



November, 1995

THE WAND

Vol. 12, No. 10

Womynspace Activities / Networking Directory

Inside: *Inklings Book Corner by Pokey*

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure in Concert

Followup: Authors Nicole Conn, Urvashi Vaid, Poet Nikky Finney and Activist Ann Northrup visited Houston last month

Marketing Seminar

L.i.B.

Speaker

Suzanne Anderson

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“MARKETING YOUR BUSINESS YOUR ORGANIZATION YOUR SELF”

Date: Nov. 17th

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Innova

20 Greenway Plaza



Audre Lorde
1934-1992

A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde

1995, 90 minutes, directed by Aida Gay Griffin and Michelle Parkerson
Houston premiere at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet: Saturday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 12, 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Internationally regarded as a significant contributor to the struggle for women's liberation, lesbian and gay rights, and civil rights, Audre Lorde (1934-92) won numerous awards for her prose and poetry written over five decades. A controversial and celebrated African-American writer, Lorde was born in New York City's Harlem to Caribbean immigrants and became an outspoken feminist throughout her fight against breast cancer. She was one of the first writers to publish volumes of poetry and essays regarding such topics as race, gender, sexual identity, and justice, winning the American Book Award in 1989 for *A Burst of Light*. From her activism in dynamic social movements to her inspiring and forceful workshops, Lorde's remarkable life is chronicled in this remarkable tribute. Local presentation of *A Litany for Survival* is sponsored by Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, Hazelwitch Productions, Inklings Bookshop, Lesbian Health Initiative, Lesbians in Business, Nia Gallery, the Houston chapter of National Black Women's Health Project, and Sisters of Houston. Winner of the Starbuck's Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 1995 San Francisco International Film Festival and presented at the 1995 Sundance Film Festival, *A Litany for Survival* explores the human potential of a woman with multiple social identities who also embodied many different strategies for survival and change. *Variety* comments that the film "exhibits the enchanting personality of an unusual woman considered in some circles a counterpart to Malcolm X." It weaves elements of poetry, archival footage, music, and interviews to resemble real-life conversations with an African pace. The narrative structure is based on interviews with Audre Lorde during the last years of her life and challenges the audience "to envision what has not yet been and work with every fiber of who we are to make the reality and pursuit of that vision irresistible."

HAVE YOU SEEN?



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Sub-GROUP FOR PRIDE COMMITTEE Meets Tuesday, Nov. 14 and 28
The group will research changing the Pride Parade date for Pride Week 1997. An action plan has been drafted to research a fall or spring date. Issues to be researched include (1) Legal - City of Houston; (2) Funding - beer companies (will money be available in the fall or spring?); (3) Community support; (4) Bar owners (will night parade detract from their business?); (5) Pride Week events and Fest (will organizations be able to produce events in the fall or spring?); (6) Commercial liability insurance for parade (will it cost more for night parade?); (7) Tourists; (8) Merchants (effects of blocking off Westheimer at a different time); (9) Security and (10) Related events. The group will recommend a date for a vote in the April 1996 general meeting, so that any changes for Pride Week 1997 can be publicized in the 1996 Pride Guide. The group meets at 6:30pm at 2700 Albany, Suite 304. Meeting dates for December are to be announced. For information, call the Pride Line at 529-6979. Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride Week 1996 will be in June with the parade starting at 5 pm.

The National Association for Music Therapy, Inc Presents

Chris Williamson & Tret Fure

A Benefit Concert, 9:00 pm Friday, November 17, 1995
The Westin Galleria Hotel, 5060 W. Alabama



\$20 General Admission, \$50 VIP available at Inklings 521-3369
For info about the concert or NAMT, please call 942-2212

Cris Williamson's professional career began at the age of 16, when she recorded her first album. Now she has 17 LPs to her credit and is known as one of the most successful artists in independent music today. She frequently lends her name, talent, time and support to numerous causes, including "Healing the Healers" — a retreat for caregivers of persons with AIDS.

Tret Fure started writing music at the age of 19 and by 1973 she recorded her first album, *Tret Fure*, for MCA records. Now, Fure has three more solo albums to her name and her engineering skills have enabled her to collaborate with Cris as an artist and producer.

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 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.

