

Emperor and Empress Crowned for 2011

by Phil Lyles

ERSICSS has named the new Emperor and Empress for Reign 27. They are Emperor Scott Kenyon and Empress Lillian Devereaux. The pair were crowned at Coronation 2011, a four day event held January 13-16th at the Sheraton North near Intercontinental Airport.

The Royal, Sovereign, Imperial Court of the Single Star organization was formed in 1984 as The Imperial Court of the Single Star. In 1991, when Articles of Incorporation was filed with the State of Texas, with the official name became The Royal, Sovereign, Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc. The application for tax exempt status was filed with the IRS, and approved, which changed our name to The Empire of The Royal, Sovereign, Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston Incorporated. Locally, and throughout the International Court system, we are referred to as ERSICSS (pronounced ereeses).

As for the founding story, no one can speak better than the founder herself. The following is the story as seen through the eyes of Empress I and II, Laura Lee Love:

"I think one of my letters in a Coronation program a few years ago best

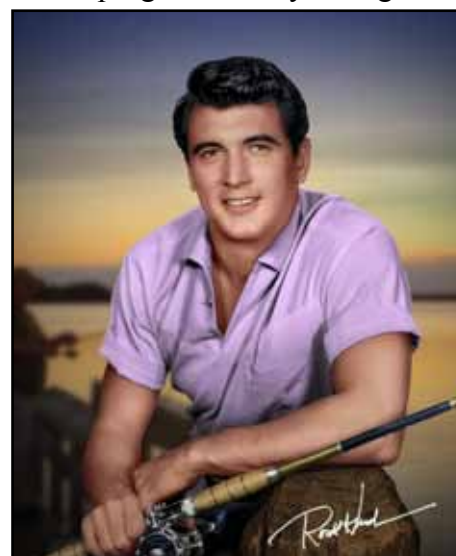


Lillian Devereaux and Scott Kenyon were named ERSICSS Reign 27 Empress and Emperor.

explained my beginning involvement with the International Court System and thus the founding of the Houston Court.

I had a dream of using my talents as a female impersonator in a way that would help others. After Jose I, The Widow Norton, asked me to start a Court in Houston, that dream became a reality. I worked, watched, and cried a lot as this group grew from less than ten members to the seventy-plus dedicated individuals we have today. Through the laughter and the tears, we have seen RSICSS become a very recognized organization within our Houston community and a respected segment of the Imperial Court System (ICS) We have seen the humble few dollars that we were originally able to raise grow to tens of thousands of dollars each year for those in need in our local community. We have watched numerous people develop hidden talents for our fund-raising efforts. More than any of these tangible things, we know that we helped to make life easier for some who so desperately needed our help. For these reasons, I feel that my childhood dreams of becoming "a princess...or a queen...or one day the Empress of an empire" are being fulfilled each day through the efforts and dedication of those who comprise RSICSS.

~ **Coronation** continues on Page 11



See the review of the book *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* on Page 5. It covers the lawsuit brought by Rock Hudson's former lover, Marc Christian against the actor's estate.



pridehouston.org

2011 Pride Theme Logo unveiled, Grand Marshal Nominees announced

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

With the chosen theme of "Live, Love, Be!" the Houston Pride Committee kicked-off this year's celebration with an unveiling of the logo.

Pride volunteers, nominees for this year's Grand Marshals, past Grand Marshals, and community supporters gathered at Mainstage at 2016 Main on January 20th for the event. The logo design was revealed and the nominees for Grand Marshal 2011 were named.

Voting is already underway on at the www.pridehouston.org website. Grand Marshals are people who have made significant contributions to the GLBT community. They are honored by being selected and also serve as ambassadors for the community. Co-grand marshals are elected, one male and one female. There is also an Honorary Grand Marshal selected who is an ally to the community but does not identify as GLBT. One organization is chosen as the organizational grand marshal.

Go to www.pridehouston.org. When the screen loads there is an area at the top that has a blue background with a picture of a crown, to the right it says "Put your thinking caps on". There is a place that says READ MORE.

~ See **Grand Marshals** Page 14



Barbara Jordan Postage Stamp to be issued in 2011 Momentum builds for Harvey Milk stamp

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

Last December, the postal service announced the commemorative stamps that have been approved for release in 2011. Among the list are ones honoring former President Ronald Reagan; author Mark Twain; the 150th anniversary of the Civil War; and the 50th anniversary of America's first manned spaceflight.

With the 34th stamp in the Black Heritage series, the Postal Service honors Barbara Jordan, one of the most respected and influential American politicians of the 20th century. The stamp goes on sale in September.

~ **Stamps** continued on Page 10

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*We invite you to become our
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 Community Online!*



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Please pass this issue on to another reader. When done recycle!

Corrections!
 Kristan Salinas's, our movie reviewer, name was misspelled in his byline in the last issue. Also a proofing copy of "History at a Glance" was used in error.

THE COMMUNITY PAPER FOR MONTROSE AND BEYOND
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153	03/11	03/04
154	03/25	03/18
155	04/08	04/01
156	04/22	04/15
157	05/06	04/29
158	05/20	05/13
159*	06/03	05/27
160*	06/17	06/10

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BEELINES

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

"This is NOT Another Article About Online Dating" stated the headline in a recent online newsletter from the helpful folks at the Montrose Counseling Center.

Last year, shortly after taking on the editorship of the Montrose GEM, I utilized information from MCC to write an article called "Looking for Love in all the Online Places". But this piece addresses a different aspect about the use of the internet to meet people.

This article said, although many articles review online dating tips and they are beneficial for those who are looking for a relationship through the World Wide Web, we also need to be able to talk about hook-up/pick-up safety and in a non-judgmental way. Let's be clear; this is about making arrangements with someone to have sex. We're not talking about dating sites where you hope to find that special someone for the rest of your life.

Why is it so important we talk about this? Some people are out there cruising with the intent of taking advantage of our community, and they are counting on us to feel ashamed. They suspect that their victims won't tell anyone or report the crime to police because of this shame, and that is why we are so vulnerable. They respond to posts on popular social networking sites, show up at your home to rob and/or attack you. We know that we don't have to tell you that people aren't always who they seem to be online. The internet is a playground for anonymity.

OK, I will admit that I did hookup once online through a personal site. I already knew of some of the perils, including to make sure that someone knew the where and when of my meetup and as much detail as I could provide. I knew the other party knew, what we both were looking for and, as it turned out, felt safe with the arrangement. We had a pleasant fun evening and parted ways the next morning. Funny, she was not someone that I could ever have a relationship with as our politics are too different. But, she did become a friend, and since she is a police officer, she is now the one that I tell if I am going to meet, in person, anyone that I met online.

