



July 1996

# THE WAND

Vol. 13, No. 7

Womynspace Activities / Networking Directory

Inside:



Pokey's Summer Reading List  
Updated Resource Guide

## Alternative Visions

Excerpts from satisfied clients of Alternative Visions:

*I think what has impressed me the most is the unique way they've managed to combine being professional with such a sincere, personal approach . . . I highly recommend the service to anyone interested in a safe, novel approach to meeting new people.*

*All of the women I've met through Alternative Visions have been really interesting, and we have shared common interests. Your ability to "match" personalities and interests is what makes your service so important and successful.*

*We did my [video] taping last Thursday evening, and I want to thank you for making it a comfortable and pleasant experience. I was real nervous at first but felt that it went really well. You and Trudi are doing a great thing for our community. My thanks to you both.*

*. . . I will take this opportunity for allowing me to meet \_\_\_\_\_. Without your service, the odds are that neither one of us would even have met each other. . . .*

*\_\_\_\_\_ is absolutely the most beautiful woman that I have ever met. I knew what I was waiting for, and it was without question worth the wait.*

Trudi Phoenix-Stinson and Wendi Stinson-Phoenix met at a lesbian resource center in Dallas. They felt a strong connection at their first meeting, and they talked about their dreams together. Trudi felt the lesbian and gay community deserved a quality system for helping to establish and maintain relationships. Thus, the idea for Alternative Visions (AV) was born.

Wendi had been working a year and a half at a Dallas abortion clinic, having just graduated from college with a degree in counseling. Trudi had had a career in sales, with awards from Dale Carnegie and Zig Ziglar. Trudi asked Wendi to be her marketing director for the company she wanted to start up, and she agreed. The couple has been together about five years, and AV will be four years old in September. Their competitors in Dallas and Houston have since closed their doors. Here in Houston, AV took on the clients of the former service at no extra charge. They felt that this action was well worth their time, for it would help preserve the reputation of dating services for the gay and lesbian community.

What makes AV different from other dating services is the spectrum of services offered. They want to be known as the love service for the gay and lesbian community. Not only is AV a commercial service, but it also qualifies as a personal service, with its owners seeking to empower their clients. At this point, they see themselves as humanitarian philanthropists—though without the money they'd like to back this up. They want to be able to make an impact.

When a client comes in, they sit down and talk to her. She is asked to complete an eleven-page personality profile that shows the value system, the goals, and the interests of the individual. This method differs from computer matching. Trudi and Wendi prefer to match their clients by getting to know them very well. The owners of AV want to be sure their clients are

ready for a relationship before introductions begin. They make sure clients are ready emotionally and otherwise (a background check is also run on each applicant). Sometimes, clients are referred to counseling. In her practice, Wendi teaches "Power Tools" which she describes as tools for living. Some of the tools for relationships include creativity, commitment, and trust. She plans to write a book about what makes relationships work.

The next step of the service requires that a video be made of the client. When Wendi and Trudi determine a potential match, the two selected women view each others' videos, and if mutually acceptable, then phone numbers are exchanged. First names only are exchanged at this point. This process works especially well for clients who are patient. The service is regarded as a one-year process. Every two to three weeks, a client views three to five videos. After each viewing, a client lists what she liked and what she didn't like about each one. If the likes outweigh the dislikes, this is helpful in determining a potential match. If clients are happy with the woman they date, they can let AV know that they want to date exclusively. Their membership is then placed on hold status, and no time is lost from their contract with AV.

Ninety percent of AV's clients are degreed professionals. Some are new to the area, and others are somewhat shy. Many of them have everything they want in life, having devoted a lot of time to their careers, except for a relationship. Now, having achieved their goals, they wish to share their lives. Clients mostly meet according to their own arrangements, but other meetings occur as well. Two women, selected by Wendi and Trudi as a potential match, viewed each other's videos and said "no" on the basis of what they saw. Then, they met each other at a picnic and hit it off right away. They have been together ever since.

There are three to four social activities per month. One workshop a month deals with an aspect of relationships. About 30-35 regular members go to the workshops on relationship-building offered by AV each month. The next workshop, to be held in the Montrose Library on June 20, will be "What's Their Secret?" and features couples who've stayed together for ten or more years. The cost is \$3.00 for non-members. July's workshop will be "Blessing Your Ex and Moving On," a program by Odelia Mendez. Last month, the first issue of the organization's newsletter came out. This issue lists the mission of the organization:

**The purpose of Alternative Visions is to provide quality services to gay/lesbian/bisexual and transgender professional singles in our community with the opportunity to participate in the selective introductory services, social programs and workshops available to them as members . . . ; to encourage the creation and maintenance of solid, healthy relationships; to unify and strengthen ourselves . . . with our passion, knowledge, communication and pro-activism; to educate ourselves and each other about the nature of and potential for strong, healthy relationships and to offer a safe place for these to occur.**

## Houston Women's Festival to Offer Full-Scale Entertainment

Musicians, comedienne, artists, vendors and artisans will share their talents at the second annual Houston Women's Festival Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan, one block north of Memorial Drive.