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, news 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 WEDNESDAY

Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

general meeting, 7:30 pm, 2700 Albany 304, FYI 713-521-1000

Lambda Rollerskating Club

gay rollerskating group, 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Dairy Ashford Rink, 1820 Dairy Ashford between Westheimer and Briar Forest, FYI 713-933-5818

Thursday, November 2

Texas Gay Veterans of Houston

A non-profit national organization dedicated to serving gay, lesbian and bisexual active, reserve and veteran service members, 7:30 pm, 2700 Albany 304, FYI 713522-4377

Lesbian and Gay Voices

scheduled topic is an interview with OutVote to discuss the upcoming election. Also included will be a segment each week of Womyn's music, reviews of gay and lesbian cultural events, news from This Way Out, 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm, KPFT 90.1 FM, FYI 713-866-6505, FAX 713-529-1223

Saturday, November 4

Human Rights Campaign Fund Black Tie Dinner

Annual fund raiser for HRCF and PFlag, \$150 per person, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Westin Galleria, FYI 713-785-8505 or 713-440-0353

Sunday, November 5

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbian & Gays

support group for parents, friends and families of gays and lesbians, and for gays and lesbians. Our mission includes community education and advocacy, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, St Francis Episcopal Church, 345 N Pitney Point Road, FYI 713-867-9020

The Women's Group

The Women's Group is a feminist group for all women; each woman defines feminism by her experience, 3:30 pm, Central Congregational Church, 1311 Holman. FYI Iris at 713-529-8571
— Sue Hamblin, Doctor of Chiropractic will speak.

Tuesday, November 7

Election Day

City elections, check local newspapers for polling places, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm,

Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week

executive meeting, open to public, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, 2700 Albany 304, FYI 713-529-6979 FAX 713-529-1223

An Evening with the Eleanors

A gala showstopper benefiting Omega House and honoring Eleanor Munger and Eleanor Tinsley at the Heights Theatre, Tickets \$75, 7:00 pm to 9:00pm, Heights Theatre, FYI 713-523-7110

Wednesday, November 8

Gay & Lesbian Hispanics Unidos (GLHU)

a social, cultural and educational organization created to motivate, educate and instill pride in all gay and lesbian Hispanics, their friends and supporters. GLHU was founded as Gay Chicano Caucus in 1978 and has grown from a social gathering to a diversified organization of artists, musicians, lawyers, accountants, TV-film specialists, administrators, mechanics, and much more, 7:00 pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, FYI 713-813-3769

8 WEDNESDAY (continued)

Women's Network-Juggling the Holidays with Family, Friends and Lovers - 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 and Lesbian Political Caucus

board meeting, 7:00 pm, 2700 Albany 304, FYI 713-521-1000.

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

9 THURSDAY

P-FLAG Raffle - Win a \$450 travel voucher from Uniglobe, or a one night stay at the Victorian Condos in Galveston and gift certificates from Inklings, Crossroads and Java Cafe. Call P-FLAG for details 867-9020. Winner will be announced on Lesbian and Gay Voices 90.1FM KPFT 9-11pm.

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.

10 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

HouTex XV - Tennis tournament sponsored by the Houston Tennis Club, 8am - 6pm. FYI 713-868-5039. Through Sunday Nov. 12.

11 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.

Film: A Litany for Survival: The life and Work of Audre Lorde, The Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 7:30pm. \$5 general public, \$4 MFA members, seniors, students with I.D. Matinee prices: \$4/\$3. Tickets go on sale 30 minutes prior to each film.

12 SUNDAY

Film: A Litany for Survival: The life and Work of Audre Lorde, The Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 2:00pm and 7:00pm. See Saturday, Nov 11 for ticket prices.

The Women's Group "Difficult Dialogues": Moving toward global new directions. The Women's Group meets every Sunday, 3:30 pm at the Central Congregational Church on Holman between Austin & Caroline. For more information, call Iris at 529-8571.

Sisters (for African-American women, meets every second Sunday) Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond 5-8 pm. 446-4115

13 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.

14 TUESDAY

Authors Lucille Clifton and Norman Nanea at the Museum of Fine Arts, 8 p.m. Margaret Root Brown Houston Reading Series. Creative Writing Program, Department of English, University of Houston. 743-3015 or 743-3013.

A Tuna Benefit - Joe Sears and Jason Williams of Greater Tuna and A Tuna Christmas will perform an evening of improvisation benefiting the NAMES project, \$20, Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto, FYI 713-526-2637.

Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week fact finding committee to research moving the parade date meets at 6:30pm at 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 529-6979.

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.

15 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.

16 THURSDAY

NOW Lecture Series: Interfaith Ministries, 3217 Montrose at Lovett. Fighting for Fairness II: Issues Facing Women in Higher Education. *The Chilly Climate on Campus* Patty Bass, Ph.D. *Psychosocial Challenges of College Women* - Lindley Doran, Ph.D. Director, Rice Counseling Center. *Date Rape Prevention* Cynthia Lanier, Dr. P.H., Director of Health Education, Rice U. *Equity in College Athletics* Eva J. Lee, Ed. D., Professor Department of Human Performance & Health Sciences, Rice University. 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.

Lesbian & Gay Voices 90.1 KPFT FM 9-11pm gay home pages on the Internet and gay magazines

17 FRIDAY

LiB (Lesbians in Business), a woman's empowerment group, Networking 6:00-6:30pm. Program/speaker begins at 6:30pm. Suzanne Anderson, past president of LiB will present "How to Market Yourself, Your Organization and Your Business". 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.

Artist Appearance at Inklings Bookshop 1-2pm. Meet **Cris Williamson & Tret Fure**, 1846 Richmond. Cris has released 17 albums/CDs beginning with "The Changer and The Changed", a best seller in women's music. Tret Fure has 3 solo albums and collaborates with Cris as a musician and producer. 521-3369.

Cris Williamson & Tret Fure - A Benefit Concert 9pm at The Westin Galleria Hotel, Gallarea Ballroom, 5060 West Alabama. \$20 General Admission, \$50 VIP (includes reception and concert) Tickets available exclusively at Inklings 521-3369. FYI concert or The National Association for Music Therapy, Inc 942-2212

Position wanted: Secretarial

Excellent secretary with 3 years experience in the Houston Market. Proficient in many different software packages including Word for Windows, WordPerfect, Peachtree, and Lotus. Have held executive secretarial position with duties including A/R, A/P, G/L and usual general office skills. Seeking employment inside the loop. Please call Debbie at 894-4530.

Dr. Scurria Moves

Our favorite family physician and long-time supporter of the Wand and Womynspace, Dr. Sandra Scurria, has moved her offices from 7800 Fannin to Suite 175 in the Plaza Medical Center professional building at 1200 Binz Street. The move was effective October 23.

Dr. Scurria's new phone number is 520-6016. Office hours will continue to be 9AM to 5PM Monday through Friday.

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18 SATURDAY

Alpha to Omega 5K Run The first annual Alpha to Omega 5K run, skate, walk, wheelchair, benefiting Omega House, FYI 713-524-6662 for entry form.

19 SUNDAY

The Women's Group "Moving Towards Healthier Relationships" Dr. Mary Pratt. Bu increasing awareness of our unconscious patters that are self/ relationship destructive. The Women's Group meets every Sunday, 3:30 pm at the Central Congregational Church on Holman between Austin & Caroline. For more information, call Iris at 529-8571.

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. Tickets are \$20 and available at the door. Rich's is at 2401 San Jacinto. 639-5910.

20 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.

21 TUESDAY

Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week general meeting at 6:30pm at 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 529-6979.

22 WEDNESDAY

Women's Network - NO Meeting on the 4th Wednesday in November and December. 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.

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Tracy's Retreat
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23 THURSDAY

24 FRIDAY

25 SATURDAY

Montrose Ice Picks at new outdoor ice skating rink downtown. 629-1432

26 SUNDAY

The Women's Group - May be back at 5200 Fannin at 11:30am. Open discussion and 5:30 movie and dinner. 529-8571

27 MONDAY

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

28 TUESDAY

Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week fact finding committee to research moving the parade date meets at 6:30pm at 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 529-6979.

29 WEDNESDAY

Buyers' Seminar - Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer. Information needed to prepare / purchase a home. Learn about buyer representation. FYI 529-8484.

30 THURSDAY

Sellers' Seminar - Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer. Information needed to prepare your home to sell, finding an agent and pricing to sell. FYI 529-8484.

**December 1
World AIDS Day**

Inklings Book Corner

A nice crop of new books will make their debut at various times throughout October. Here are a few:

Starting off with humor, we anxiously await Alison Bechdel's sixth sordid cartoon collection, chronicling the lives of lesbians we've come to know, well . . . intimately. This one's entitled *Unnatural Dykes to Watch Out For* (\$10.95), and you'll especially love the retro cover, harkening back to the days of the 50's trashy lesbian novels.

