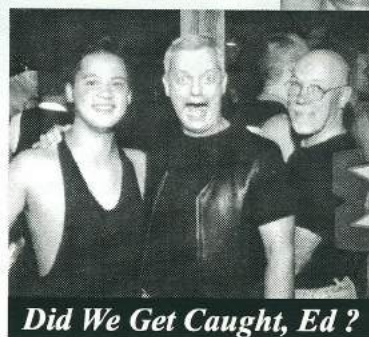
Leather & Lace '99 concluded the 1998/1999 Community Affairs Committee's scheduled fund raising season that began last August 1998. EPAH was the host to this event which was held at Pacific Street on July 17. We successfully raised a net of \$5,000 due to our efforts; half raised through our use of host fees.

Over the past twelve months, EPAH, through its Community Affairs Committee, has successfully held three major functions benefiting four community 501(c)(3) organizations. Because of the committee's work, EPAH has netted to our named recipients a total sum near \$73,000. Special recognition and thanks go to committee members Darryl Gorski, Ron Dalton, Dan DiDonato, and Mike Fleming for their extra special contributions and support to this committee's success.

Leather & Lace



'99



**Vote on
August 17! See
Candidates Bios
on Page 6!**

Did We Get Caught, Ed?

Mission Statement: The Executive and Professional Association of Houston is established to provide a non-political forum for discussion of business and community affairs, to encourage and foster social and business relationships among the membership, and to support such educational and/or charitable causes as may be approved by the membership.

Minutes of the Board of Trustee Meeting August 3, 1999, 1116 Jackson Boulevard

Officers: President: Jeff Pickett, Treasurer, Randy Scott, Vice President, Julie LaRue, Secretary, Dan DiDonato

Board of Trustees: John Coulter, Linda Landry, Dalton DeHart, Carlos Reyes, Robert Hugos, Dennis Schwarz, Jeffrey Kuchar

Committee Chairs: Rob Schmerler (Membership), Gary VanOoteghem (CAC), Ed Bradshaw (Social), Ben Whittle (Program)

Call to Order: The President declared that there was a quorum and the meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Approval Of Participation At Meeting By Non-trustee EPAH Members. Dalton DeHart moved to allow the participation of non-trustee EPAH members at the meeting. Seconded by Jeffrey Kuchar. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Regular Board Meeting. Dennis Schwarz moved and Carlos Reyes seconded the approval of the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on June 8, 1999. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report. President Pickett reported that City Council Member Annise Parker, in conjunction with the U.S. Small Business Administration, is formulating a Business Forum/Seminar for the Gay & Lesbian community that will be conducted durmet with City Council Member Parker's staff, representatives of other community business organizations, and representatives of three major banks that desire to participate in the event to discuss and preliminarily plan the event. City Council Member Parker has requested that EPAH be a named sponsor of the event and to assist in announcing it to its members and to the community. Jeff opened the floor to discussion and feedback on EPAH's participation. Feedback from the Board was positive and participation by EPAH was encouraged.

President Pickett reported that Terrence Baggett is helping organize a seminar for Harris County community-related nonprofit organizations to learn grant-writing skills and to learn from grant-giving non-profits how grants are awarded. This project is to be underwritten by the Hollyfield, Kellett, and Matthews Foundations. Terrence has requested that EPAH co-sponsor and participate in the seminar. President Pickett requested feedback from the Board as to EPAH's participation. Feedback was positive. President Pickett will contact Board members if action on this item needs to be taken before the next Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Report given by Treasurer Randy Scott. **Secretary's Report.** Report given by Secretary Dan DiDonato. **Committee Reports** (see attached reports). President Jeff Pickett dissolved the nominations committee. Membership Committee report. given by Rob Schmerler. Community Affairs Committee report given by Gary VanOoteghem. Program Committee report given by Ben Whittle. Activities Committee report given by John Coulter. Directory Committee report given by Dalton DeHart. Social Committee report given by Ed Bradshaw. Election Committee report given by Dan DiDonato.

