



THE WAND

1995 Vol. 12, No. 9

Womynspace Activities/Networking Directory

*Inside: What's a Banner District
Pride Week Forum Followup
HGLPC Awards Dinner
& Discrimination Free Zone
at La Mexicana Restaurant*

Houston Women's Festival Saturday October 28

The very first Houston Women's Festival promises to be an exciting all-day, multi-media experience. On Saturday, October 28th beginning at twelve noon, gates open to anyone interested in women's music, art and commerce. In keeping with the Halloween Fest theme, party favors will be given to anyone in costume.

Outside in the courtyard, artisans will display candles, jewelry, and handmade crafts from around the world. Businesses and organizations will distribute information about their quality work and services. An outdoor stage will feature musical duo Girls with Guitars, soloist Edna Garcia, comedienne Vickie Shaw and many other talented performers. Coffee, soda, beer, wine, bottled water and food will be on sale at various booths.

Inside in the art gallery, paintings, photography and sculpture will be exhibited by local women artists. Adjoining the art gallery is the main concert hall where a fabulous concert kicks off beginning at 6 pm.

First up is Denise Chambliss' classic women's "garage" band Planet Earth Performers. Following their set, THE FREDs! take the stage. This four-women band is becoming increasingly popular with Houston audiences for their original tunes.

Austin-based singer/songwriter/ guitar-player Diana Jones will thrill festival goers with her excellent music beginning around 7:30 p.m.. Now touring as an acoustic soloist, this artist is known for her rich, thoughtful songs and her beautiful alto voice.

Next up, HWF is proud to present The New Gretchen Phillips Experience, fresh off their west coast tour and making a rare appearance in Houston. Many fans remember and appreciate Gretchen Phillips for the wonderful music she created with the bands Two Nice Girls and Girls in the Nose.

The headline act of the evening, Velvet Hammer, will astound listeners with their exquisite musicianship, intricate vocals, and magical songs. Originally from Houston and now a respected member of the Austin music scene, it's only a matter of time before this band breaks through on a national scale. Composed of four extremely gifted women, Velvet Hammer will spark your imagination and delight your senses with their profoundly beautiful music.

The Houston Women's Festival is being held at a centrally located and newly available venue called The Hanger. Covering a full city block, this enclosed complex features open-air grounds surrounded by covered vending areas, a large art space, and a transplanted airplane hanger that serves as the main concert hall. A number of successful and entertaining events such as the Art Car Parade Party have been staged at the site. The Hanger is located at 3301 Polk, about twelve blocks east of the George Brown Convention Center downtown. Patrolled, off-street parking is free and security will be provided by female deputy sheriffs.

Full festival tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and are available at Inklings Bookshop and Crossroads Market. Day passes good from noon to 5:00 p.m. are \$5 at the door. The event will be held rain or shine. For more information, call Active Imaginations at (713) 973-1131.

Reading by Nikky Finney at SHAPE Community Center

Sister Art Network will present a poetry reading by Nikky Finney. 7:00pm at the SHAPE Community Center located at 3815 Live Oak. Sign language interpreted/ wheelchair accessible. Also on the program will be local artists. \$5, \$3 for seniors and students with ID. Sponsors for this event are The African American Studies program at the U of H, The Houston Chapter of the National Black Women's Health Project, The Reading Club, Sisters of Houston and Faye Roberts. Nikky Finney is an Associate Professor Creative Writing at the University of Kentucky at Lexington and author of two books of poetry *On Wings Made of Gauze* and *Rice*. For info, contact Sherri at 437-0984. **Continued on Page 4**

LiB hosts Ann Northrup Heinen Hall Friday, Oct 20



Ann Northrup, former Boston debutante and Vassar graduate, is one of the leading lesbian activists in the United States, a media consultant to ACT-UP and a famous AIDS activist, convicted on four counts for her participation in the notorious demonstrations inside New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral. Northrup's writing and speeches have inspired thousands of lesbian and gay people to take to the streets to demand change and have educated millions of straight people about how and why they have lied to and hoodwinked by the powers that be.

Northrup had a long, award-winning career as a journalist, including work for CBS News, ABC's "Good Morning America," and ABC Sports. She is an expert at media analysis, as well as political issues and organizing. Northrup cuts through the standard rhetoric and deals with the real issues in a uniquely insightful and inspiring way. Are gay people just as normal as straight people? Can we co-exist? How does the media control our thinking? How much of a threat is the AIDS epidemic? Is our society undergoing a fundamental revolution? Northrup addresses these and other urgent questions right out today's headlines.