Also, the third romp in the Nancy Clue/Cherry Aimless series is due in shortly, *Nancy Clue/Cherry Aimless and the Hardly Boys in a Ghost in the Closet* (\$10.95). Mabel Maney has put together a completely hilarious send-off of the old Nancy Drew mysteries, combining perky outfits and hairdos with 90's lesbian sex. These have been a big hit with our readers.

The serious book of the season may well be *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation*, by Urvashi Vaid (rhymes with "plaid") (\$24.95). Urvashi headed up the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force for some years (after I was a board member); she is one of the most articulate, intelligent speakers I have ever heard. She's been working on the book for several years, and I have high hopes for it. (In the front of the book, she thanks her lover Kate Clinton, "for her kind spirit, her wit, and her endless patience.")

From Wedded Wife to Lesbian Life (\$14.95) is a revealing collection of personal stories by women who left marriages and came out, including JoAnn Loulan and Margarethe Cammermeyer. This joins the book already out on the topic, *And Then I Met This Woman*.

A most intriguing-sounding new novel is *When Fox is a Thousand*, written by Larissa Lai (\$14.95). Lai, an Asian-American writer, won the 1995 Emerging Writers Award from Astraea for this book, which is about a fox traveling through time, from a 9th century Chinese poet/nun to 1990's lesbian living in Vancouver.

And, to balance our books on butch and gender bending, we now have Leslea Newman's *Femme Mystique* (\$11.95). This includes writings by femmes, former femmes, femme wanna-bes, femme admirers, and femme fatales.

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Poet Nikki Finney

Ms. Finney read her poetry at the SHAPE community center last month. She is the author of *Rice* and *On Wings of Gauze*.

"I remember the years that particularly formed the prevailing voice found in *Rice*. I'll never forget watching while one after the other strong Black voice rose up alone or collectively to take on the voices of many. I knew what courage was before I understood the word itself. It lived where I lived. It sat at the Sunday table with me week after week. It waved to me from the porch as I walked to school everyday. I knew pride and perseverance and always, always my feet were sewn to the land, the soil that my great grandfather and granduncles had purchased at one of many Emancipation auctions in the late 1800's. The purchase of this ground, I am told, specifically planned so they would never have to work for any white man ever again. This knowledge and understanding of who I am and what I come from is a constant theme in *Rice*. The stories and faces of people who make a sweet way out of no way threads my work. I feel the need to illuminate these lives in a million different ways, specifically for the coming-up generation, whom I believe needs to hear from all of us. I want to write and remind anybody whose heart is still beating of our glory."



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Suzanne Anderson Presents "How to Market Your Self, Organization and Business" November 17 LiB Meeting

Since 1977, Suzanne Anderson has been involved in real estate, focusing her business to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered customers. Suzanne has been active in HATCH and was profiled as a facilitator, organizer and role model in an HBO special on gay and lesbian teenagers. Through her membership in local, state and national organizations, Suzanne is committed to the empowerment of our community. Present and past affiliations include:

- Co-founder and past President of L.I.B. (Lesbians in Business) Woman's Empowerment Group
- On-air interviewer and programmer for KPFT's Lesbian and Gay radio program
- Vice President, Montrose Activity Center
- Board of Directors, Houston Gay Men's Chorus
- Texas Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby
- National Lesbian and Gay Task Force
- Human Rights Campaign Fund
- National Organization of Women
- Women's Action Coalition
- Roseland Homeowner's Association
- Houston Board of Realtors

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON

We welcome new volunteers all year long. If you would like to help us in any way, please feel free to call us at 529-6979.

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- Michael Yarbrough City Council District B
- Jew Don Boney City Council District D
- Felix Fraga City Council District H
- John Castillo City Council District I
- Chris Bell City Council At-Large Pos. 3
- Judson Robinson City Council At-Large Pos. 5
- Arthur Gaines HISD Board Position 4

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Urvashi Vaid: A Woman of Power



Urvashi Vaid — a name that politically active lesbians have heard over the years. Urvashi Vaid — the politically aware woman who most publicly challenged President Bush's position on AIDS funding, who makes speeches all over the country, who is the Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, one of the premier gay and lesbian political/educational organizations in the country and yes, the woman who is currently in a relationship with lesbian comedienne Kate Clinton (which Kate was quick to point out at a winter performance in Washington, D.C.).