Old Business. Carlos Reyes moved to ratify the placement of the advertisements within local print media for the announcement of the Leather & Lace '99 Fundraiser, Seconded by Dalton DeHart. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business. Dennis Schwarz moved to use EPAH's name and logo for the upcoming Business Seminar that City Council Member Annise Parker is formulating. Seconded by Dalton DeHart. Motion passed unanimously. Dalton DeHart moved that EPAH purchase a 1/2 page advertisement in the upcoming Black Tie Dinner Commemorative Program for the cost of \$200.00. Dennis Schwarz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements. Dennis Schwarz announced that Empower '99 will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center on Sunday, Oct. 10, 1999. He will be forming group to help staff the EPAH booth. All interested people please contact him directly.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Dan DiDonato, Secretary

*EPAH cordially invites you and your guests to the
Annual Election Meeting*

August 17, 1999

Renata's Restaurant and Bar

2006 Lexington, 713.523.2428
(One Block North of Hwy. 59, One block East of Shepherd)

Social 6:00 PM * Dinner 7:00 PM

Menu

Mixed Pass Appetizers during Social, House Salad
Chicken Breast sauteed with Mushroom & Artichoke Hearts
Potato and Fresh Vegetable
Creame Brulee, Coffee and Tea

\$22.00

Program

Annual Election
Live Entertainment provided by Jerry Atwood

Dress

Business Casual

**Reservation Phone Deadline: Monday, August 16, 1999 9:00 AM
or Email Deadline is Sunday, August 15 at 9:00 PM.** When calling the reservation number please select Option 1 to make your reservation. Clearly state and spell your name and the names of your guests. Reservations made after the deadline are subject to a \$10 late fee. If you need a special entree (vegetarian, or low sodium), please indicate so when making your reservations. Checks are accepted for the amount of your meal(s) only.

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Directory Committee Report

Chair: Dalton DeHart

The Directory Committee wishes to announce that it will soon begin selling advertisements for the next issue of our directory. If you currently advertise, we trust that you will renew your ad for the next issue. If you do not currently advertise we hope that you will consider placing an ad in the new directory. If you would like additional information about placing an ad, please call Dan DiDonato at 713-862-3312. If your photo does not appear in the current directory or if any information needs updated, please contact Dan at 713-862-3312 or send the information to the EPAH Post Office Box, Attention: Secretary.

Membership Committee Report

Chair: Rob Schmerler Next Meeting: Sept 9

We are delighted to introduce EPAH's four newest members, approved at our August 5 meeting hosted by Jim Bartley and Glenn Laible:

Chris Brouwer is originally from Connecticut. He has a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Connecticut and he was recruited to Houston to work for Exxon. He is now Manager of Environmental Protection Products with Anderson, Greenwood and Company. Chris and his life partner is Don Twardowski live at 9926 Cliffwood, Houston 77096 and their home phone is 713-723-9235.

Kiel Reeves is a Network Support Specialist with UT Houston Medical School. He has a BA from the Chadron State College and he studied Pre-Med at the University of New Mexico before moving to Houston with his partner Matthew Wood. Kiel and Matthew live at 1042 Rutland Houston 77008 and their home phone is 713-426-6422.

Rena Scott is Technical Manager-Administrative Systems at Rice University. Rena has a BS from Memphis State University and she traveled extensively throughout the USA and Canada before moving to Houston. Rena is an avid golf enthusiast and she is single. Her primary sponsor is Tom Mays. Rena's address is 115 Phanturn Lane, Bellaire 77401 and her home phone is 713-666-0366.

Matthew Wood was raised in the Bryan/College Station area and he has a BA in Political Science from Texas A&M University and an MBA and a MA in Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico. He is a Sales Manager with Petroleum Argus. Matthew and partner Kiel Reeves live at 1042 Rutland, Houston 77008 and their home phone is 713-426-6422.

Next month's meeting will be on Thursday, September 9, starting at 7:00 PM, hosted by Gary VanOoteghem in his new home at 220 Emerson Street. Our invited guest is Karen Myrow. Karen is the owner/operator of Custom Valet Cleaners and she has a BS in Criminal Justice. Her primary sponsor is Stephen Dubay.

To add a friend to the EPAH guest mailing list, please contact Rob Schmerler at 713-516-6898, or by fax at 713-661-6472, or E-mail to Schmerler@PDQ.net. Please encourage your friends to consider EPAH membership!