Continuous live entertainment will highlight the rich musical tradition of the Gulf Coast region. Jazz, blues, rock, and folk are just some of the musical styles that will be heard throughout the day. Austin singer/guitarist Nancy Scott will perform her humorous, toe-tapping tunes. Also from Austin, Diana Jones will share her heartfelt and insightful songs.

Local favorite Girls with Guitars will harmonize on original music from their recent CD. Comedienne Nancy Ford will entertain the audience with her diverse and flourishing repertoire. Liviya, fresh from her performance at the Houston Music Awards, will share her gutsy, powerful tunes. Also, singer/guitarist Rawslyn Ruffin will please local fans with her solo appearance. These are just some of the talented performers who will share the stage at the Houston Women's Festival.

Indoors in the Main Hall, festival goers will be treated to a multi-media art exhibit curated by local artist Laura Kellner. The art show is yet another way to experience and celebrate the rich cultural assets of the country's fourth largest city. Some of the displayed pieces will be available for purchase by patrons of the arts.

Throughout the festival, a marketplace of vendors will display handmade crafts, including hand-carved wooden objects, candles and clothing, native American Indian jewelry and dream catchers, and items imported from other continents.

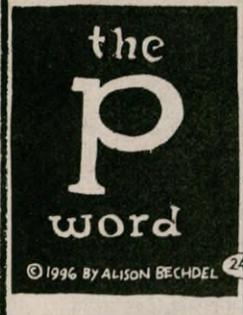
Businesses and organizations will highlight their services to the community. Information about non-profit organizations will be available at a free community booth. Games, activities and prizes will also be offered throughout the day.

Festival hours are from 1 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door and are available at Inklings Bookshop and Crossroads Market. The Garden in the Heights is an indoor/outdoor facility located between the Heights and Montrose. The event will be held rain or shine.

The Houston Women's Festival produced by The Athena Art Project, a non-profit organization. For more information, contact: HWF P.O. Box 66604, Houston, Texas 77266-6604; (713) 868-1910; e-mail address AthenaArt@aol.com.



Dykes To Watch Out For



judgment  
day

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ABUSE, WOMEN'S PROCESS GROUP, AND WOMEN'S NETWORK. CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION.



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## Weekly Events

### SUNDAYS

**Bering Memorial United Methodist Church - A Reconciling Congregation**, 1440 Harold St. Sunday school 9:15am, Sunday Worship 10:50am.

**Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection**, 1919 Decatur 861-9149. Holy Eucharist Service at 8:30am (45 min); Choir Rehearsal 9:30am; Traditional Service 10:45am (Signed for hearing impaired and nursery available)

**The Women's Group** - The Women's Group meets at the **First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore at 10:45am** on the third floor. For more info, call Iris 529-8571.

**Dignity** 11am-2pm Coffee, snacks and conversation 5:30pm Holy Eucharist Worship, 1307 Yale. See Jul 8.  
**Houston Tennis Club (HTC)**, Memorial Park Tennis Center, meets from 9am to noon. HTC is a lesbian gay tennis club with members of all levels of play - beginner to advanced. For more info, call Bobby Riggins at 868-5039.

**Rainbow Riders: A Bicycling Club for Womyn.** Bicycle rides every Sunday morning. Easy, long, off road rides. All womyn are welcome regardless of ability and experience. FYI Cookie Davenport at 869-1686. eMail: guusje@aol.com

**Montrose Flag Football**, 1:00pm at Memorial Park. For more info, call 526-7271.

### MONDAYS

**HeartSong Women's Chorus** rehearses at 7pm on the third floor of the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore. New and former members welcome. For info, call 947-1488.

**Women's Roller Hockey** 6-8pm at Trade Winds Roller Rink, 5006 West 34th at 290. All skill levels welcome. Bring your skates, a stick, pads & a helmet. \$8 per person. For info, call Trade Winds at 682-5312 or Houston Inline Association at 863-1107.

**Monday Nite Women's Bowling League** reports Legal Insanity is in first while Maybe, Maybe Not is in second. Nine is Fine is third and Walking Wounded is 4th. For info, call Pat 437-6218 or Marla at 862-3630.