October 20 Friday

LiB (Lesbians in Business), a woman's empowerment group will host a special presentation for National Coming Out Month, titled "Ann Northrup: from Debutante to Defendant, The Making of a Lesbian Activist". Guest speaker, Ann Northrup abandoned her career as a journalist to become an educator on AIDS and lesbian and gay issues. Networking 6:00, Ann Northrup 7:00pm at Heinen Theater, 3517 Austin Street off of Holman across the street from Houston Community College Central Campus. \$10 in advance at Inklings Bookshop and Crossroads, \$12 at the door. For info, call 529-0077. LiB will also honor its founding members. Please support LiB and celebrate Coming Out month with us.

October 21 SATURDAY

Activism Workshop with Ann Northrup 10:00am to noon at the Innova Building one block south of Richmond between Wesleyan and Buffalo Speedway (on Cummins between Portsmouth and Norfolk). \$10 (groups of 10 or more receive a discount admission \$5 each). **For LiB events information, call 529-0077.**

PEACEMAKER ENTERPRISE HITAJI AZIZ The Journey of a Spirit-Led Business

The birth of **Peacemaker Enterprise** has been a journey that has been exciting, terrifying, joyful and extremely painful. **Peacemaker** has challenged me to grow, heal and take on visions and possibilities that I used to dream about. It is the vehicle that I use to introduce the real me to myself and take charge of exactly how I want my life to be.

In the past when people asked me what I did for a living, I would feel confused. I was not sure what I was doing. I was not sure how to mold my emotional definition into a tangible business enterprise, so I would say the next best thing. I was still working on who and what I was. I would settle in to a definition of what it was only to find myself not satisfied. I had to make a decision to honor my discomfort.

I listened to many people, tried to be like many people, read books, went to workshops searching for a direction of how I was supposed to do IT. I did not understand that all I needed was myself with spirit as my source and all the other support would fall in place. I knew that I wanted to mold my thirty plus years of community activism and my motherhood experience into a business, create prosperity, have fun, be in honest recovery and stay involved with community change full time. I knew that I would never be happy to have a traditional job void of passion. I wanted a business that would force me to walk my talk. I was hungry to do what Spirit wanted me to do. I had become too smart to rely on my thinking alone. As I prayed and healed I became more clear with what kind of business I wanted.

Of course there were times that I looked out of desperation and fear for a {real job} only never to be hired. I was always over qualified, not educated enough, wore dreadlocks, had a nose ring, or appeared to intimidating. I decided to take this as a message that I was supposed to create my own instead of feeling constantly rejected, scared, pissed and beat down. I even worked for a business that I co-founded, in an endeavor similar to what I do now but still found no peace. I was restless and knew that I had to keep searching within myself for direction.

I wanted the freedom to be creative and bold, with compassion and integrity. I knew that it would be a direct contradiction to the past life of an ex-welfare recipient and formerly battered wife who was raised in the projects of Pennsylvania. I wanted a business that would challenge me to walk my talk, clean up victim patterns and force me to make myself a priority in my own life.

I wanted to be a role model for my children to help them understand the link between prosperity and attitude. For me, prosperity did not just mean making a lot of money. I knew business owners who make big money who weren't happy, had sick unproductive relationships, stayed numbed out on drugs and alcohol and had no concept of Spirit, I wanted them to realize that within this universe there was enough abundance and grace for all people if they knew how to create it. I wanted them to learn how to contradict oppression.

I wanted a business that would be a service to the community where all people felt included. The base for building my business would be my communication skills, my community work, the survival skills I use to transcend the societal oppression that I live with, and my personal recovery experiences. **Continued on Page 4**

Women's Sanctuary- The Sermon of Harriet. Hitaji Aziz. 5:00-7:00pm Central Congregation Church, 1311 Holman. This powerful sermon is presented in the spirit of Harriet Tubman, set in the style of the old traditional black church. The presentation is a call for a new spiritual/political approach to oppression and liberation within the women's community. The Women's Sanctuary will also feature music and dance. For more information, contact Iris at 529-8571. **The Women's Group - First Unitarian Church.**

Weekly Events

SUNDAYS

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur 861-9149. Holy Eucharist Service at 9:00am (45 min); Choir Rehearsal 9:30am; Traditional Service 11:00am (Signed for hearing impaired). Nursery available both services.

The Women's Group - The Women's Group meets at Central Congregational Church, 1311 Holman at 3:30pm. NO MEETING (special programs instead) on Oct 1 and Oct 15. See the special events calendar for the schedule. Soon the Women's Group will be back at their original location, the First Unitarian Church on Fannin. Check Inklings Bookshop for the October Schedule. 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.