But, as Urvashi herself says, "People assume that you sprang full-grown." Of course, to state the obvious, she didn't. Parts of her background almost read like a bad lesbian novel; parts are unique. She is 32 years old, was born in New Delhi, India, and has two older sisters. Her family moved to the states when Urvashi was 8 years old. "Both my parents were teachers in India; my mother taught in the high school, my father taught in the university and he got a job in the State University of New York at Potsdam, and that's where I grew up. Small town, upstate NY; I very much identify as a New Yorker," she laughs. "I think I'm very assimilated. I had to go through all that stuff that a lot of immigrant children go through, about assimilation, and which culture do you belong to, because my family was and still is very very Indian-identified. In fact, my parents now have moved back to New Delhi, and that's where they live now my father is retired. They're both writers and that's what their passion is. My father writes novels and short stories and my mother writes poetry. I wouldn't say they're commercial successes" she says laughing. "They don't make money on it, but my father's published 25 books, both here and [in India]. He mostly writes in Hindi and then translates some of his own stuff into English, so some novels have been published in English. And he's done a lot of translations of other writers into Hindi. He translated Beckett, which is really neat — *Waiting for Godot* in Hindi. I actually saw it in New Delhi when I was there one summer — a production of his translation of Beckett!"

Her family background was very focused on education. Her parents came to this country because of educational opportunities. "They changed their class background through education from being very poor village people, putting themselves through school and working all the time, and teaching. They made a very different life for themselves than their parents had. And they instilled in me the real value of education. I grew up in this kind of intellectual house where I read, I was encouraged to read, encouraged to think, encouraged to have opinions.

"I think that my family was much like any traditional conservative family around their upbringing of girls. We weren't allowed to date. I think we knew what sex was, but we didn't talk about it with my parents. Homosexuality was not ever mentioned. It wasn't negatively mentioned; it wasn't even brought up in a conversation. The assumption was, you're going to grow up, you're going to have a career, you're going to get a good education, and you're going to find a man and you're going to get married and you're going to have kids. And work. That was it. I wasn't raised in a household which said my mission in life was to serve a man. I was raised in a household that said I should be independent and strong as a woman, but part of being a woman is having a marriage with a man and having children. Even today my mother doesn't accept my lesbianism. She still says that 'I pray to God that you come to your senses.' My father is much more accepting. I think she has a real hard time with it because of her religious background. In the Hindu tradition there really is no such thing as a *single* person, much less a gay person. In some ways, it's a pro-sex tradition, Hinduism. There's the *kamasutra*. There's not a negation of sex and sexuality, but

Urvashi Vaid is the author of *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation*. This excerpt is from an article, written by Susan T. Chasin, in the magazine, "Visibilities" Volume 5, Number 5 September/October 1991. A letter sent to "Visibilities" in 1992 was returned with no forwarding address.

it's channeled into marriage, and that's where the ultimate expression of sexual ecstasy is allowed and encouraged. You're there to please each other, but there are real strong taboos against homosexuality and *being single*," she laughs.

One of the things one notices when having an extended conversation with Urvashi is her sense of humor and her wonderful laughter. Not that she doesn't take her job or life seriously, for she clearly does; but that she knows what matters. And apparently, for her, keeping things in perspective is very important. Her conversation is laced with laughter and her smile literally lights up her face.

Politics seems to have followed her throughout her life; she laughs as she remembers her first stab at being political. "I think I gave my first speech when I was 11 at a school function; [I] gave a pro-McGovern speech. The anti-war stuff was happening, and I was so little, but I would get dragged along either by my sisters or my parents' friends, because it was a small college town and it was swept up with the anti-war movement. I've always been aware and identified politically. We used to argue all the time about politics. One of my earliest memories as a kid was watching the [political] conventions. I thought they were *so fascinating*," she says in awe. "[I was] reading newspapers when I was nine, poring over them, just to figure it out. So at college it was like an incredible opportunity to organize. I never knew how to organize until I got there and met some people who had been doing it. My first group was the 'November 12th Student Faculty Coalition' formed on November 12, 1975," she remembers with glee. "It was about the fact that the college was cutting back on financial aid, which I took very personally since that was the reason I was there, and it was firing junior faculty and going through this big budget crisis. It was the recession and they were raising their fees, saying everything had to be trimmed back and so we did a demo. Three other friends and I wrote our first leaflet on the budget cutbacks. We didn't know that in Poughkeepsie, NY, there must have been printing presses or something, because we drove down to Community Press in NYC because the only thing they wanted for payment for the leaflet was toilet paper to clean the presses," she relates as she howls with laughter, "so we loaded up on toilet paper from the dorms, went down, printed up these leaflets, brought them back, and had a demonstration and sit-in at the admissions office."