FOR LEASE

Office Space Sub-Lease: One office with separate entrance, Suite Number, etc. in a nice office building on the West Loop at Bellaire Blvd. \$250/mo. Please call Rob Schmerler at 713-661-7700

Want to advertise? Get your FREE Listing in the New Classifieds Section of your EPAHgramme! Call 713-862-3312

Community Affairs Committee

Chair: Gary Vanooteghem Next Meeting Aug 18

Community Affairs Committee is just finishing its twelve month term under this administration. We are pleased to report that we have set records this year in collecting funds for distribution to other sister organizations needing assistance. The total raised and available for our selected 501(c)(3) charities totaled \$73,000; that was our net to these charities. Our distributable funds available for release set a record this year that will be hard to beat. For the record, \$5,000 went to AIDS organizations, \$63,000 to the new gay scholarship foundation, and \$5,000 to a lesbian organization dealing in lesbian health issues & their support teams. We are pleased at the diversity of our distributions this year. It is also the first year in many when AIDS organizations did not dominate the donor recipient list.

We are now scheduling how we will select next year's candidates for assistance. New rules are being included in the directory which will dictate our next method of making selections. The forms are being prepared for release shortly with decisions to be made before the late fall of this year. An interview process will follow up requests received by valid candidates making applications. August, September & October are being scheduled to handle this process.

Our next event is **Military Ball '99**. Darrell Gorski will chair this event. It is currently scheduled for mid November, 1999 at Rich's. More on this as we get closer. While the event will be the last one for the calendar year 1999, it is actually the first event to be managed under the auspices of the new CAC administration which takes their place immediately after the August elections are held. Some of these events & functions have to be scheduled months in advance, even before new officers & chairs are elected & selected. This is one of those instances.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this committee, we promise not to work you to the bone. Most of us can rotate from one event to another, depending on our schedules. All we ask is that at least each committee member be involved in at least one of our scheduled events in some manner, no matter how major or minor a role.

Meetings: At some meeting we need everybody's input; but at most meeting, it is just those who are essentially involved in just the next scheduled function coming up and what their respective part is. Planning and Planning. These are easy duties. Please consider coming over to the biggest & best of all the committees to select from.

We meet at the Assistance Fund's offices, 1116 Van Buren, at 7:00 PM promptly. Our meetings are usually scheduled so as to be done in an hour or less. That has been our experience in 1999, at least.

Call Gary J. Van Ooteghem, Chair of the committee, if you would like to know more about being a part of this fine committee. His home number is 713-524-4343. His email is gvo@msn.com.

Social Committee

Chair: Ed Bradshaw Next Meeting Sept 14

Special Thanks to Charles Armstrong, owner of Santa Fe for hosting our Happy Hour last month on July 23. As usual the food was great with excellent door prizes. It is always nice to get everyone out for cocktails on a "hot Friday in July" afternoon. A grand way to close the work week!

The Social Committee has planned a Pool/Cocktail Party for August at the home of Neil Sackheim. Watch for the invitation. The party is planned for August 22, from 4 PM to 8 PM. Swimming is available, but not mandated! So dress accordingly! **Hope to see you there!**

The Social Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month and we would like to thank Dr. Gary Brewton for hosting us in July. Stop by our next meeting on September 14. Location to be announced. We plan to have a Cocktail Party/Mixer at Sonoma's in September. In October, we will return to a member's home for a cocktail party.

It has been a pleasure being your Social Chair this year! **Hope to see you at our next event!**

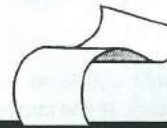
Happy Birthday! Renewals

September, 1999

Membership payment must be received by October 31, 1999 or effective November 1, 1999 your name will be dropped from the EPAH roster.