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

MONDAYS

HeartSong Women's Chorus rehearses at 7pm in the Community Room in Sharpstown Center. New and former members welcome. For info, call 526-9095.

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

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 159 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.

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

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.

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.

Movie Club for gay/lesbian movie go-ers meets each Saturday to have dinner and watch the latest movies on the big screen. Call 395-2126.

Community Calendar

1 SUNDAY

The Women's Group will car-pool at 9am to go to the Unitarian church in Galveston for "Black Sun Rising", a performance piece by Jacsun Shah and Rise Collins. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

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

2 MONDAY

Battered/Formerly Battered Women's Coalition 6th Annual Candlelight Vigil to Mourn, Celebrate and Reaffirm 6:30pm on the steps of City Hall. This event marks a National Day of Unity Against Domestic Violence and launches a month of activities observing October as Domestic Violence Awareness month. FYI call Bessie at 445-8310.

3 TUESDAY

Suzanne Westenhofer "Nothing in my Closet but Clothes" at Houston's Laff Stop, 524-2333, 7:30pm, and 9:45pm. \$15 advance and \$18 day of the show.

Pride Committee of Houston, Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm 2700 Albany #304, 529-6979.

4 WEDNESDAY

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.

5 THURSDAY

Health Fair Planning Meeting 7:30pm at the Multi-Service Center on West Gray. The Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI) has scheduled a second health fair for January 1996. Officers of LHI are Pat Gandy, President and Jackie Duvall, Chair. Volunteers and organizations who are interested in co-sponsoring this health fair or setting up booths are invited to this planning meeting. For information, call Virginia at 681-1309.

Montrose Ice Picks 8pm, Galleria Ice Rink 629-1432.

6 FRIDAY

Lone Star Women's Music Festival Oct 6,7 and 8 on the Guadalupe River near Austin. \$105 at the gate (no checks) 512-929-0002.

7 SATURDAY

Airing Out the Silent Pain & Shame of Abuse & Violence, a free to the public, Community Awareness Rally and Art Exhibit to educate, document and raise society's awareness of the deadly epidemics of Abuse & Domestic Violence. Hosted by Fair Care Center's Sisters Against Abuse and Violence - Refuge and Support Group. Texas Southern University, 3100 Cleburne in the Ernest S. Sterling Center, Tiger Room, 3rd floor from 2:00pm until 6:00pm. An RSVP by phone (713) 734-1461 or (page) 902-9123 or by letter/memo (fax) 734-1636 is greatly appreciated.

8 SUNDAY

9 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 on the 2nd and 4th Monday at the Montrose Counseling Center 6:30-8:00pm. For info, call Virginia at 681-1309.

10 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.

11 WEDNESDAY

Women's Network-Coming Out Together. Today is National Coming Day! In keeping with its spirit, come and share in "coming out" stories, whether they be old or current, with the understanding women in the Network. 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.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus board meeting second Wednesdays at 7:30pm. For info, call 521-1000.

12 THURSDAY

The Montrose Ice Picks (skate nites on the second Thursday of the month) from 8-10pm at the Galleria Ice Rink, 5015 Westheimer, \$5 plus \$2 for skates. For more info, call Angel at 629-1432.

13 FRIDAY

The Sound of Encodings, a reading by women writers to support ENCODINGS: A Feminist Literary Journal, 8pm at the Central Congregational Church, 1311 Holman (between Austin & Caroline, near HCC). Suggested donation \$3-\$5. For info, call 529-7329

14 SATURDAY

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.

Does the idea of dating scare you? Are you ready to start dating but don't have a clue about the first step? Are you wanting to develop more comfort and confidence about dating? If any of these are true for you, then **Welcome to the Dating Dance! The Dating Dance** is a safe and fun **one-day workshop** designed for lesbians who want to learn to have more fulfilling and enjoyable dating experiences. The workshop is facilitated by Joyce M. Gayles, PHD. Joyce brings to this workshop expertise in working with women's issues and life transition/growth issues. For information and to register, call 667-6047 and state that you are calling about the dating dance.

MCCR offers seminar on Sexuality and the

Scriptures 10:00am - 4:00pm. Free but bring "brown bag" lunch. Presented by Rev. Ralph Lasher, Master of Divinity Degree, an Episcopal priest who was asked to resign from the church over 35 years ago after he announced that he was gay. Please RSVP for seminar 861-9149.