I once thought the idea of internet dating ludicrous. I had spent a good 12 years in a marriage and another 17 years in a long-term relationship. When that ended, it was year before I even considered dating anyone. My attempts in the years following to "find a true love" have not gone very well. The one person I had any serious interest in, while a dear friend, is obviously not interested

in pursuing anything more than a friendship with me. I have accepted that to be the case and am moving on.

A few months ago I got a "flirt" on a personals site. I thought the woman was cute and since I am not a paid member of the site, I cleverly found her on Facebook. We talked a bit that way and I was delighted to discover that she was very politically minded in the same way I am.

After a few FB chats we took it to personal email and then to phone calls. We did not live close to one another so meeting quickly was not an option. I was also in the midst of some traveling at the time. Anyway, the phone conversations proved taxing on a number of levels and some things quickly came up that drew concern.

We will call this person Denise for the purposes of this column. I have to request that you insert the words "she claimed" into anything I write here.

Denise told me she had been a doctor in Vietnam. Being that she is just a year older than I, and I was 25 when the war ended in 1975, I found that hard to believe. She had told me she graduated early from high school, but even at that, I thought having that experience was highly unlikely. When I asked questions about it she became defensive. She also seemed to be a know it all, did not joke easily (nor laugh at my jokes) and while declaring herself to have been very active in getting President Obama elected, (knowing him well enough to have his cell phone number) she was strangely disconnected from local Democratic Party politics. She claimed she could not find her way around Houston nor connect with any of the political groups. I, of course, offered to introduce her, being that I am fairly well connected politically, and would even show her how to get around Houston.

Now she also has something to do with Homeland Security and some sort of humanitarian missions, even though retired as a physician. She was traumatized by her war experience apparently and switched to a career in the pharmaceutical industry, then had to retire from that due to medical reasons.

There is way more to this story but I am giving a brief version here. I have to admit I was excited initially at the prospect of meeting someone with whom I might forge a relationship. She talked about wanting a serious relationship. About two weeks in I had lost a lot of interest because I felt a lot of negativity, and there were a series of red flags that started waving in the breeze. Maybe to satisfy my curiosity, I did make plans to meet.

COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES

Community Online

www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org

www.montrosecounselingcenter.org

www.legacycommunityhealth.org

Houston GLBT Political Caucus
www.thecaucus.org

Fort Bend LGBT Political Caucus:
FBLGBT_Political_caucus@yahoo.com

Out In Houston
www.outinhouston.com

www.PFLAGHouston.org
HelpLine Telephone
713-46PFLAG 713-467-3524
HelpLine@pflaghouston.org

AssistHers: www.assisthers.org

The Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)
www.lhihouston.org/

Houston Political Organizing Network
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HoP-ON>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LoneStarActivists/> (LSA)

FEMINIST ONLINE NETWORK
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FEMNET>

Northwest Corner: www.nwcorner.org

www.socialnotesHouston.com

AIDS Foundation Houston
www.AFHouston.org

Imperial Court of Houston
www.spacecityempire.org

Empire of the Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of the Single Star www.ersicss.org

TG Center: www.tgctr.org

UH LGBT Resource Center
www.uh.edu/lgbtrc

www.Do713.com
(Community Calendar)

My Gay Houston
www.visithoustontexas.com/mygay-houston/

Houston: Area Rainbow Collective History
<http://houstonarch.pbworks.com/>

www.queermusicheritage.com

Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History, Inc. GCAM
www.gcam.org

social club for HIV+ men
www.pozlife.net/Houston

www.equalitytexas.org

<http://www.keshethouston.org>

If you know of another group that should be added, please let us know at:
montrosegem@yahoo.com

Theatre Southwest will hold auditions for *Breaking the Code* on Feb 20th & Feb 21st

(7 men, 2 women) *Breaking the Code* is a drama that moves back and forth through time, and tells the story of Alan Turing, a brilliant mathematician who devised the means of cracking the German Enigma code which helped win World War II. Turing visualized the first computer. Meanwhile, he also "broke the code" by being unapologetically homosexual at a time when homosexuality was illegal in Great Britain. It was on Churchill's specific instructions that Turing was given all the resources he required, and his personal behavior tolerated. However, the system caught up with Turing and his genius ended early.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Alan Turing (M) 35-45 mathematical genius

Mick Ross (M) 35-45 a persistent detective

Sara Turing (F) 40-53 Turing's mother

Ron Miller (M) 20-30 North country working class

Knox (M) 55-65 Turing's supervisor

Pat Green (F) 25-36 a mathematician and in love with Turing

Christopher Moran (M) a school mate of Turing's when he was younger

John Smith 40-50 (M) an upper class government representative

Nikos (M) 18-24 a good looking young Greek

PERFORMANCES:
April 8-30 Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

April 17 Sunday matinee at 3 p.m.

ON THE RADIO

MONDAYS, 9 - 11pm
"QUEER VOICES"

SUNDAY MORNINGS
12 - 4am

"AFTER HOURS"

ON KPFT 90.1FM
Pacifica - community radio
HOUSTON, TX
www.kpft.org

Tune in!



Walk for Life Benefit Show

Howdy Folks it is just a short week or so away - Come out and support the Daddy/Boy Project Walk Team - we are hosting a great show of performers with all benefits going to the Aids Walk Team.

Sunday, January 30, 2011 at the BRB 7pm Sharp - also if you would like to perform please let me know - You know who you are :)

Hugs
Daddy Stutes

FIRST SATURDAY QUEER BINGO

The GLBT community Center reminds you that the popular game returns to the first Saturday of the month in February, on February 5.

Doors open at 4pm for the games that start 4:30pm and last until 6:30pm. Prizes, refreshments available for purchase and the 50/50 raffle. Good, clean, silly fun with some very nice people.

FSQB is now held at the Center located in the MECA Bldg. at 1900 Kane St. You can enter through side entrance at Silver St. and Lubbock or through the front door on Kane. The games are held in the auditorium. Lesbian Health Initiative members will be there to talk about their upcoming community dinner/dance Gala.

GLBT Jewish Group Update

Keshet Houston, the organization for gay and lesbian Jews in the Southeast Texas region, has a new website and a new email address. Please make these corrections to your community directory.

<http://www.keshethouston.org>
info@keshethouston.org

Lesbian Health Initiative's (LHI) Celebration of Love Gala!

This is sure to be an evening you don't want to miss!

ALMOST SOLD OUT!

For the first time, the LHI Celebration of Love Gala is being held at the beautiful Doubletree Hotel Downtown Houston.

Join us Saturday, February 12, 2011 as we toast 19 years of support and community. Enjoy our auction, reception and a delicious dinner followed by comedian Dana Goldberg, a dance party with DJ Joy De La O, and more...! Check Dana out at www.danagoldberg.com

Order gala tickets now at <http://galalhi-houston.org>.