### TUESDAYS

**Women's Clarity Group - A New Way** 7pm to 9pm. 5906 Dolores #201, 784-6511. Facilitated by Linda Bedre.

**CODA Support Group** (CoDependency) at 7:00pm MCCR, 1919 Decatur, 861-9149.

**Southern Country** Country Western Dance lessons at The Ranch, 9200 Buffalo Speedway, 8:00pm.

### WEDNESDAYS

**HIV Resource Network Meeting at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold.** 6:45pm Potluck; 7:30pm group meetings: family groups, women's group, caregivers group, mixed HIV groups and HIV+ only groups.

**Lambda Rollerskating Club Skate Night** each Wednesday at Starlite Skating Rink, 8075 Cook Road at Beechnut, 575-7655, 8:30-10:30p.m. \$5 admission, \$6 if you rent their skates. Take I59 South, exit and turn right on Beechnut. Stay on Beechnut past the Sam Houston Parkway and turn right on Cook Road. For more info, call Keith at 933-5818.

**Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic.** Visits include complete exam by gynecologist, lab work, medication & referral if needed. \$40, but no one will be turned away. Appointment only: 520-2000.

**MCCR Jubilation Mixed Ensemble** 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal or Bible Study at 7:30pm, 1919 Decatur.

**Get your instruments out of the closet!** The Houston Pride Band has formed to provide musical entertainment for the lesbian and gay community. We are actively seeking musicians of all skill levels and instrumentation. Rehearsals are held at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Contact Russell Williams for further details at 524-0218 or send E-mail HousTxBand@aol.com.

**Bi-NET** Bisexual Network of Houston meets 7pm Wednesdays at MCCR, 1919 Decatur St. 861-9149.

### THURSDAYS

**20 Something** meets each Thursday. Call 315-6786 for info.

### THURSDAYS

**Nancy Ford at Ms. Bs** performing music and comedy at 8:30pm, 9200 Buffalo Speedway.

**Lesbian & Gay Voices**, 9-11pm 90.1FM KPFT Womyn's music, reviews of gay and lesbian cultural events, new s from This Way Out.

### FRIDAYS

**CODA Support Group** (CoDependency) at 7:00pm MCCR, 1919 Decatur, 861-9149 See entry for July 2.

**Lesbian Avengers** is a front line political activity dedicated to issues vital to lesbian survival and visibility. Join us in keeping the streets safe for good dykes everywhere. 7pm at Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. Page Kristi at 760-5262 for info.

### SATURDAYS

**Dignity** serving Houston's community of Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual Catholics and friends - 7:30pm Traditional Worship 1307 Yale Ste. H in the Heights. Call for events, schedule, movie night 880-2872.

## Community Calendar

### July

#### 13 SATURDAY

#### 14 SUNDAY

**The Women's Group** Meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in a room on the third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

#### 15 MONDAY

#### 16 TUESDAY

#### 17 WEDNESDAY

**Women with Life Challenging Illnesses** meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00-8:30pm. For info, call Marion at 667-8735 or Leila at 728-1914.

**OutVote** general meeting third Wednesdays. 7:00 pm 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 713-521-1000.

**Roundtable: The Houston Philosophy Forum** meets 7pm on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, Cafe Artist, 1601 West Main. Topic: 7/17 How important is it to be out in all aspects of your life? Is coming out an ethical & political responsibility? Is it acceptable to "out" someone else? Roundtable is open to anyone interested in civilized and lively discussion on the topics of the day. For further information call Jackie 779-8620 or Beth 728-5590.

#### 18 THURSDAY

**NOW** fights for Lesbian Rights and all women's rights. 7-10pm. Conference Room of Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer, FYI 665-8NOW.

#### 19 FRIDAY

**LiB (Lesbians in Business)**, a woman's empowerment group, Networking 6:30-7:00pm. Uncommon Legacy: an organization to provide direct financial support to social, cultural, health and educational projects that meet the needs of the lesbian community - Program/speakers begins at 7:00pm. For info, call 529-0077. LiB meets at Innova Bldg one block south of Richmond between Wesleyan and Buffalo Speedway (on Cummins between Portsmouth and Norfolk). \$3 members/ \$5 non-members.

#### 20 SATURDAY

#### 21 SUNDAY

**The Women's Group** - Meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in a room on the third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

**Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents Just For Us**, social and support group for youth in 6th through 12th grades who have gay or lesbian parents. 6:00-7:00pm. Call 980-7995.

**Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF)** meets the third Sunday of each month, from 2:00 to 4:00pm at the Houston Mission Church. The mailing address is POB 98601 Houston, TX 77098. For info, call 661-1482.

#### 22 MONDAY

**Cancer Support Group** meets every other Monday at the Montrose Counseling Center 6:30-8:00pm. For info, call Virginia at 681-1309.

#### 23 TUESDAY

#### 24 WEDNESDAY

**Women's Network-Achieving Intimacy - The Give and Take of Staying Together.** Opposites attract, but do they always stay together? In tonight's presentation by feminist therapist Denise O'Doherty, LPC, LCDC, LMFT, RN singles and couples can explore how we

can develop true intimacy as an essential ingredient for satisfying, healthy and loving relationships. We will explore: why opposites attract; how to assess intimacy; how to overcome blocks which keep us from getting what we want in relationships; dealing with jealousy. IMAGO relationship techniques will also be presented. The Women's Network meets on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-9pm at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, Room 15. For info, call 529-0037. A donation of \$3-\$5 per meeting is requested.

#### 25 THURSDAY

**Diverse Works presents Sapphire**, 7pm, 1117 East Frwy. Free admission. Inklings is a co-sponsor.

**HOG** (Houston Outdoor Group) is a social group for gay men and lesbians who enjoy the outdoors. The general meeting is held the 4th Thursday of every month, 7-9pm, at the Assistance Fund Bldg, 1116 Jackson Blvd, one block north of Fairview, west of Montrose. For info, call the Hogline K-A-M-P-O-U-T.

#### 26 FRIDAY

**Gay & Lesbian Unitarians** meets every fourth Friday night at 7:00pm in the Fireside Room of the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore. Bring apotluck dish to share. 529-7329.

#### 27 SATURDAY

#### 28 SUNDAY

**The Women's Group** Meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in the Sojourner Truth room, third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

#### 29 MONDAY

#### 30 TUESDAY

#### 31 WEDNESDAY

## AUGUST

#### 1 THURSDAY

#### 2 FRIDAY

#### 3 SATURDAY

#### 4 SUNDAY

**P-FLAG** Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays general meeting - 2pm St. Francis Episcopal Church, 345 Piney Point Road, 867-9020.

#### 5 MONDAY

**1997 Houston Texas Lesbian Conference Planning Meeting**, June through August - 7pm at Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer. For info page Torrie Justus at 916-8110.

#### 6 TUESDAY

**Lesbian Health Initiative** meets at 7:00pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Montrose Counseling Center. For info, call 681-1309.

**The Legal Basics of Working for Yourself** Attorney Kathy A. Biehl will conduct a seminar on the legal basics of self-employment explaining sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies; how to protect a business name; and critical but often overlooked tax and insurance issues. 7:30pm at The Spectrum Center, 4100 Westheimer, Suite 235. The cost is \$35 (\$30 before August 3). Ms. Biehl, who has been self-employed since 1982, is a Houston attorney with a private solo practice. An honors graduate of The University of Texas School of Law, she has taught at Rice University and The University of Houston Law Center. Her articles on legal and practical matters have appeared in *The American Bar Association Journal* and other national publications. For info/RSVP, call 524-5051.

#### 7 WEDNESDAY

**Roundtable: The Houston Philosophy Forum** meets 7pm on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, Cafe Artist, 1601 West Main. Topic: The most recent issue of the *Advocate* questions whether or not we should include straight people in the lesbigay rights movement. What is your take on this controversial issue? Roundtable is open to anyone interested in civilized and lively discussion on the topics of the day. For further information call Jackie 779-8620 or Beth 728-5590.

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus** general meeting first Wednesdays at 7:30pm, 2700 Albany 304. For info, call 521-1000.

**Gay Lesbian Hispanics Unidos (GLHU)** regular monthly meeting, 7:30pm. Metropolitan Multi Service Center, 1475 West Gray. 270-GLHU.

#### 8 THURSDAY

**Lesbian & Gay Voices 90.1 KPFT FM 9-11pm**

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**Thanks Cookie Davenport**  
for lending your truck to *Inklings*  
Bookshop for their float entry in  
the Pride Parade. You saved the day!

### Calendar Continued

9 FRIDAY

10 SATURDAY

**Toupees Coffee & Co** - Acoustic Folk Rock Country  
Lesli Wood first Saturdays. 52-AROMA

**12 Step Women's Support Group** for addictions,  
grief work, healing and empowerment, 9:30 a.m. to 12  
p.m. on the 2nd Saturday of each month for women  
with at least a year of sobriety. Sliding scale. For info,  
call Peacemaker at 293-8653.