Sister Art Network will present a poetry reading by Nikky Finney. 7:00pm at the SHAPE Community Center located at 3815 Live Oak. Sign language interpreted/ wheelchair accessible. Also on the program will be local artists. \$5, \$3 for seniors and students with ID. Sponsors for this event are The African American Studies program at the U of H, The Houston Chapter of the National Black Women's Health Project, The Reading Club, Sisters of Houston and Faye Roberts. Nikky Finney is an Associate Professor Creative Writing at the University of Kentucky at Lexington and author of two books of poetry On Wings Made of Gauze and Rice. For info, contact Sherri at 437-0984.

Meet the Players Party hosted by the Virginia

Slims Legends benefiting the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA/Houston) will be held at 6:00pm at Neiman Marcus Town & Country featuring special appearances by such stars as Tracy Austin, Martina Navratilova, Billie Jean King and Chris Evert. Tickets are \$50. For more info, call Tori Williams at 552-9445.

20th Houston Gay Lesbian Political Caucus

Awards Dinner - Keynote speaker, Donna Red Wing was named "Woman of the Year" in 1992 by The Advocate magazine in honor of her work against the Radical Right in Oregon. Joe Zuniga, author of Soldier of the Year is also scheduled to speak. Tickets are \$65 for individuals and \$125 for couples. For reservations, call 521-1000.

15 SUNDAY

Women's Sanctuary- The Sermon of Harriet.

Hitaji Aziz. 5:00pm Central Congregation Church, 1311 Holman. This powerful sermon is presented in the spirit of Harriet Tubman, set in the style of the old traditional black church. The presentation is a call to respond to community and personal change, a call for a new spiritual/political approach to oppression and liberation within the women's community. Hitaji Aziz is the owner of Peacemaker Enterprise, a consulting agency for the management of diversity. She has been an activist for more than three decades, a motivational speaker, a talk show host and mother of three. For more information, contact Iris at 529-8571. Women's Sanctuary is sponsored by The Women's Group of the First Unitarian Church.

Calendar Continued - 15 SUNDAY continued

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.

16 MONDAY

17 TUESDAY

18 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.

19 THURSDAY

NOW Lecture Series: Interfaith Ministries, 3217 Montrose at Lovett. Fighting for Fairness I: Education of Girls & Young Women presented by Darah S. Headley, Esq. and Hannah Riddering, Vice President Action, Texas NOW will discuss the impact of Title IX on the education received by girls and young women in elementary, junior high and high school. Registration and social 6:30-7pm. followed by Lecture and questions 7-8:30pm. No admission/donations appreciated. For info on NOW, call 665-8669.

Nicole Conn Booksigning at Crossroads 7pm

20 FRIDAY

LiB (Lesbians in Business), a woman's empowerment group will host a special presentation for Coming Out Month, titled "Ann Northrup: from Debutante to Defendant, The Making of a Lesbian Activist". Guest speaker, Ann Northrup abandoned her career as a journalist to become an educator on AIDS and lesbian and gay issues. 7:00pm at Heinen Theater, 3517 Austin Street off of Holman at Houston Community College Central Campus. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. For info, call 529-0077.

21 SATURDAY

Activism Workshop with Ann Northrup 10:00am - noon at the Innova Building one block south of Richmond between Wesleyan and Buffalo Speedway (on Cummins between Portsmouth and Norfolk). \$10 (groups of 10 or more receive a discount admission \$5 each). For info, call 529-0077.

22 SUNDAY

Women's Group Ruby Matthews, owner of new women's club, Club Attitude at 2915 Main is the guest speaker. 3:30 p.m. Central Congregational Church, 1311 Holman. For info, call Iris at 529-8571.

23 MONDAY

Cancer Support Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday at the Montrose Counseling Center 6:30-8:00pm. For info, call Virginia at 681-1309.

The Agora, monthly meeting, 7:30p.m. AIDS Foundation Houston, 3202 Wesleyan, 729-4267.

Urvashi Vaid Booksigning at Crossroads 7pm

24 TUESDAY

25 WEDNESDAY

Women's Network - Grow Through Exploring Your Inner Child. Dr. Joyce Gayles will guide you through meeting or deepening your inner child. "When we consciously access our child parts, without fear, our lives become more joyful, creative and inspired." Dr. Joyce Gayles is a clinical psychologist who specializes in life transition and growth issues. 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.

26 THURSDAY

27 FRIDAY

28 SATURDAY

Houston Women's Festival - see article in this issue or call Active Imaginations at 973-1131. Festival begins at noon followed by a concert at 5:30pm. Full festival tickets are available at Inklings Bookshop and Crossroads Market, \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

LiB (Lesbians in Business) Halloween Costume Dance at the Magnolia Ballroom. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Emcee is Count Dykula. Women only. For info, call 529-0077.