Milton Birdwell
Jesse Castillo
John Frels
Tom Fricke
Walt Gardner
Clifford Keeling
Kenneth Macpherson
Larry P. Newton
John Stockman
H. James Tholen

08/01	Larry Newton, CPA
08/02	Kevin Davidson
08/03	Darryl Wexler
08/04	Katherine Hubbard
08/05	Toby Freeman
08/05	David Moskowitz
08/07	Steven Sommers
08/08	Scot Hedrick
08/08	Bob Hergenroeder, MA, LMSW
08/09	Jeffrey Kuchar
08/09	Neil Sackheim
08/10	Jack Nemecek
08/11	Ronald Jenson
08/11	Jim Nichols
08/12	Jerry Blum
08/13	Madeline Sitzes
08/13	Don Hermanson
08/13	Jeff Pickett
08/15	Barry Bertin
08/16	Linda Hudson
08/20	Donna Grammer
08/20	Beth Eldridge
08/21	Gary Teixeira
08/22	James Walker, CRNA, MS
08/23	Del Fullen
08/24	Todd Foster
08/26	Greg Glass
08/27	Ben Whittle
08/30	John Villarreal
09/02	Didier Piot, MD
09/03	Gregory Reeves
09/03	Gary Webb
09/04	William Clark
09/04	Ed Draper
09/08	James Baker
09/10	David Dexel
09/10	Tim Martinez
09/11	Tony Carroll
09/12	Clif Vanover
09/17	Ron Coleman
09/18	Burton Burrus, Jr.
09/18	Eric Liston
09/20	Nasser Al-Tell
09/21	Robert Carp
09/21	Kenneth McLeod
09/21	Wayne Leshner
09/25	Clifford Kitten, MD
09/25	Shawn Smith
09/27	Milton Birdwell
09/27	Larry Osterhoudt
09/27	Paul Luccia
09/27	Tonya Grant
09/29	Kenny Macpherson



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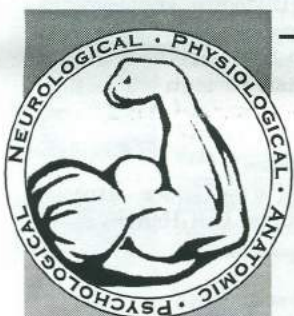
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Writers: Brandon Wolf, Jack Jackson & Committee Chairs

Empower 99

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Your company, business or organization will benefit from the event of all events. Empower '99, the national celebration promoting the economic strength of our community.

More than a trade show, Empower '99 includes:

- exhibits and demonstrations on sports and the outdoors
- educational seminars on health and business
- performing and visual arts
- health fair
- job fair and more!

If you would like to join our growing list of corporate sponsors call the **Empower Hotline**



An official event of the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce **713.462.1354**

HAN-NET TOP TEN Favorites

By EPAH member Brandon Wolf



Lambda Roller Skaters Move Closer-In Rink

August 17, 8 PM Tradewinds Roller Rink 5006 West 34th St. Lambda Roller Skating Club is now skating every Tuesday night, from 8-10 PM at the Tradewinds Roller Rink, 5006 W 34th St (off Hwy. 290). Info: <http://www.neosoft.com/~lrsc>, lrsc@neosoft.com or 713-523-9620

Trick Opens at Landmark Greenway Theatre

August 20, 5 Greenway Plaza. *Trick* is a new film, directed by Jim Fall. In the film, a trash-talking drag queen, an estranged couple, a horny roommate and a resume-wielding actress (Tori Spelling) are a few of the characters that complicate a love match between two young men who want nothing more than a place to be alone.

Texas Lesbian Conference Seeks Board Members

August 21, 3 PM, Hyatt Regency Downtown, Mesquite Room. The Board of the Texas Lesbian Conference is changing and needs suggestions and lesbians who might be interested in filling open seats on the board to attend this meeting. For more information on this event, contact Emily Cruse at ECRUSE01@aol.com or 972-862-1180.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents Screens

It's Elementary, August 22, 4:00 PM HGLP presents the second showing of *It's Elementary: Talking about Gay issues in School*. A potluck dinner and discussion follows. Call for location: 713-284-4939

Memorial Show for Norm Seguin

August 22, 7:00 PM, BRB. A Memorial Show for Norm Seguin a.k.a. Norma Jean - past President of the Colt 45's will be held at the Brazos River Bottom. The show will benefit the Colt 45's and will be emceed by Selena St. John, Miss BRB 1998.