11 SUNDAY

**The Women's Group** - The Women's Group meets at  
the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin on the third  
floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

**Uncommon Legacy: Brunch with Rita Mae Brown**  
at 11:30am at The Four Seasons Hotel, 1300 Lamar  
Street. Comedian Vickie Shaw and Emcee Sydney  
Seaward and Booksigning.

**Sisters** ( for African-American women, meets every  
second Sunday) Montrose Counseling Center, 701  
Richmond 5-8 pm. 777-2999

12 MONDAY

**Texas Medical Center LAMBDA Network** meeting,  
5pm second Monday each month. RAS W-204 (School  
of Public Health Bldg). We welcome all TMC Lesbian,  
Gay and Bi- friendly students, staff and faculty. For  
info, call 523-5539 or sph1319@utsph.sph.uth.tmc.edu

**Cancer Support Group** meets every other Monday at  
the Montrose Counseling Center 6:30-8:00pm. For  
info, call Virginia at 681-1309.

**Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of  
Commerce Dinner/Speaker Meeting.** \$20per person  
fee. RSVP to GHGLCC Voice Mail 523-7576.

13 TUESDAY

**Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents**- a support group  
for the parents on the second Tuesday of the month and  
also a monthly family activity, MCCR, 1919 Decatur,  
980-7995.

14 WEDNESDAY

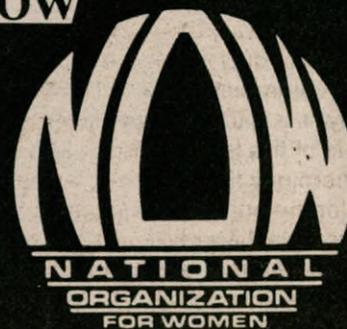
**Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus** board  
meeting second Wednesdays at 7:30pm. 521-1000.

**Women's Network-Butch-Fem: Stereotype or  
Identity?** Presented by Susan Turell, Ph.D. Licensed  
Psychologist. The Women's Network meets on 2nd &  
4th Wednesdays, 7-9pm at the Montrose Counseling  
Center, 701 Richmond, Room 15. For info, call 529-  
0037. A donation of \$3-\$5 per meeting is requested.

15 THURSDAY



Houston Area NOW  
665-8NOW



16 FRIDAY

**The Sound of Encodings**, a reading by women writers  
to support ENCODINGS: A Feminist Literary Journal,  
8pm at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin.  
Suggested donation \$3-\$5. For info, call 529-7329

18 SUNDAY

**African American Lesbian Gay Alliance** meets 3rd  
Sundays of the month. Call 864-2242, PO Box  
130818, Houston 77219

21 WEDNESDAY

**Roundtable: The Houston Philosophy Forum** meets  
7pm on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, Cafe  
Artist, 1601 West Main. Topic: Is love a basic human  
right? Do we each have the right to pursue love in our  
own fashion? What are the limits, if any, on the pursuit  
of love? Roundtable is open to anyone interested in  
civilized and lively discussion on the topics of the day.  
For further information call Jackie 779-8620 or Beth  
728-5590.

September 4 WEDNESDAY

**Roundtable: The Houston Philosophy Forum** meets  
7pm on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, Cafe  
Artist, 1601 West Main. Topic: Do labels like gay,  
lesbian, straight, transgender, etc reflect the nature of  
real people or are all people omnosexual to some  
degree or another? What is your experience?  
Roundtable is open to anyone interested in civilized  
and lively discussion on the topics of the day. For  
further info call Jackie 779-8620 or Beth 728-5590.

September 18 WEDNESDAY

**Roundtable:** Topic: Why is there so much pressure to  
stay friends with our ex-lovers? Is it merely to maintain  
peace in our small community or do we have excessive  
expectations of people's ability to recover from  
emotional pain? See Sept. 4

October 2 WEDNESDAY

**Roundtable:** What is the place of separatism, if any in  
our contemporary lesbigay community? Should gay  
men only be around gay men, lesbians around lesbians?  
Why are there such deep division? See Sept. 4



*AssistHers*

care team project

The goal of AssistHers is to help women live  
a normally as possible while coping a life  
threatening or debilitation illness. Volunteers  
are trained and supervised in the provision of  
direct care such as emotional support, meal  
preparation, shopping, hospital and home  
visits, pet care, plant and lawn maintenance,  
transportation, and other assistance.

Volunteers work as members of a Care  
Team. Since Care Teams are assigned to one  
client, it is realistic to expect two visits a  
week from volunteers.