College was clearly a politically-growing time for Urvashi. She finished high school early, and was 16 when she began at Vassar. She was not "out" yet; as she says, "I was, I would say, pre-sexual. [But] when I read *The Dialectic of Sex* it changed my life. The early books absolutely floored me. And then I started reading the journals — *Radical Woman*, *Redstockings*, *The Furies* and the various underground publications that were alive in the 70s. '75, '76 sort of was my moment of discovery of the women's movement. I knew it was there before then, but I never really read about it until I got to college and got involved with what was then called the Women's Center. That was when I first met lesbians. Mostly they were CR-type meetings where there would be a topic and we'd talk about it, or a speaker or writer reading something, and my friends wouldn't go to it because they didn't want to be labeled "lesbian"; [they believed] everyone who went to those meetings was lesbian. It's the classic label that has been attached to every woman who is pro-woman — you're a dyke — and it's been used to keep women away from the feminist movement and to label the feminist movement as anti-male, when it's not. That's the last thing on our minds," she laughs, "as Kate [Clinton] says, 'As if we have time to hate men!' We're talking about economic reality and violence against women and major problems and control of our reproductive lives — what does that have to do with anti-male? But anyway, that was a big issue at that time, and still is an undercurrent today. That label of dyke. So that kept me away for a little while, and then I just went, because I made friends with some women who were in the group already and they said, 'just come.' And when I got there it was straight women and lesbians. It was very interesting."

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.



Activist Donna Redwing Ailing

PORTLAND, Ore. — Rights activist Donna Redwing collapsed during a gay rights workshop she was conducting in Indianapolis on September 30. She has been diagnosed with operable brain tumors. Redwing, who was a leading organizer who helped work against passage of an anti-gay ballot initiative in Oregon in 1992 and other civil rights programs, said "the initial episode was very frightening" but added that her doctors "are confident of a quick recovery" following brain surgery. Redwing currently handles fieldwork for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

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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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.

TLC Becomes Inc.

The Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC) received its incorporation papers earlier this year and has just been notified of receiving its 501(c)(3) status.

As TLC, Inc., the Board of Directors consists of Torrie Justus, Houston, Board Facilitator; Susan Turell, Houston, Treasurer & Board Meeting Implementer; Peggy J. Herring & Frankie J. Jones, San Antonio, Secretary; Carol Hagler, Waco, Herstorian; CeCe Shelmon, Dallas, Host City Liaison; and one at large position from Corpus Christi.

There are currently six at-large positions open for representatives from other areas in the State, at least three of which must be filled by women of color. The Board firmly believes that geographical as well as ethnic diversity is important, and it is currently seeking lesbians to serve who are from, but not limited to, areas such as Laredo, Del Rio, El Paso, Lubbock, Amarillo, or Texarkana.

TLC '96 will be held in Dallas May 3-5, 1996. Anyone wishing further information on TLC '96 or TLC, Inc., can write to TLC '96, PO Box 191069, Dallas, TX 75219.

RESOURCE GUIDE

- Agora [Les/Gay community media liaison] 729-4267
- 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
- Mishpachah 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
- WAND (Womynspace Activity Networking Directory) 664-9215

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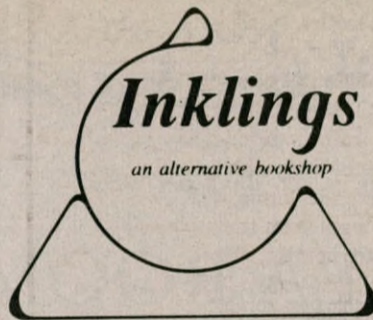
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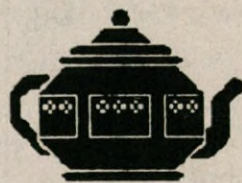
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