Buy Gala tickets and give the perfect valentine's day gift! OR Purchase your own gala ticket to enjoy a fun-filled time with friends - old and new!

To be seated at a singles table, when you buy at single ticket online, fill in the box that says you want to sit at a singles table.

Be a gala sponsor. Sponsorship opportunities are available to businesses, organizations and individuals. It is an opportunity to brand and position your business or yourself as a supporter and leader in LGBT health issues. In return for your support, we are pleased to offer a valuable promotional benefits package, (portion is tax-deductible). Join the list of companies and individuals that support LHI.

Go to <http://galalhihouston.org/sponsor.html> and join our committed Gala supporters:

Donate auction items. Interested in making a contribution by donating auction items? Go to <http://galalhi-houston.org/auction.html>



www.gayswitchboardhouston.org
Community Resource Directory



Nose in a Book

Review by Jone Devlin

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

by Robert Parker Mills

In the mid 80s the world was riveted by the case Marc Christian, former lover of the late Rock Hudson, brought against Hudson's estate. The case, as Christian presented it, was that during the time he was the partner of Hudson, Hudson never disclosed that he was HIV positive. The result of this lack of information was that precautions were never taken to keep Christian from catching the disease. This meant that Hudson's death put Christian in a position where he was forced to live out the remainder of his life in fear as he was almost certainly going to catch AIDS, which at that time, was an automatic death sentence.

Taken at his word by a sympathetic jury, Christian was subsequently awarded \$14.5 million. But then the other shoe dropped. Marc Christian never caught AIDS; in fact, Marc Christian never even became HIV positive. When Christian finally did die, 25 years later, Hudson's lawyer, Robert Parker Mills, decided that it was time to finally tell the real truth.

Mills defended Hudson's estate unsuccessfully from Marc Christian (who, Mills claims, brought his case up only after finding out that he had not been mentioned in Hudson's will).

In his skillfully written but rather long book, Mills uses trial transcripts, personal information, facts and pop culture references about the tenor of the times to make the reader the "13th Juror" in the trial. While this is a clever format, it also causes the story to get a bit bogged down in places.

Mills bias is very obvious throughout the book yet, even with that in mind, the story is still quite fascinating. The main thing that comes through, as the reader peruses the detailed account of the trial, is just how much the fear and ignorance that surrounded HIV and AIDS in the mid-eighties was the driving force for almost everything that transpired from the ability of the suit to go forward to the final, unprecedented award.

At the time of his death, Rock Hudson had become known as the first high profile individual to publicly come out as an AIDS sufferer. The knowledge of his illness, along with the fact that legendary heartthrob Hudson was gay, became world wide news and pretty much ended up informing everything about the actor from that point on. Coupled with this was the complete and utter lack of knowledge, by both medical professionals and the public, about HIV... its causes and its results.

Mills contends that it was this climate of notoriety, fear, and homophobia that ultimately led Marc Christian to be able to win a huge award based on a case that was weak at best, completely ridiculous at worst.

Along with detailed trial testimony and transcripts, Mills also points out facts that should have been discussed at trial but weren't; like the fact that Christian continued to have relations with Hudson, even after Hudson had made his condition public. It also goes into detail regarding the motives of Marc Miller, an alleged friend of Hudson's who testified strongly on Christian's behalf during the trial. Did Miller have other motives as well? Was his testimony paid, or was he honestly trying to help someone whom he felt had been dealt with unfairly by a friend?

A compelling look at a time and place most of us would rather forget, ***Between a Rock and a Hard Place: In Defense of Rock Hudson: From the Ashes of Trial to the Light of Truth is published by Authorhouse and*** is available wherever books are sold.

Marc Christian never developed AIDS. He died in 2009 at the age of 56 due to a pulmonary disease caused by his heavy smoking.



The Mayor of Montrose*

by Henry McClurg



Super Bowl Sunday

Coming up at our local watering holes is the Super Bowl. The best place to watch the game is with your friends at your favorite place. These include JR's, Michael's Outpost, EJ's and In n'Out, George, 611, Crocker, Ripcord, TC's, Meteor, and the BRB. Did I forget anyone? In Galveston, I know Pink Dolphin, Robert's Lafitte, Stars and 3rd Coast will have the big game on as well. Most of these clubs will also be offering food.

The game this year is in Arlington, TX. Which is part of Greater Dallas and part of Greater Fort Worth.

Did you know that Dallas is Texas' third largest "city"? However, they still think up there that they are Texas' largest. Ha ha. Houston, with about 2.3 million, is the biggest, of course. And we know it! San Antonio, with 1.4 million is second. They recently passed Dallas, which has 1.3 million.

Those figures are for the people actually within that imaginary line called the city limits. Metropolitan figures are bigger. And, truthfully, the DFW metro area has slightly more people than the Houston/Galveston metro.

Unusual Dates

My sister, Ann, sent this: This year we have four unusual dates. 1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, 11/11/11. Plus (and this is weird), take the last two digits of the year you were born plus the age you will be this year and it will equal 111.

Texas's Deficit

Texas has just about the lowest tax burdens in the country. That's because we have the lowest state spending in the nation per person. Our state government is cheap.

But, still, we're \$12 to \$27 billion (depending on who you talk with) short on the budget. Even though Guv Good Hair claimed he balanced the budget in his campaign ads. Well maybe he did, by cutting much needed programs! Texas has a dismal record on human services.

Paul Krugman of the New York Times pointed this out earlier this month.

So ... what does the Texas Republican-controlled legislature want to do? Make cuts in education, Medicaid and the prison system. You know if you cut education spending you're only asking for trouble down the road as more people join society without the proper skills to contribute. And if you cut prison spending, you're only going to make the prisons more crowded, more like schools to teach criminality.

How about raising taxes on the rich people? Oops! I forgot that is a dirty thought.

Quickies

Krogers on Montrose has started its major remodeling. First getting done are the new floors. ...

Bartender Chris #1 of The 611 is in Nevada skiing as we speak.

Robert's Lafitte on The Island has \$2 vodka on Sundays open to close.

Did you know that at www.montrosegem.com the full paper is in living color. Yes, every page. And you can see the paper usually a few days in advance of the print version distributed in the clubs, shops, stores and restaurants on Thursdays and Fridays.

There will be a "Celebrating Carlos" event on Super Bowl Sunday at Tony's Corner Pocket in memory of Carlos Rivera. The show, "The Good, The Bad, The Uglee," will have a bevy of "beauties" performing 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Hope you have a gem of a time watching the Super Bowl. As I write this, I'm not sure who's in it yet. But it ain't the Texans. Maybe next year.

That's It This Issue!