29 SUNDAY

Daylight Savings Time

Women's Group will discuss the reality of Lesbian battering at 3:30pm. Presented by Karena Valkerera and counselors trained with the PIVOT program. Central Congregation Church, 1311 Holman.



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Peacemaker Enterprise - Hitaji Aziz - The Journey of a Spirit-Led Business

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Finally, I had a major crisis in my life that forced me to re-evaluate my whole attitude about my life and my relationships with my external environment. I found myself in a place faced with losing everything that I had. I had no money, no job, no food and no way to pay rent or utilities. I still had three children, medical needs, an apartment to maintain and places to go. I was physically and emotionally sick. I was everything that I didn't want to be. I was my worse nightmare. I was forced to seriously look at how I was living my life. I had to tell myself the truth that I was not in balance. During this time I found a temporary job that soon played out or might I say they never called me back. I was still scared and knew that Help from friends could only last so long. My back was up against a wall with no where to go but up or down. The choice was up to me. I chose to suit up and act like I really had a business, like I really wanted to be well and that Spirit would be the monitor of my life.

The only thing left for me was to find a belief system that did not rely on people, places or things. That belief system had been coming to me over the years but I had never taken time to make it a priority in my life. I was a caretaker and did not have the faintest ideas of what self priority was all about. My dedication to community building had no focus or spiritual self investment.

My first priority was to recognize that for me only a higher power could confirm the path of my business. I had to get serious about it and go beyond just believing and learn how to act like I believed in a higher power. I had to tell myself the truth. I had no background in the technical running of a business. I prayed and started to have the right information and people come into my life. I had no experience in Spirit led businesses. I started to study, read and network with other people who wanted to work from a Spirit led foundation.

Iyanla Vansant, author of *The Value of the Valley, Meditations for People of Color, and Tapping the Power From Within*, was that woman helped me make sense of it all. I was given a tape with her speaking about a Spirit led life a year before I met her. Later, I would have a chance to interview her at KPFT 90.1 FM. She counseled me over the phone and wrote me a long letter that I still study. Her books and tapes became tools that I used to get in touch with my own unique creativity. I was on my way.

Marianne Williamson, author of *A Woman's Worth, A Return to Love* and her newest book *Illuminata* came into my life and validated my experiences and needs. Her work put the icing right on the cake and my whole being screamed YES!!!! I also started to read and listen to tapes of a Course in Miracles.

I set up a prayer ritual where I would consciously give this business and the day to the Spirit. I went to therapy to figure out more about my victim patterns and why it was so hard to self actualize my dreams. I started seeing a Reiki master and experienced body massage for my physical self. I got real with my 12-step community. I needed people who would tell me the truth and I knew I would find them there. I sought spiritual counseling from various directions. I stopped listening to what other people said and thought about what I was doing and started listening to my Inner Voice for the directions for my life. I cried a lot and talked about the terror. I honored my dreams. I eventually started going into a convent for three day silent retreats, so I could learn what stillness and silence was all about. As I spent less time with people and started to scrutinize who I associated with, I created my own spiritual ritual. I became more clear on what my business was all about. I was starting to feel a peace that I had never felt before. Things were starting to make more sense. I had passion without the terror always hovering nearby.

Peacemaker Enterprises is a business that relates and works with the human condition. It consults and trains people on how to manage diversity within their organizations, institutions and corporations. We plan and customize small and large workshops, support groups, retreats and seminars supporting people to learn how to create healthier environments and better relationship across difference. We also create motivational presentations for all kinds of different folks and ages. We assist individuals and groups with the visions of their own lives and coach them into their own happiness and respect for their own personal goals. We work with all the isms related to oppression, abuse and addictions. We use cultural platforms, poetry, music and story-telling to get the message across. We realize different populations have their own unique languages and we strive to respect that. Peacemaker Enterprise is interested in the transformation of the homeless as well as the state of emotional health for the corporate worker.

Peacemaker will begin an ongoing 12 Step Women's Support Group for addictions, grief work, healing and empowerment for women with at least a year of sobriety. The group will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month starting on October 14.

For more information on **Peacemaker Enterprise**, special projects and support groups, please call 713-293-8653.

Followup: Pride Committee Community Forum

Howard Kale, Co-chair for Lesbian/Gay Pride Week 1996, opened the meeting. He defined the forum as a vehicle to compile ideas from the community. The Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week Committee '96 will investigate the suggestions and make a final determination and decision.