Those eligible for service are women whose  
emotional, social or sexual relationships are  
primarily with other women and who have a  
debilitating or life challenging disease, illness,  
or condition. Assistance may extend to a  
woman's partner, caregiver, or family.  
Services are provided regardless of ability to  
pay, and regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or  
economic status.

First volunteer training: mid-September 1996  
Contact persons: Tori Williams or Susie  
Rokes: 713-552-9445. PO Box 131605,  
Houston, Texas 77219-1605.

## Alternative Visions

continued from front page

Wendi sees her current position as the best job she has ever had, for it combines all their talents. They liken themselves to "women in the village," for their desire to know everyone, to listen and observe. And, if something does not work, they find another way. AV is not just about introducing people, but following members through and helping them to stay in relationships. Wendi says their clients have taught them what they need to do.

They describe themselves as very persistent. Their business has grown largely by word-of-mouth, and being LiB members has been very important to AV as well. Their client base continues to expand, and for those seeking a capital investment, there are stock packages (mostly purchased by women) available. AV is gearing up to go public and preferred shares will go on the market. They plan on being the first openly gay company on the stock market and want to put forth a professional image. Future plans include going on-line soon. They hope to take their business nationwide. They want to plan socials for members with children and for couples. Future sites for branches of AV are Austin, Seattle, and New York.

One of the ways in which AV goes beyond the call of duty is in trying to meet the needs of the community, even if the need does not expressly fit in with their central purpose. One example of this is their Safe Friends Network, where gay men and women can meet each other for the purpose of friendship. They decided to provide this service in the hope that this will help to integrate our community.

Wendi is an artist whose work decorates the offices of AV. Trudi enjoys movies and going to the beach to relax. Making videos is another of her favorite pastimes, so she often brings along a camera. The couple has celebrated a holy union.

For future program or membership information for Alternative Visions, call 526-8223.

—Denise Wenner

## Inklings Book Corner

Throbbing, panting, moaning...if you were writing an erotic scene, what would it be like? Okay, easy enough, you say. Let's make it a little more challenging. Your assignment is to write an erotic story about sex between two gay men. The assignment for gay guys is to try to imagine the physical and emotional nuances of lesbian attraction and sexuality, and write about those.

The result of this gender-bending exercise is a fun book called *Switch Hitters: Lesbians Write Gay Male Erotica and Gay Men Write Lesbian Erotica* (Carol Queen and Lawrence Schimmel, editors, Cleis Press, \$12.95). I think the best way to read these stories is out loud with at least one other person, second-guessing the authors and their understanding of a gender they've never lived. For instance, William Mann has his lesbian creations look for anonymous sex under a pier, and describes the feel of a sensuous breast as "soft like solid foam." Say what? Lucy Taylor does a more credible job of imagining an interlude between two guys on a hot July 4th—at least it seems credible to me, a lesbian. On second thought, though, what do I know about it? Anyway, decide for yourself whether the authors are convincing, and whether they had expert advice.

Well before I started writing these reviews, a book came out that I've been recommending ever since, and I'd like to mention it to those who may have missed it. *Out of Time* by Paula Martinac (Seal Press, \$9.95) won the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Fiction in 1990. It's a delightful story about a contemporary lesbian couple, set in the antiques world in New York City. Martinac's writing is rich with texture and complexity, while remaining lots of fun to read. A lesbian ghost from the 1920s haunts one of the characters, setting up some interesting dynamics between history and passion, and the members of the couple.

For those who've been waiting for the latest installment in the soap opera of certain famous lesbian lives, it's here: Judy Nelson's autobiography, *Choices: My Journey After Leaving My Husband for Martina and a Lesbian Life* (Birch Lane, \$21.95). After all how many other women are ex-lovers of both Martina Navratilova and Rita Mae Brown? Photos are included, and an inside view of Rita Mae's emotional life that you might not find elsewhere. Other readings about these three women: *Sudden Death*, Rita Mae's fictional account of life on the tennis circuit with a world-famous tennis player, *Martina: The Lives and Times of Martina Navratilova*, Adrienne Blue (Birch Lane, \$19.95), and *Love, Zena Beth*, Diane Salvatore's fictional account of an affair with a famous Southern lesbian author (Naiad Press, \$10.95). (Oh, whoever could it be?!)

Happy summer reading!

Contributed by Pokey Anderson  
Inklings Bookshop

### Quotes and Soundbites From Feminist Booksellers on The Importance of Feminist Bookstores to Feminist and Mainstream American Culture

"We are in feminist bookselling to educate, to end sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia, classism, and all the other inequities that threaten our society and survival, and to create a safe space for our sisters and brothers. We are in the business to change the world. Feminist bookstores are in it for the long haul and are proud to be part of a larger movement for social change."  
—Theresa Corrigan Lioness Books, Sacramento, Calif.