Victim of school bullying perseveres with grace

by Harold Schultz

Reflecting on the recent holiday season, I am writing this story as a tribute to a brave young man. A young man that has experienced the worst type of school bullying and still remains strong. A young man that has taught our family the true meaning of forgiveness. He has taught us strength and courage and how you do not question "WHY" or feel sorry for yourself. We will call this young man Will for this story.

Will is a family member and only 13 years old. Will does not go to school here in Texas as he resides in the northeast. He was the victim of bullying that one day increased to an extreme that none of us could have imagined or understood.

While this young man was attending school he was approached by 3 boys of the same age. They started calling him names and pushing him. Seems to be an innocent start and boys being boys; right? Well, prepare yourself, as the story unfolds you will find out just how out of control even young boys can become.

This gang of boys teamed up on Will. They started chasing him through the school yard throwing rocks at him and calling him names. Will thought he finally got away, he was wrong. The 3 boys found him and threw him up against a brick wall. Will, being just that strong willed and determined, broke away again. He ran into the gym area and thought he could hide in the locker rooms. NO! The bullies found him and slammed him up against the lockers. Will fought back but was slammed against them again and again. As these young boys continued their attack, the small of his back was hitting the metal locker handle, hitting his spine repeatedly.

Will was later rushed to the hospital. He was placed in ICU and remained there for 2 months. We were told he might not pull through, that his lungs had collapsed and he was so weak from the attack that they did not know if he could will himself to live. Well you should know that Will did just that. With much strength and courage he willed himself to live.

The family was camped out at his side, holding his hand, telling stories, and making sure he knew he was loved.

Will lived but the prognosis was not good. It was determined that Will was paralyzed from the chest down. He may never recover the use of his legs or that portion of his body. He may never be able to walk again.

So you may think that this young man would want revenge or for those young men to pay with the most extreme punishment. You would be wrong. Will wanted the boys held accountable for all the reasons you would not believe or maybe, like us as a family, could not understand. He wanted them held accountable so they could understand the consequences of what they had done, so that no other little boy or girl would have to experience what he experienced. The surprise twist here - Will felt that these young boys had a chance to turn their lives around and become something more than what they were that day. Will was able to see that there was more to these boys than the bully in them - he could see the good that existed inside them in spite of everything. The good that exists in each and every one of us.

If you were to ask Will what he was thinking when the attack happened you might be surprised to hear the answer. You see, these attacks had been going on for some time and had been ignored and denied by teachers and the school. Will would come to tell me that what he was thinking was that: he knew it would soon be over and he could go on with his day because it happened everyday and usually ends quickly. However, this day it did not end quickly and Will was not left to go back to his day as he knew it and expected.

Will, today, uses a wheel chair. He is a brave young man because, if you ask him what he wants most, he will tell you to make sure that no other child experiences what he did -- that no other family would have to go through what his family did.

When he goes to therapy every week and they ask him what is the goal: "I AM GOING TO WALK!"

So we may ask ourselves, how could such young boys do so much damage

and how could their families allow such behavior? I do not believe any family allows this behavior. I think we close our eyes to the fact that our children could be the school bully. Maybe our children are the children being bullied. No matter what, we need to learn to listen and to speak up and out against this behavior. When we are with our families we can participate in the education of our younger family members. Listen to the words you say and they say and teach them how powerful words can be and how those words could lead to actions--how those actions may result in something that they cannot undo and may have to live the rest of their lives with the guilt of those actions.

This is a true story and I purposely changed the name of this young man to Will! Why; because this young man has the will and strength to teach us all so much. He not only taught his family how to forgive and love the attacker and not see them just as bullies but also to look at those young men and see that there was more to them. That, in the face of what is horrific and that the world was going to end for me today, to take that challenge and make it something that will make you stronger. This outcome took this young man to new heights. He faces challenges and obstacles every day but this does not stop him.

He goes on hikes with his scout troop in his wheel chair. He goes to school everyday and smiles. He is quick to share his latest accomplishment and to look at you and the world with so much love and expectation.

So my question to you is this: In the face of adversity - hatred - obstacles - and challenge; what would you do? Would you do what Will does and hold your head up high and, no matter what happens, still take the time to see the good in everyone? He does this every day, not just in the holiday season.

So today I ask you to take the time to look at the world, and the people in this world, with love and to live facing your challenges head on. Make the world better not just for yourself but everyone around you. Then take this feeling and make it something you do everyday of the new year! If you forget -- or think it is too hard - just think of Will!

Group Taking Action in Scheerhoorn's Memory

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

Representatives from The Aaron Scheerhoorn Foundation for Change - Doug Anderson, Nancy McGinnis-Roberts and Sara Magner - visited KPFT's 'Queer Voices' and talked with hosts Jack Valinski and Brian Hlavinka about their plans to end apathy and ensure safe shelter in the Montrose club area.

You can listen to the interview on KPFT's Archive at <http://archive.kpft.org/>. Look for Queer Voices on Monday, January 17, 2011 9pm.

Archived programs are kept for 5 weeks, so this program will be available until Monday, February 21, 2011

On Thursday, January 20, 2011, the first organizational meeting of the Aaron Scheerhoorn Foundation was held in the Second Floor Community Room at the 1938 West Gray Krogers. Longtime activist Ray Hill is serving as temporary chair until officers can be nominated and elected.

The next meeting will be this Saturday the 29th at 2pm at the GLBT Community Center, 1900 Kane St. Houston TX. 77007. The LGBT center will be hosting us. Their web site is www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org. Or you can call Douglas Anderson at 713-382-1849 for further directions or information. Anderson says, "Please, everyone try and attend. I know this is short notice, but we will have a lot of work to do."

Anderson has taken on one of the leadership roles in the group's organization. He has ambitious plans for The Aaron Scheerhoorn Foundation for Change to become part of the fabric of the GLBT community and the Montrose area.

Lydell Grant, the man charged with Scheerhoorn's murder was to be arraigned on January 18th but that date has been postponed to February 14, 2011. Grant is reportedly remaining silent about his involvement in the events of December 10, 2010 when the attack on Scheerhoorn took place.

For more news regarding the case see *Aaron's Angels* on Page 12.



Photos of Pride 2011 Logo Unveiling and Grand Marshal Nominee Announcement

Top Left -- A crowd at 2016 Mainstage checks into the Pride Houston Logo Unveiling to find out what specials the venue had in store.

Top Right -- AJ Cabrera and Brittini Jackson sing a duet at 2016 Mainstage to celebrate the Pride Houston Logo Unveiling.

Bottom Left -- Jason Gallegos, Pride Houston parade chair, and Frankie Quijano, Pride Houston President, unveil this year's logo and show off this year's new t-shirt.