He described levels of participation. Going to the parade is one level. Attending this forum was another level of participation. Then there is Julie Siska, CFO/Treasurer on the Board of Directors and Co-Chair on the Executive Committee for Pride Week 1995. The Pride Committee worked until midnight after the Pride Fest and the next morning went back to clean up the Pride Fest site.

Howard said that morning he saw Julie Siska picking up a turkey drumstick someone had thrown on the ground, "just like this". Howard, in his suit and tie, turned around, bent over and picked up an imaginary drumstick. He concluded saying 1995 saw many doors open for the gay and lesbian community with three radio stations and three beer companies coming forward to participate and sponsor the parade. The 1996 committee must move forward on this.

Jack Valinski, member of Board of Directors and long time Pride Week activist, discussed the history of Pride Week, which started under the Political Caucus. The Pride Week organization then worked under the 501(c3) umbrella of the Montrose Activity Center and finally became an independent 501(c3) organization in 1992. The committee operates with open books, a monthly newsletter and any member of the community who attends two + meetings is eligible to vote.

Julie Siska continued with the current status and results of the '95 committee, its volunteer and the last Community Forum held in January of 1995. The Pride Fest '95 met the desired goal of a location at the end of the parade route. A video of the parade was being produced at a very reasonable cost and was being sold at a reasonable price. More funds are being received from commercial interests such as the beer companies, bringing new money into the community.

Terry Vega, the female Co-Chair for Pride Week 1996 spoke briefly, stating the ground rules and introducing the facilitator. Annise Parker outstandingly moderated the meeting. Annise said she did not want to hear anything about heat or rain or personal responses to what someone just said. All comments would be addressed to the floor. Lastly, the parade date would be a permanent decision that we would have to live with for years to come.

The restrictions on parades by city ordinance are a Sunday parade has to occur between 1:00pm and 7:00pm. No night parades are permitted in Houston. A Saturday parade can be scheduled in the morning. The parade has to be over in two hours. Since the Pride Committee has a reputation for an orderly and well organized parade, the city now provides the permit at no cost. In the early history of the pride parade, the city was not so cooperative. The Pride Committee buys two hours of commercial liability insurance for the parade. This year, 1995, was the first year that the parade paid for itself in entry fees totaling slightly over \$6,000.

A vote was taken at the beginning of the forum simply on the question of "Do we move the parade date? Yes or No". There was a majority in favor of moving the parade date. At the end of the forum, there was a smaller majority in favor, close to a tie. When all the issues were aired, it was difficult for each individual to be 100% in favor [I want to move the parade, BUT...] much less pin point a weekend that a solid majority could agree on, when it came down to the nitty gritty.

Dean Walrad, secretary for Pride Week '96, expressed his opinion in a letter to the Voice stating that a petition to change the parade date had been circulated about a month ago. "I think it is important that the community, and particularly those who signed this petition, know that whoever was responsible for starting this project (it was not the Pride Committee) and circulating the petitions for signatures failed to follow through and present them to the Pride Committee, or bring them to the community forum. The forum was well publicized over a three week period in at least ... two major publications." The Pride Week newsletter was mailed just prior to the forum. "I, as secretary called or faxed nearly every organization listed in the Pride Guide's Resource Guide three weeks and one week before the forum took place...In a city with probably the fourth or fifth largest gay/lesbian population in the country, 40-45 people participated."

Jack Valinski stated that the Pride Week was the premier event in the Southwest that last weekend in June. People plan their vacations around it. Dallas moved their parade so as not to compete with Houston's parade, not because of the weather.

To slightly digress, we think Houston is a hick town, but it is the 4th largest city. If memory serves, "The Harvey Milk Opera" was

produced in four cities: New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Houston. The Triangle had an announcement for a bus trip from Austin or Dallas to see the opera in Houston.

Ray Hill said that Stonewall began as an indoor event and should be celebrated indoors, with a parade in October (around the 11th) for National Coming Out Day.

Also, Halloween was already a parade for closeted people. Some conflicting events are Columbus Day parade and the Heights Festival. Also, the International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride committees holds an InterPride Conference on Columbus Day weekend for activists from over 125 cities in North America who organize pride events in their home towns. The Houston Pride Committee staff attends this conference.

There are major fundraisers in the community around Halloween such as Halloween Magic which benefits the Bering foundation. Another consideration is that June is off season for professional float builders and organizations get a discount that time of year. If floats were more expensive in the fall or spring, there might be fewer floats in the parade.