Better Than Chocolate Opens at Landmark Greenway Theatre, August 27, 5 Greenway Plaza.. Directed by Anne Wheeler and is the story of gay, straight, butch, femme, bisexual and transsexual characters who are friends trying to support each other. Delightfully ambitious and terrifically entertaining!

Gay and Lesbian Unitarian Universalists Potluck August 27

Potluck dinner for the community, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin, 713-526-5200

Lesbian Film Night Features *Everything Relative*

August 27, 7 PM LG Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. The movie this month will be *Everything Relative*. A Sharon Pollack film, it is a provocative romantic comedy about a group of women who went to college together and return when two of them are having a bris for their newborn baby. Info: Labrysgrl3@aol.com

Stonewall Democrats Sponsor *Out In The Garden*

August 29, 7 PM, Garden in the Heights. *Out in the Garden* - a special day of fun with the Stonewall Democratic Club. Call Harris County Democratic Party for details at 713-739-7785.

Miss Gay Houston America 2000

September 12, 6 PM, Club Picasso. SJ Productions (owned by EPAH member Sean Carter and Jerel McNeil) present An Official Preliminary to Miss Gay Texas America 2000. Over \$1000 in cash and prizes. Special Guests include Miss Gay Houston America 1999 Victoria Prince, Miss Gay Texas America 1999 Charity Case and Mr. Gay Texas All-American 1998 Sean Carter.

Meet Your Candidates



Ben Whittle (Trustee). Born and raised in Dallas Texas and attended SMU graduating in 1980. Did the married thing and have three children as a result. Did the married thing again, this time a man, and have a dog as a result. The dog, Oscar, is less expensive but just as demanding as the children and Alan is just as demanding and much more expensive than my ex-wife. However, he is worth it! I have been active in the community since moving to Houston in 1995. Organizations include The Krewe of Olympus, Log Cabin Republicans, Steven's House and EPAH where I have served on the Social Committee, Membership Committee, and Program Committee. I am currently the Chairman of the Program Committee and have worked hard this year to offer a varied and fun dinner program and now seek a position on the Board.



Dan DiDonato (Secretary). Owner/Sole Proprietor of Preferred Graphics, a graphics design & desk-top publishing company now celebrating 5 years of service and commitment to our community. "I've greatly enjoyed working with EPAH on various projects throughout the past two years, and I look forward to working with the Committee Chairs and Officers for the coming year! Thanks for all the wonderful opportunities!"



Carlos Reyes (President). EPAH has a special place in my heart. I consider myself lucky to have met such a diverse group of individuals who have become good friends. I am proud to be a member of a group who has become more involved in the Gay & Lesbian community over the past couple of years. I am especially proud of the fact that, this year alone, EPAH has donated over \$73,000 to our community organizations. What a wonderful achievement! As president, I hope to continue these great works and encourage more of our members to become involved at all levels.

Over the years, I've been involved with various charitable groups. I was a member of the Diana Foundation from 1988 until 1996 and served as Chairman of the Social Committee in 1988 and 1989. Currently, I am a member of the Board of Directors of The Assistance Fund and where I served as Secretary. I am also proud of my membership to the Board of The Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc., where I currently hold the office of Vice President.

I see my involvement with other organizations as a cornerstone of a foundation that allows growth professionally, in addition to helping others who might benefit from my experiences. I look forward to my experience as your president of our organization.



Randy Stanger (Treasurer). Randy is an accountant with Santa Fe Snyder Corporation.. He has been a member of EPAH since February, 1998, and is currently the Treasurer of Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, and looks forward to being EPAH's Treasurer for the coming year. Hobbies include gardening, bowling, and theater.



Ed Bradshaw (Vice President). My vision is to build the membership and increase their involvement and participation in the various committees; to improve social interaction and professional networking opportunities among the membership and the greater Houston gay and lesbian community; create a positive image of EPAH as being a fun, energetic, friendly and positive networking organization for gay, lesbian and friendly individuals within the Houston community. I work with non-profit and for-profit political entities on various types of development projects from a local state and national view. on a personal note, I've been in a loving relationship for 23 years and am a proud step-parent of three wonderful handsome young men.

continued on page 7

continued from page 6



Gary VanOoteghem (Trustee). Gary moved to Houston, Texas in 1975 to become the Comptroller of the Treasury and Assistant Treasurer of Harris County, Texas.