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Stamps from Page 1

Her prodigious list of “firsts” includes being the first African-American woman elected to the Texas legislature, the first African-American elected to the Texas State Senate since 1883, and the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress from the South.

She captured the attention and admiration of the nation with her intelligence and integrity, her ardent patriotism and steadfast dedication to public service, and her eloquent oratory and charismatic leadership.

Staunchly determined to help extend social justice and federal protection of equal rights to all American citizens, Jordan dedicated her life to working for the benefit of others and her legacy will carry on for generations to come.

In 1976, Jordan became the first woman and the first African-American to deliver a keynote address to the Democratic National Convention. Her televised speech—considered the highlight of the convention—described Americans as “a people in search of a national community... attempting to fulfill our national purpose, to create and sustain a society in which all of us are equal.” Once again, Barbara Jordan’s message resonated throughout the country.

Jordan ultimately served three terms in Congress, sponsoring and supporting numerous pieces of legislation extending federal protection of civil rights. Her record of success ensured social justice and equal rights for more American citizens.

In 1979, Jordan became a professor of public affairs and ethics at the University of Texas at Austin, where she quickly earned a stellar reputation as an extraordinarily inspiring and challenging professor. She was such a popular teacher, in fact, that student lotteries were held to make the final determination on enrollment in her classes. In 1982, Jordan was appointed to the university’s Lyndon B. Johnson Centennial Chair in National Policy.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed Jordan chair of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, a post she held until her death. Also in 1993, she was named one of the most influential American women of the 20th century by the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

The portrait featured on the stamp is an oil painting by award-winning artist Albert Slark of Ajax, Ontario, Canada. Slark based his portrait on an undated black-and-white photograph of Jordan.

Jordan’s companion of close to 30 years was Nancy Earl. Jordan met Earl, an educational psychologist who would become an occasional speech writer in addition to Jordan’s partner, on a camping trip in the late 1960s. Jordan never publicly acknowledged her sexual orientation, but in her obituary, the Houston Chronicle mentioned her long relationship with Earl. However, Jordan biographer Mary Beth Rogers, author of “Barbara Jordan: American Hero,” found no conclusive evidence to suggest that the former congresswoman was a lesbian. After Jordan’s initial unsuccessful statewide races, advisers warned her to become more discreet and not bring any female companions on the campaign trail. Several people personally known to this writer have acknowledged that they were aware of the real nature of Jordan’s relationship with Earl.



A major national letter writing campaign was launched in 2009 to get the US Postage Service to issue a commemorative stamp to honor civil rights icon Harvey Milk. A Milk stamp idea has been kicking around since the late 1980s, when San Francisco artist Jim Leff, a gay man who knew Milk, painted a mock-up of what such a stamp could look like. In 2005 San Francisco’s 11-member Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution calling on the U.S. postmaster general to issue one for the gay rights leader.

The International Court System, is spearheading this campaign with co-sponsors National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Victory Fund, Equality Across America, Harvey Milk Foundation, Equality California and Christopher Street West. Among the national honorary chairs; Stuart Milk, Reverend Troy Perry, Cleve Jones, Ray Carey, Chuck Wolfe, Academy Award winner Dustin Lance Black, Senator Mark Leno, Lorri Jean, Jose Julio Sarria and the Speaker of the State Assembly John A. Perez.

The first official Harvey Milk Day in California will be celebrated on May 22 (Milk’s birthday). It is suggested by organizers that now is a good time

for others to join the campaign and write the National Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to urge them to honor a true civil rights hero and issue the first US stamp in honor of outstanding citizen Harvey Milk.

The Bay Area Reporter reported that this fall the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee contacted Milk’s family to gather more information about the San Francisco politician who, in November 1977, became the first out person to be elected to public office in a major U.S. city. A year later disgruntled former Supervisor Dan White gunned him down in City Hall along with then-Mayor George Moscone.

Milk’s gay nephew, Stuart Milk, has said that his family has been asked by postal officials about upcoming significant milestones that the issuance of a Milk stamp could commemorate. November 8, 2012 would mark the 35th anniversary of Milk’s historic electoral win, while May 22, 2015 would coincide with Milk’s 85th birthday.

Of the 12 stamp selection criteria listed on the stamp advisory panel’s website, two would appear to directly apply to a Milk stamp. One states that events of historical significance shall be considered for commemoration “only on anniversaries in multiples of 50 years.” The other specifies that only people

with “widespread national appeal and significance” will be considered. Those fitting this description would be people “who have overcome great challenges or active discrimination to enter a field or accomplish an aim and thus created opportunities thereafter for others similarly situated.”

In her letter to the stamp advisory committee, dated June 18, 2010, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) called Milk “a San Francisco hero, who continues to inspire people the world over.” She urged the panel to make Milk the first person to be recognized specifically for their work on LGBT rights with a stamp.


“The United States Postal Service has yet to honor an LGBT American hero with a stamp, commemorating the life and efforts of Harvey Milk would be a testament to Harvey’s courage and a symbol of pride to anyone who has ever felt discrimination or cared about those who have,” wrote Pelosi.

Send your letter of support to:

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee
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US Postal Service
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Coronation

continued from Page 1

I gratefully acknowledge the trust put in me by Jose in our early days, but just as many thank-yous are to be extended to each person who has helped raise even one dollar through our Court for our local 501(c)(3) charities, and to everyone who has helped make the RSICSS Founder's dreams continue to come true.

At the time of the founding, our community entertainers were already doing much to assist in the fight against HIV/AIDS and those affected. Our organization became a place for those entertainers to combine their talents, ideas, and efforts to better assist our community. The community was skeptical at first. But through the hard efforts and persistence of the membership, "the Court" remained and began to grow into one of the premiere organizations in the City of Houston. Our community was frustrated, sad and angry. These were the early days of HIV, and we were losing people daily. Few knew which direction to proceed. The membership of the Imperial Court of the Single Star knew that the only direction was ahead. So they continued to move forward attempting to grow and prosper as individuals and an organization, while helping to improve the lives of those people in our community in need.

When the first monarchs stepped down in 1987, there were approximately 15 members. By the time of incorporation in 1991 that number had grown to 45. Currently there are approximately 75 members with more growth expected."

The Houston Court is part of an international court system. Its structure consists of a Board of Directors. The daily affairs of the organization are overseen by an eight member Board of Directors elected by the general court membership from within our membership roster. These directors serve 3 year terms with at least two members rotating out each year. Initial membership in the organization is open to anyone at least 21 years old. Meetings are held monthly and are open to the public, voting at the meetings is restricted to active members in good standing.

The court distributes funds throughout the year to direct beneficiaries, as well as our reign beneficiaries who receive their funds at our annual investiture. Although our beginnings were meager we are proud to say that our donations back to the community currently average approximately \$65,000.00 per reign. "

Each year the community votes for the co-Presidents of each Reign who are referred to as Emperor and Empress. They are the ones who decide the charities we fund-raise for each year and lead the organization.