Rainbow De Klown wrote a letter to the Voice suggesting moving the parade to 10:30 in the morning on Stonewall Saturday. "The problem with the heat is the buildup our bodies receive during the two or more hours preparation before the afternoon parade. If the time was changed to the morning, preparation for the parade would be during the cooler part of the day."

"Before you shut me off and say what 'queen' is going to get up early Saturday morning? Well, I have been a part of the St. Patrick's Day parade in Houston for a dozen years, and the partying Irish have no problem getting up early in the morning for their parade"

The drawback of a Saturday parade on Westheimer with the street blocked off, is that it would cut into the business traffic for the plumbing store and other shops. Annise Parker is active with the Neartown Civic Association and said they already get complaints about the Westheimer Street Fair closing off the street. Many of the Saturday parades in Houston are downtown which is mostly closed down on Saturday. Also, many people work on Saturday.

It was suggested the committee explore the possibility of getting the city ordinance changed to allow a night parade. The cons are crowd control and the possibility of more people being inebriated by that time of the day. Someone mentioned shootings in New Orleans during the Mardi Gras parade.

Each year the Pride Week Executive Committee is reborn for that year's parade. Volunteers sign up to chair various committees. The Board of Directors provides a continuity and makes decisions that will affect more than one year's parade. For example, choosing a logo.

The decision to move the parade date will be voted on in a general meeting, on Tuesday, October 17. To be eligible to vote you must attend two consecutive general meetings. On October 17 only people who also attended the September 19 meeting will be eligible to vote. This point was stressed at the forum. Sue Cox

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What's A Banner District?

A Banner District is defined under city ordinance and requires a petition to city council, a public hearing, and an affirmative vote by council. The area to be so designated must be clearly defined. There must be an organization responsible for the costs and upkeep. The organization must get permission from Houston Lighting & Power (HL&P), which owns the light poles on which the banners are placed.

Once a district is designated, the group must pay for the making of the banners and for the brackets that hold the banners. The organization must pay HL&P for installing the banners and is responsible for making sure the banners stay in good repair, or for any damages caused by the banners falling off.

There are several banner districts in Houston, the largest being downtown. Most people are familiar with its seasonal displays, and the banners proclaiming the "Theater District."

Pride Week formally petitioned council for the creation of a banner district on lower Westheimer. Two other organizations with legitimate claims to an interest in such a district are the Neartown Association and the Museum District Business Alliance (MDBA). The three groups consulted (under my auspices) and signed a joint letter to council. The intent is that this will eventually be part of a larger banner district, coordinated by MDBA, which will usually have some kind of identifiable "Montrose" designation, but that Pride Week's distinctive pink triangles will always be up on Westheimer during the month of the event. (Pride Week is the lead group for this particular section of Westheimer.)

Contributed by Annise Parker

5 Minute Activist Please send your cards and letters to the Houston Chronicle in support of Pam Yip's wonderful article on "How to cope when a partner earns more" in the Sunday, September 24 edition. The mainstream press interviewed our community's favorite celebrity couple, Kathy Hubbard and Annise Parker as examples of the partners.

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HouTexXV annual Houston Tennis Club Tournament

November 10 - 12. Sign up by October 23

It's that time of the year again--the fall tennis season in Texas, and that means Houston Tennis Club's annual tournament: HouTex XV. This year's tournament, offering competition in men's and women's singles and doubles along with mixed doubles, will be held the weekend of November 10-12 at Memorial Park and Southwest Tennis Center in Houston. The deadline for entries is October 23rd, although entrants can get a \$10 discount if they enter by October 9th. This year we are again expecting entrants from all over the country as well as Canada, Australia, and Europe. Last year, we had nearly 40 women enter, and we hope to more than double that this year. In order to get more women to enter, for the first time we will be offering five draws for women, ranging from advanced to beginner. There are lots of perks like free T-shirts, free on-site breakfast, and parties for those who are interested in the social as well as the athletic attractions of gay and lesbian tennis. For additional information, call tournament co-director Kristin Anderson at (713) 526-7271 or sent E-mail to HOUTEX95@aol.com.

Women's Kiss Leads to Non-Discrimination Pledge

The Texas Triangle, September 22 edition, reports the controversy over a public display of affection by two lesbians at a Montrose restaurant has resulted in Houston's first-signed Pledge of Non Discrimination, according to Terri Richardson, president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

Pledges of non-discrimination, Richardson explained are part of HGLPC's Discrimination Free Zone Project, which held a press conference on Sunday, September 24, at **La Mexicana Food Market and Restaurant**, located at the corner of Montrose and Fairview.