Civic and human rights organizations which Gary has been associated with over the past twenty-five years include: National Gay Task Force, Gay Rights National Lobby, co-founder Texas Human Rights Campaign, founding president of Gay Political Caucus, Founder of Montrose Activity Center, Publisher of Upfront and Upfront America, Founder of EPAH and chair of its Community Affairs Committee, President of

Log Cabin Houston. Gary was Chair of a special candlelight service remembering and paying tribute to Matthew Shepard in October, 1998. Today he is: Chair of Houston EMA Ryan White Planning Council, Board of Trustee member and its Scholarship Committee Chair of HATCH, Chair of PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation. Gary is a caring member of the gay rights movement who has dedicated his life to the cause.



Cindy Cuellar (Trustee). Cindy is owner of ACC Productions a full service video production company for the last 10 years. I am a native Houstonian, I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Radio Television Film from the University of Texas in Austin. I have a beautiful partner of 2½ years Tammy Tadlock. I love to bowl and was one of the founding members of the Women's Monday Night League. I have been a member of EPAH for a little over a year, but prior to that I was a member for 3 years, then I moved to Chicago. I have been Program Chair, committee member of Social, Membership and Community Affairs. I enjoy EPAH & look forward to dedicating myself more to the organization.



Julie LaRue (Vice President). Julie LaRue has been a member of EPAH since 1994 and served as Vice President in 1999. She is a financial planner, specializing in financial planning for gays and lesbians. She and her partner, Medda, enjoy water and snow skiing, golf, cycling and traveling.



Bob Hergenroeder (Trustee). No Bio submitted.

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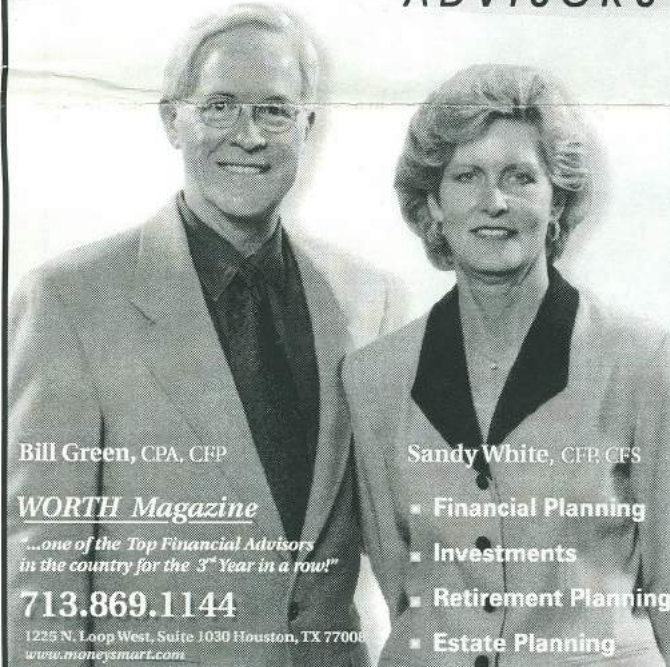
Treasurer's Report

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August September events calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUG 15	16	17 <i>Election Meeting</i> <i>Guests Welcome!</i> <i>see page 2</i>	18 Community Affairs Committee Meeting Bridge Group Darby Suiter 713-961-3321	19	20	21
22 <i>POOL Party</i> <i>Guests Welcome!</i> <i>see page 3</i>	23	24	25	26 <i>Canasta</i> Andy Pryzant 3415 W. Holcombe #12 713-667-3379	27	28
29 EPAHcureans David Moskowitz 11540 Chimney Rock #216 713-728-8742	30	31	SEPT 1 Bridge Group Darby Suiter 713-961-3321	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Labor Day Holiday</i>	7 Board Meeting 1116 Jackson 7:00 PM	8	9 Membership Committee Rob Schmerler for Details	10	11
12	13	14 Social Committee 6:30 PM (See Report) Newsletter 6:30 PM 713-862-3312	15 Bridge Group Darby Suiter 713-961-3321	16	17	18