Empress Lillian Devereaux told the Montrose GEM that, "We will announce our charities at an annual event called "Investitures". This year it will take place on Feb the 19th at the BRB at 4pm. We also announce our line of succession and the Dowagers (last year's Emperor and Empress) give away the money they have raised to their charities for their year."

The Origins of the Court

In 1965, Jose Sarria proclaimed herself the Empress of San Francisco, and laid the foundation for the formation of the Imperial Court de San Francisco. Sarria is a gay rights trailblazer and World War II veteran Jose Julio Sarria in San Francisco. Sarria was the first openly gay person to run for public office in the United States in 1961. The 87-year-old Sarria remains active in the Court system, making official visits to chapters around North America.

Today, the International Court System (ICS) has over 65 chapters in the United States, Canada and Mexico, making us the second largest GLBT organization in the world. On June 5th, 2010 The International Court System will celebrate its 45th Anniversary with a gala state dinner in Lexington, KY.

In the mid 1990's, Empress Jose named Empress Nicole the Great to be her Heir Apparent and formed the International Court Council (ICC). After many previous attempts to establish a cohesive international organization, the ICC finally took hold and is now on its second decade of service to its member chapters. The Member Courts are autonomous organizations bound together in shared structure, policies and goals.

The Courts have played a significant role in many local GLBT communities, spearheading AIDS fundraising and services, human rights advocacy, and for many, the link to the GLBT community. The mission of the ICC is to preserve the legacy of the International Court System, promote cooperation and communication among member courts, create awareness and visibility, and stake our place in GLBT history.

"The Court was founded before Stonewall and has become like a gay and lesbian version of the Shriners or Elks," said San Diego City Commissioner Nicole Murray-Ramirez (aka Empress Nicole).



Empress Nicole (L) with founder of the Imperial Court, Empress Jose (R).

Beelines continued

Well, our first planned meetup did not happen because there was that bomb scare out of Yemen and she had to make an emergency trip to DC (one day turn around). Then our next meetup was cancelled because she suddenly got called to help out in Haiti when it was about to be hit by Hurricane Tomas. But she was sick with a cold and had to return to the states after only one day of being there. Then the next time we were to meet, there was rain that caused her street to be a muddy mess and inaccessible due to construction work on it. But, not to worry, we still would meet for lunch and attend a concert together the next day.

We talked the night before and agreed on meeting at a restaurant near where she lived. I had agreed to meet her there as it was not too far from where the concert would be and even though still inconvenient for me, she doesn't know her way around Houston, right? I called when I left the house to let her know I was on my way, no answer so I left a voice mail.

~ *Beelines* continued Page 12

State Representative Jessica Farrar: Strike Texas Sodomy Laws

by Nishi Kothari

The Houston Democrat Seeks Compliance with U.S. Supreme Court Decision

AUSTIN, TX -- More than seven years have passed since the United States Supreme Court--in the case of Lawrence v. Texas--declared that criminal penalties under state "sodomy laws" were unconstitutional. Texas has yet to update its laws to reflect this decision: Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code makes "homosexual conduct" a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500. The State Bar of Texas, working alongside State Representative Jessica C. Farrar (D-Houston), has recommended removing the inoperative statutes.

"The Court has spoken, and these laws are now a dead letter," said Farrar of the proposal. "Whether one agrees or disagrees with the substance of Justice Kennedy's opinion, it diminishes the sanctity of Texas laws when legislators fail to clean up our statutes to reflect the Court's rulings on the U.S. Constitution." Texas courts, following Lawrence, have consistently refused to sustain prosecutions for homosexual conduct.

Representative Farrar recently filed House Bill 604 to repeal the purported criminal offense of homosexual conduct. The bill also revises statewide sex education curricula to remove mandatory references to gay and lesbian relationships as "not an acceptable lifestyle and ... a criminal offense under Section 21.06."

The 82nd Texas Legislature convened on January 11, 2011 for its regular session. Committees in the Texas House of Representatives are expected to begin considering legislation in public hearings sometime in February.

References:

§21.06, Texas Penal Code
§85.007(b), Texas Health and Safety Code
Lawrence v. Texas, 539 U.S. 558 (2003)

Aaron's Angels

continued from Page 6

Ray Hill served as the Chair of the first organizational meeting. He says, "We are asking that all those who are interested in returning our "village" to a place where it is safe to walk at night to join us and to attend the next meeting."

The Group has decided to form as The Aaron Scheerhoorn Foundation for Charge. A citizen's patrol in the Montrose bar area will be called Aaron's Angels.

One of the most important aspects of the group is to involve area businesses (and residents) in providing safe haven to anyone that needs assistance. This may include rendering first aid, CPR, safe haven and otherwise coming to the assistance of anyone in need. Charles Armstrong, who has several clubs in the Pacific Street Area where Scheerhoorn was killed, is actively involving himself in the work of the group. He maintains certain policies in line with the goals of the group at his establishments. The Armstrong family of clubs include

South Beach, Montrose Mining Company, JR's, and Meteor.

One of the goals of the Scheerhoorn Foundation will be to have training, not only for the volunteers on patrol but for those who work in area businesses as well. The whole idea is with the intent to help the community be safer. They hope to have stickers or placards that can be displaced in area establishments to indicate that place will offer "safe haven".

Community residents have reported a decline in the area, sometimes fearing to venture out even during daylight hours due to the presence of illegal activity, including drug deals and prostitution.

In other related news, Blur Bar, the scene of the murder, a representative who did not witness the incident has issued this statement:

"Apparently, according to my staff, the victim suddenly rushed towards the front of the club and was barely coherent. Of course, we later found out that he had already been stabbed elsewhere and

his assailant was in pursuit. By the time anyone could decipher what he was trying to say, the assailant was already upon him. No one could tell that he was stabbing the victim again as the knife was not large and was not readily visible. It appeared that the assailant was attacking the victim and it was not immediately known that he was being stabbed.

The assailant vacated the scene quickly and one of my employees took off after him in pursuit but could never catch him.

The fact is that everything happened extremely quickly and the gravity of the victim's plight was not obvious."

Ironically, Aaron Scheerhoorn once was an employee at Mo Mong Restaurant which has the same owners as Club Blur.

For more information about the Aaron Scheerhoorn Foundation, please contact Doug Anderson at 713-382-1849 or dougahouston@yahoo.com or Nancy McGinnis-Roberts at 832-338-6291 or

Now, when I say that they are good, I am comparing them with other community theater actors. Houston is blessed with some great community theater! This theater is on that par, but has only been open two, three years and may go far beyond that in the future. For now, as their artistic director says, they are the only truly inclusive theater in Texas, since they are the only one that regularly combines non-disabled actors along with disabled ones.