The pledge, signed by restaurant owner Eduardo Trevino, states that "**La Mexicana Restaurant** hereby pledges that it will not practice or tolerate discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, in its employment decisions or in any relations with its customers or suppliers".

"We chose **La Mexicana** as the site for the press conference after the very positive meeting that HGLPC board member Dale Carpenter and I had with Mr. Trevino Monday night," Richardson said. "Mr. Trevino was very cooperative and understanding and anxious to resolve the issue. He was eager to sign the pledge, making the end result of this a very positive victory for the Caucus.

"This is just the beginning; we are starting with businesses in Montrose and moving out from there," Carpenter said of the Discrimination Free Zone Project. Carpenter said HGLPC Vice President Keith Stewart is coordinating the project.

Linda Morales, former lead plaintiff of the Texas Human Rights Foundation's Section 21.06 sodomy statute legal challenge, met with Trevino and several Montrose area Hispanic business owners about the incident, which involved two Hispanic women. "He was very cordial and explained that he was not opposed to people kissing in public," Morales said. "but that this particular behavior was just too much. I think this end result is a very positive."

Morales also said she had secured a commitment from Trevino to be more financially supportive of gay and lesbian community events.

Suzanne Anderson attended the press conference and reported on Lesbian & Gay Voices on KPFT 90.1 FM. She said the owner of **La Mexicana Food Market and Restaurant**, Eduardo Trevino, is an extraordinarily nice man. Suzanne heard on a local talk show an insulting and derogatory claim that Trevino was held hostage by the "Gay and Lesbian Political Gestapo Caucus" and that Trevino did not have command of the English language.

Special Houston Events!



Meet **Nicole Conn**, producer, director and author of *Claire of the Moon*, at a free reception and book-signing for her latest book **Passion's Shadow**
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Poet Nikkey Finney Reads at SHAPE Community Center *continued from Page 1*



Nikkey Finney

I want all the mango and motion
that I got coming to me
to be mine
I'll take the overtop
that came along with these thighs
I accept the overflow that accompany
these lumberjack breasts
I'm taking whatever's mine
you don't have to hold it out
just to keep me from
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Finney...reinstate(s) the concept of the poet as *grlot* - as priest; not void of subjectivity and a private self, but able to contain the voices of the community, and able to be virtually empowered with the gift to become the soul of the people.

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
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Mail correspondence to **Womynspace, P.O. Box 980601, Houston, TX 77098** or use the mail drop envelope at Inklings Bookshop in the bulletin board area behind the door.

Dance Steps for Partners RESOURCE GUIDE

This is a womyn-only ballroom dance class. A professional dance instructor teaches the art of ballroom dancing once a month in the Montrose area. This class welcomes beginners, especially ones with two left feet, to the world of waltz, swing and foxtrot. Contact Tracy's Retreat for details. 713-529-5330.

DAS KAFFEEHAUS is a new entertainment spot for young people to meet for fun, conversation, dancing and artistic expression such as musical performances, dance programs, comedy monologues, poetry readings, etc. Saturdays 7 pm-1 am, basement of Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, \$1 cover charge includes coffee and tea.



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- Alternative Broadcast Service [gay TV production facility] 522-5115
- 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 Gay & Les Engineers and Scientists [HAGLES] 480-2177
- Houston Area NOW 668-9008
- Houston Area Teenagers Coalition of Homosexuals [HATCH] 669-0452
- 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
- Mishpach 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 629-1432
- Movie Club 395-2126
- 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
- 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 Action Coalition Hotline: 867-9581
- 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
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The Group (Theater Workshop) Announces Opening, *SEX IS MY RELIGION*

Sex is My Religion, by Canadian playwright Colin Thomas, opens on Thursday, October 12th and will then play 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays thru November 9th, at Brasil Cafe-Art Space, 2604 Dunlavy at Westheimer. Nine Performances only. \$8.00, Reservations requested, limited seating. Call 522-2204. The one-act drama concerns an HIV positive young man and his born again Christian Mother, who perform opposite characters. The male actor, as the Mother, reveals to us her journey of redemption thru religion, and the female actor, as Jim relates his quest for identity thru sexual experiences. It is a poetic, poignant, piece of theater. Director Joe Watts is pleased to feature Tanya Lunstroth as the actress playing Jim, and Jonathan McVay as the actor playing Marge, his Mother. Ms. Lunstroth was seen several seasons back as Miss Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy* at Stages Repertory Theatre and Mr. McVay has worked this year with The Alley Theater.



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