"The demands on a feminist bookstore are high. In addition to selling books and running a business we also do referrals, sell tickets, provide emotional support, listen, and lots of other things that can only exist when customers matronize the business. It's hard, sometimes, when you know someone buys lots of feminist books, but the only time they come into the store is to post a flier."

—Pokey Anderson, Owner, Inklings Bookshop, Houston, Tex.

JULY 11, 1996 ▼ THE TEXAS TRIANGLE ▼ 5



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### LIB PLANS SUMMER ACTIVITIES

HOUSTON—An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit group dedicated to funding lesbian-specific projects, ranging from medical research to television productions. Founded in 1990 and incorporated in 1993, the foundation in 1994 began its scholarship program, handing out a total of 30 \$1,000 scholarships to lesbians across the United States. A Houston chapter of the Uncommon Legacy Foundation is under development at this time.

At the July 19 monthly meeting of Lesbians In Business (LiB), Lory Masters, a member of the Uncommon Legacy board of directors, will review the role of the Legacy Foundation, the grant/scholarship program and planned upcoming visits by Rita Mae Brown and Margarethe Cammermeyer on Aug. 11 at the Four Seasons Hotel. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the Innova building of Greenway Plaza.

LiB's August meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, will feature writer and performance poet Niobe' Ngozi. Niobe' is an African-American poet, mother, educator and humanitarian. She is best known for her provocative poetry and prose, which addresses social and political issues affecting women's lives.

LiB presentations are \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. ☉

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wanting more information please contact:

The Houston Women's Festival  
P.O. Box 66604, Houston, TX 77266-6604  
Phone number: 713-868-1910 • E-mail: AthenaArt@aol.com

Hope to see you there!



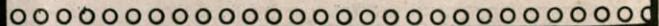
The Athena Art Project is a non-profit organization supporting the artistic endeavors of women.



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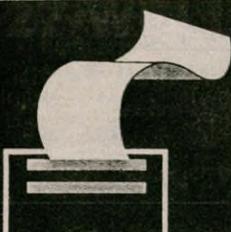
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The WAND is a monthly publication of Womynspace, a 100% volunteer organization.

Opinions expressed in articles printed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of the WAND or the Womynspace organization as a whole.

**Submissions to the calendar:** Groups may send us notice of their regular meetings and special events by the 15th of the month for next month's issue. We are glad to network with other groups that work for social change and share a feminist perspective.

**Submissions of articles, poetry and cover art** should have positive, coalition building content. Articles may be submitted on IBM 3.5" diskettes, ASCII or WordPerfect format. Please use 3" columns for typed submissions. Sign and include a phone number. WAND Layout is scheduled around the 20th of the month. Check the calendar for date or call 664-9215. We need community support to ensure the WAND is a comprehensive networking directory for the women's community. WAND distribution is 2,000 copies.

**Advertising Rates for the WAND**

Call 728-3637 for information.

Approximate Size	1 month	3 months
Business Card	\$25	\$67.50
1/8 Page (3.5 x 5")	\$30	\$80
1/4 Page (5 x 7")	\$40	\$100
1/2 Page (7x10")	\$60	

**WAND One Year Subscriptions:** Enclose a check for \$10 payable to Womynspace.

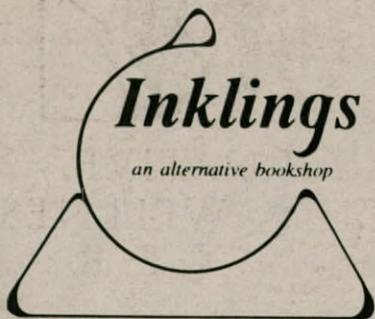
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**Uncommon Legacy extends an invitation to Brunch with Rita Mae Brown**

Sunday, August 11, 1996  
11:30am

The Four Seasons Hotel  
1300 Lamar Street  
followed by Booksigning  
sponsored by  
Crossroads Market  
Comedian Vickie Shaw  
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**Houston Area Participants Wanted Survey of Violence in Same-Sex Relationships**

Only recently has physical and sexual violence within gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered relationships begun to be studied. Estimates indicate that anywhere from 25% to 50% of lesbians and gay men report physical violence in a committed relationship. In addition, at least one study indicated that 12% of gay men and 31% of lesbians have been coerced sexually by an intimate partner. Although illegal, such incidents are unlikely to be reported to law enforcement nor is the victim/survivor likely to seek help through social service agencies.