The evening ended with a mini-concert by Because We Are People, Too. This singing group has a great sound with a nice blend when they're all singing together and two good soloists who have a fascinating edge to their voices. I think one of the group was non-disabled, not that it matters. They took me on an emotional rollercoaster, starting off with some songs the audience couldn't help singing along with and ending up with Don't Laugh At Me, which had me blubbering like a baby when I had to go into the hall and meet the talent. Please, guys and gals, do me a favor and bring us back up before you close.

Both of these performing groups are relatively unknown and yet are great!

Dionysus Theatre, Artistic Director Deborah E. Nowinski, www.dionysus-theatre.org, 713-728-0041, performing

Beelines continued

OK, traffic was heavier than I thought it would be and I am in a not totally familiar area of town myself, so to be polite I call again, and again I get voicemail.. Then I get to the restaurant and I call again to let her know I am there and, yes, I get voicemail.

Long story short, I was stood up. The next say I get an email claiming she waited for me for several hours, but at a different restaurant than the one we had agreed upon. Oh, and even though the President himself could call her at any moment, she had not taken her phone with her. She had once emphasized the importance of her cell phone due to her Homeland security position, so that seems really odd doesn't it?

I ate lunch, went to the concert and had a lovely time by the way, but I did not for a minute buy her story. Unfortunately I suggested her to some of my Facebook friends but I also discovered that she had "harvested" some of the folks on my friends list. People I would have never suggested to her or her to them, like my cop friend.. Creepy..Denise is very active on Facebook although of course she "unfriended" me quickly.

Well what do you expect from someone who voted for George W. Bush, (twice!), then became a born again Liberal Democrat? Couldn't her Obama connections have made introductions to the political players in Houston? She never could explain that one to me. 2 + 2 still equals 4. When things don't add up you have to question it.

Hey, I just got another "flirt" from someone. No, I haven't given up hope, nor do I feel any shame about any of this, after all I was the one being honest. I'll let you know how this one goes.

That's the buzz from me for now!

at the Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood. and **Because We Are People, Too**, 713-691-0191.

OPENINGS!

Oh, the Humanity! (Stages, Jan. 26 – Feb, 27).

Bus Stop (Texas Rep, Jan. 27 – February 12) – Classic play!

The Year of Magical Thinking (Main Street, Jan. 27 – March 13) – a one woman show for Claire Hart-Palumbo,

A Weekend with Pablo Picasso (Alley, Jan.28 – March 12).

Gee's Bend (Ensemble, Jan. 29 – April 3) – the quilters.



All Things Relative

The two one acts at Dionysus Theater only play through January 30th . That's right. You don't have many chances left to see it (if you are reading GEM online you have a bit more notice than those picking up on Thursday). So, you may want to call them for reservations as soon as you read this review. It's that good an evening of theater! That is why it is being featured even with a fast approaching end date. It should be fairly easy for some of you to remember the name of the theater. One of the things that the Greek god, Dionysus, was in charge of was wine!

Usually I don't care for the work of playwright Christopher Durang. But this production of The Actor's Nightmare was so funny that I might have to rethink that. I have a tendency to laugh loudly and, at one point, an audience member turned around to make sure I was laughing for the right reason. I was! I think that maybe what was wrong with other theaters' Durang productions is that they take him too seriously, get impressed with themselves for doing his work, which gets between him and the audience.

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Two on the Aisle Theater Review by Bill O'Roarke

The acting here is not so highfalutin'. The lead in the The Actor's Nightmare was played by the father of one of the other actors. Daddy, Michael A. Iovine, is doing his very first play. Given that, he doesn't come off half bad, on a stage I would be a little afraid to act on myself. They have the dialogue captioned, always scrolling over your head for any deaf members of the audience. Anyone who was lip reading, could tell that I almost never get all of my lines right. Neither did Michael A., but it really wasn't too distracting (I'm halfway jesting about my fear).

His son, Michael F. Iovine, is one of the best things in this play. He's very subtle and very funny. Very funny, indeed. You might notice from his accent and his face that he has Downs Syndrome. But, like the lines above his head, it really isn't something that distracts. He's a good actor.

So is Natalia Borja (who was so outstanding in a monologue in the second act that she made me forget that I had already seen it and knew it's – spoiler alert - trick ending). Susanne Picheloup and Susan Ly are good actresses as well. (I am told that they may or may not have disabilities that aren't readily apparent.)

Mr. President, Washington and Franklin thank you

by Mark Segal

When President Obama signed the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” he might have felt the ghosts of Founding Fathers George Washington and Benjamin Franklin smiling over his shoulder. They might have even whispered in his ear, “It’s about time.”

History clearly recalls that the Revolutionary Army was a rag-tag band of men with little to no military training. We fumbled through the beginning of the war of independence with lack of training, conduct and organization. Washington knew that, without help, the Colonies would lose. Since Washington himself was the best this nation had, he looked to Europe for someone who could bring order to the troops. To that end, Washington wrote the Colonies’ representative in Paris at the time, Franklin, to see what he could find.

Franklin learned of a Prussian military genius, Lt. Gen. Friederich von Steuben, who’d had a string of successes with numerous armies across Europe. There was one problem: Various kingdoms of Europe had asked von Steuben to depart because of his “affections for members of his own sex.” And while Franklin was interviewing him, the situation became somewhat hectic as members of the French clergy decided to make a crusade and drum him out of France.

Franklin had a choice here, and he decided von Steuben’s expertise was more important than his sexual orientation. He and another colony representative, Silas Deane, acted quickly before the clergy could deport von Steuben and sent him to the Colonies to serve with Washington.

Once the lieutenant was here, Washington was concerned about von Steuben’s lack of English, so he appointed two of his officers who spoke French to work as translators. One of those officers was Alexander Hamilton and the other was his close friend Henry Laurens. Some historians claim the two were lovers — but that’s another column.

Washington and Franklin’s trust in von Steuben was realized as he taught the troops the essentials of military drills, tactics and disciplines, including how to effectively use a bayonet and organizing a military camp. He authored the “Revolutionary War Drill Manual,” which became the standard drill manual until the War of 1812, and served as Washington’s chief of staff in the final years of the Revolutionary War. He was part of Washington’s inner circle, and a major factor in the victory of the Colonies. And that, my friends, is why gay history is important. And a fun read.

Mark Segal is the publisher of Philadelphia Gay News (PGN). He is the nation’s most-award-winning commentator in LGBT media, having recently received the 2010 Columnist of the Year Award from the 2,000 member Suburban Newspapers of America. He can be reached at mark@epgn.com.

HISTORY AT A GLANCE

by Craig Farrell

The Place: The Montrose
Bartlett Street & Montrose Boulevard
The Time: February 21, 1926

The Event: The Opening of the Plaza Apartment Hotel

The Plaza Apartment Hotel opened in 1926 as Houston’s first Apartment Hotel. It offered both hotel accommodations and suites for permanent residents. The Plaza Apartment Hotel faces the intersection of Montrose Boulevard and Bartlett Street. A stone water table surrounds the first floor level and above is a colored tapestry brick. It rises to a height of eight stories.

The Plaza Apartment Hotel embraced all the comforts of modern day living, remember it was 1926, [including] running ice water and mechanical refrigeration (an early form of air conditioning), refrigerators that made ice cubes in all of the suites, a barber shop and beauty parlor, a basement cocktail lounge and a garage. Modeled after the Ritz-Carlton in New York, it offered the conveniences of a high-class hotel. There were 165 apartments ranging in size from one-room hotel accommodations to 4 room suites. There were also a small number of rooms for transient family living. It became home to many of Houston’s prominent leaders, including Dr. Edgar Odell Lovett, the first president of Rice University.

The Plaza Apartment Hotel was designed by Joseph Finger (1887-1953) and built by the Southwestern Construction Company. It cost was just over \$1,000,000.00. Joseph Finger was the city’s most successful proponent of the Modern Style. Many of his buildings have been recognized architecturally by individual listing to the National Register of Historic Places. He designed residences in many of Houston’s finest neighborhoods including the Joe Weingarten House, the Abe Weingarten House and the Abe Battlestein House in Houston’s Riverside Terrace, the Tension House in Montrose, Edel House in Braeswood, and the Wade and Mamie Irvin House at Morgan’s Point. The James and Jessie West Mansion, which is located on the north bend of Clear Lake, is considered one of the most substantial, well crafted, dwellings constructed in Texas in the 1920’s. Its richly detailed interior furnishings and fittings are considered to be one of the finest Art Deco interiors to be executed in Houston. He also designed Houston’s City Hall. Throughout his career Joseph Finger successfully provided his clients a blending of the latest architectural styles excelling in the expression of the Art Deco and the Streamline Modern. Finger designed many of Houston’s finest commercial and institutional buildings built between 1920 and 1945.



The Plaza Apartment Hotel built in 1926 is now the Tradition Bank Building. It is at the corner of Montrose Boulevard and Bartlett Street.

~ photo courtesy of www.TheHAIF.com

But the Plaza Apartment Hotel was different. It was situated in what was becoming one of the most desirable areas of Houston, afforded access to Rice University, the developing Texas Medical Center, Hermann Park and the Museum of Fine Arts, yet was far enough off Main Street to escape the heavy traffic and noise. Surrounded by several of Houston’s most exclusive neighborhoods, the Plaza Apartment Hotel afforded the luxury of hotel living in a suburban ambiance.

In 1958 the building was air conditioned. The Plaza Hotel underwent extensive renovations in the 1970s, which included a restaurant and bar, two ballrooms, a new exterior and a new patio veranda for lunch and cocktails. People living in the Montrose in the 70’s recall the bar in the basement. Fun, disco and drinks! Later there was a great Sunday brunch at the location.

The landscape of the neighborhood has changed dramatically since 1926, particularly since the opening of the Museum of Fine Arts annex. Greenberg & Company completed total restoration to the building in 2006. The Plaza Apartment Hotel was officially transformed into a professional office/ medical building that is now named the Tradition Bank Plaza. There is a ten level, 250 car parking garage that was added on the west side of the building for the convenience for clients and employees. The Plaza is now home for many well known business professionals.

The next time you drive through the intersection of Montrose and Bartlett, take the time to look at this great building. It is a piece of our history, the Montrose, that still remains.

History at a Glance is a project of the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History, Inc. (GCAM)

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Terry L. Shaw
Designer/Creator

Tell your Valentine that you love them with a personal message in the Montrose GEM's next issue (February 11, 2011). Proclaim your love with a text ad using special classified rates or choose a heart ad or a flowers ad for \$25.

Text ads for up to three lines (about 25 words for \$10) or five lines (about 40 words) for \$18.

Personals coming soon!

Details on placement in the next issue of the GEM!

Now here's a different sort of Valentine's gift. Have your honey's house cleaned or take them away for the weekend and leave the care of your pets to the Partners

Joel Osteen Calls Gays Sinners

Houston megachurch pastor Joel Osteen appeared on Wednesday's (Jan. 26) *Piers Morgan Tonight* and reiterates his view that homosexuality is a sin, it was reported in *The Advocate*.

Barely making any coherent statements, Osteen expresses his belief, "...it's a sin. But you know, I'm not one of those that are out there to bash homosexuals and tell them that they're terrible people and all of that. I mean, there are other sins in the Bible, too. ... I don't believe homosexuality is God's best for a person's life."

He goes on to say he thinks Elton John and David Furnish are sinners, and explains why: "Well, it's strictly back to what the scripture says. I mean, I can't grab one part and say God wants you to be blessed and live an abundant life and not grab the other part that says, you know what? You know, live that kind of life. So it comes back to the scripture. I'm not the judge. You know, God didn't tell me to go around judging everybody."

He has previously said on *The View* that he thinks homosexuality is a sin.

Grand Marshals from Page One

If you click on those words the page that gives the descriptions of all the nominees should come up. URL for that page is: <http://pridehouston.org/celebration/pages/gmvote>. Near the top of that page it reads:

2011 Grand Marshal Nominees

Below are our 2011 nominees for Male, Female, Honorary/Allied and Organization Grand Marshal. Click on the candidate's headshot to learn more about them, what they believe and how they contribute to our community. [Vote your choices for Parade Grand Marshal here](#). You will click on that blue lettering on the site to vote for your first choice, 2nd, choice, etc.

The nominees for Grand Marshal are:

- Bryan Hlavinka
- Jeffery Wallace
- Nick Brines
- Tim Brookover
- Arden Eversmeyer
- Meghan Stabler
- Tammi Wallace

For Organizational Grand Marshal:

- Hollyfield Foundation
- Houston TGRA
- The GLBT Community Center

Honorary Grand Marshal:

- Judy & Duane Roland

Voting will end Monday, April 4 and winners will be announced Thursday, April 7 online.

Say "I Love You" with flowers this Valentine's Day.

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Cell: 713.725.4351

Anna Cruz

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**President Obama in State of the Union Address
January 25, 2011**

"Our troops come from every corner of this country - they are black, white, Latino, Asian and Native American. They are Christian and Hindu, Jewish and Muslim. And, yes, we know that some of them are gay. Starting this year, no American will be forbidden from serving the country they love because of who they love."

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