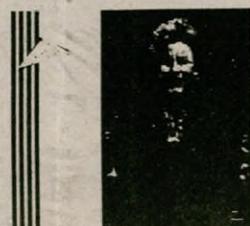
Dr. Susan C. Turell, Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, in cooperation with the Montrose Counseling Center, the Houston Area Women's Center, and the Montgomery County Women's Center, is conducting a survey to determine the scope of this problem in the Houston community. This survey is designed to be the first step toward more education and discussion of the problem within the gay and lesbian community, more victim/survivors seeking services to end the violence, and better service provision by providers.

If you would be willing to participate in filling out a 20 minute survey, or would like more information, please contact Dr. Turell at 283-3332. You may also pick up a survey at the Montrose Counseling Center and Inklings Bookshop. All answers are confidential and anonymous.

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**RESOURCE GUIDE**

- Agora [Les/Gay community media liaison] 729-4267
- Alternative Broadcast Service [gay TV production facility] 522-5115
- AssistHers [care team project] 552-9445
- Bar Association for Human Rights [Les/Gay Attys] 222-7002
- Calendar Girls 942-8888 or 523-4510
- Chain Gang [Gay Cycling Group] 863-1860
- Dignity/Houston [Les/Gay Catholics] 880-2872
- Dimensions (monthly mag) POB856 Lubbock, TX 79408 806-797-9647
- Fem TV [feminist program on the Public Access Channel] 755-7766
- First Time BBS 522-1173, 522-1170
- Gay & Lesbian Hispanics Unidos [GLHU] 880-GLHU
- Gay/Lesbian Switchboard: 529-3211
- GLOBAL [University of Houston Gay Les Bi Alliance] 743-5180
- Hate Crimes Hotline 529-9615
- Hazelwitch Productions [women's music and comedy] 521-3369
- Houston Area NOW 668-9008
- Houston Area Teenagers Coalition of Homosexuals [HATCH] 942-7002
- Houston Area Women's Center [HAWC] 528-2121
- Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus [HGLPC] 521-1000
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents 980-7995
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Week 529-6979
- Houston Gay Yellow Pages 621-0929
- Houston Institute for the Protection of Youth [HIPY] 942-9884
- Houston Outdoor Group [HOG] 526-7688
- Houston Pride Band 524-0218
- Just For Us [teens with Gay or Lesbian parents] 666-8260
- Lambda Center [AA Groups] 521-9772
- Lambda Rollerskating 933-5818
- Lesbian Health Initiative 869-6350
- Lesbians in Business [LiB] 529-0077
- Lesbians Over Age Fifty [LOAF] 661-1482
- KPFT 90.1 FM Les Gay Voices Thu 9-11pm After Hours Sat 12-3am 526-4000
- Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection [MCCR] 861-9149
- Mishpachat Alizim [Gay and Lesbian Jews and friends] 748-7079
- Montrose Clinic [full women's examination 6pm-9:30pm Mon-Fri] 520-2000
- Montrose Counseling Center [MCC] 529-0037
- Montrose Ice Picks 522-3687
- Movie Club 952-4048
- OutSmart Houston's Gay and Lesbian Monthly Magazine 520-7237
- OutVote [register and motivate gays & lesbian, to vote] 522-9837
- P-FLAG [Parents, Friends, Families of Lesbians & Gays] 867-9020
- Pet Patrol [helps hospitalized HIV/AIDS pet owners] 522-1954
- Q-Patrol [Prevention of Hate Crimes in Montrose] 871-8519
- Rape Crisis Hotline 528-7273; 528-RAPE
- Rice Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association 523-0259
- The Rose [low cost mammograms] 668-2996
- Sisters [African-American Lesbians] 777-2999
- Southern Country Houston [country western dance] 648-9340
- Southern Hospitality BBS 522-1515
- Team Houston [Gay Les sports competition/Gay Games 1998] 935-1060
- 20 Something [social group ages 20-29 Les/Bi/Gay] 315-6786
- Women's Information and Referral Exchange [WIRES] 528-2121
- Women's Group First Unitarian Church 529-8571
- Women's Wire BBS (free starter kit/diskette) 800-210-9999
- WAND (Womynspace Activity Networking Directory) 664-9215
- Women Study! [Women's Studies study groups] 524-8536



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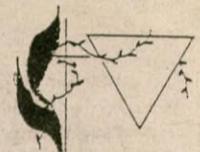
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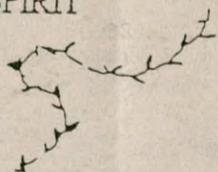


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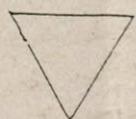
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