



*Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender: Your quality of life matters.*

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	<h2>EVENTS ON THE HORIZON</h2>	
<p><b>Counseling &amp; Treatment</b></p> <p><a href="#">LIFE Counseling</a>  <a href="#">HIV/AIDS Counseling</a>  <a href="#">Chemical Dependency</a>  <a href="#">Anti-Violence</a></p> <p><b>Other Services</b></p> <p><a href="#">Case Management</a>  <a href="#">Education</a>  <a href="#">Risk Reduction/Outreach</a>  <a href="#">SPRY Program</a>  <a href="#">HATCH</a>  <a href="#">Switchboard</a>  <a href="#">About Us</a></p> 	<h3>Calling all Gay Straight Alliance Youth Leaders -- HATCH hosts Coastal Regional Meeting</h3> <p>HATCH is very excited to be hosting the Texas Gay Straight Alliance Network Coastal Regional Meeting in May. If you're in a GSA and wonder what other groups are doing, or what other schools have GSAs, come join us. The Texas Gay Straight Alliance is a statewide program which united school-based GSA student clubs with one another. Through peer support, leadership development and training, Texas GSA Network supports young people in starting, strengthening, and sustaining GSAs and builds their capacity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create safe environments in schools for students to support each other and learn about homophobia and other oppressions;</li> <li>• educate their school community about homophobia, gender identity and sexual orientation issues, and</li> <li>• fight discrimination, harassment, and violence in schools.</li> </ul> <p>Some of the items on the agenda include introducing the Texas GSA Network's Mission and Goals, sharing a statewide GSA Network model, discussing Texas Regional Youth Councils, and coordinating an activist camp later this year.</p> <p>The <b>Texas GSA Network Coastal Regional Meeting will be held from 1 - 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, at Montrose Counseling Center.</b> For a map of the location, please click <a href="#">here</a>. Youth leaders from Houston, Galveston, Pasadena, Beaumont, Sugar Land, Bryan, Victoria and the surrounding areas are welcome to attend. You do not have to active in a GSA to attend.</p> <h3>Get Your Car Washed, Support HATCH</h3>  <p>The Houston Area Bears are holding a <b>Car Wash at Tony's Corner Pocket on Saturday, May 3, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.</b> to raise money for HATCH. Later in the day, HATCH is the beneficiary of the Bear / Bear auction at the Beary Beary Happy Birthday bash, featuring Imperial Princess XXIV Lillian Devereaux at Tony's Corner Pocket at 7 p.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Houston Area Bears</a> is a social organization for Bears in the Houston-Galveston, Texas</p>	 <p><b>What's New?</b></p> <p><a href="#">Job Openings</a>  <a href="#">Check out our New Website!</a>  <small>(Designed by Becky Holmes, CIWA)</small></p>  <p><a href="#">Subscribe to the MCC Newsletter Today!</a></p> <p><b>Did you know?</b>      Seeking mental health care is not a sign of weakness. May is Mental Health Awareness Month! Take good care of your body and your mind.</p>

metropolitan area. The organization was formed to promote friendship, fellowship, and social or recreational activities among like-minded individuals.

Although primarily a social group, Houston Area Bears participate in charitable and humanitarian events that support the GLBT community and its interests.

## **Just a Reminder -- There's Still Time to Sign-up Switchboard Training Coming Up**

We are accepting applications for the next Gay & Lesbian Switchboard training coming up in May. Because the training encompasses three consecutive weekends, we are only able to hold the trainings a couple times a year. The next training will be held on May 3-4, May 10, and May 17-18. Volunteers must go through the entire training, and we strongly recommend that it be done in person, however if you have a conflict for some of the sessions, some of it may be made up by watching videotapes and reading the manual. The trainings held on May 17-18 are mandatory, as they include crisis intervention and role playing. Being a Switchboard Volunteer is a challenging and rewarding experience! You'll receive gratification that comes from helping callers in need, as well as giving back to your community. Contact us now to join the ranks of our amazing volunteers.



Volunteers assist callers requesting help or information on:

- Referrals to GLBT Organizations & GLBT Friendly Businesses
- Coming Out Issues
- Suicide Prevention
- Sexual Assault
- Domestic Partner Abuse/Violence
- Hate Crimes
- HIV Counseling/Case Management
- Chemical Dependency Treatment
- General Therapy Referrals

Print out a [Program Volunteer Application Form](#) (pdf), fill it out and either mail it back to us at the address above, or fax it to 713.526.4367.

## **Vagina Monologues**

Theatre New West takes great pride in presenting Eve Ensler's **The Vagina Monologues** at Montrose Counseling Center, 401 Branard St., 1st Floor, May 9 - 31. In a unique twist and in celebration of the 10th anniversary of this theatrical phenomenon, the production will be performed by members of Houston's transgender community. Tickets are \$20 and may be reserved by calling 713.522.2204.



**The Vagina Monologues** is a poignant and hilarious tour of the last frontier, the ultimate forbidden zone, it is a celebration of female sexuality in all its complexity and mystery. Hailed as the bible for a new generation of women, it has been performed in cities all across the world and at hundreds of college campuses, and has inspired a dynamic grassroots movement -- V Day -- to stop violence against women.

Witty and irreverent, compassionate and wise, Eve Ensler's Obie Award-winning masterpiece gives voice to real women's deepest fantasies and fears, guaranteeing that no one who sees it will ever look at a women's body, or think of sex, in quite the same way again.

Director Joe Watts watched a documentary of a Los Angeles production of the show with an entire male-to-female transgender cast, and decided he'd like to do something similar, however he decided the Houston cast for **The Vagina Monologues** would not be as limited, opening the auditions up to both female-to-male and male-to-female transgender performers, as well as drag queens. "My intent is in no way meant to sensationalize the transgender community, but to give them a voice, one of better understanding, acceptance, dignity, clarity and beauty."

A preview performance will be held on Thursday, May 8 as a fundraiser for Montrose Counseling Center. Curtain time is 8 p.m., and tickets will be \$35 for the benefit performance. In order to reserve your tickets for the benefit performance, you may pay online through the [Network for Good](#) website and designate your donation for **The Vagina Monologues**.

## ActOUT at the Alley Theatre



On May 8, Montrose Counseling Center's SPRY program is thrilled to be chosen as a community partner for the ActOUT performance of the **The Gershwins' An American in Paris** World Premiere at the Alley Theatre.

The wild and hilarious new musical comedy **The Gershwins' An American in Paris** *Crazy For You* – this new American musical tells the story of Michel Gerard, the greatest music hall singer in Paris. When Michel fails to turn up at Monumental Pictures' Paris studio for the filming of a new musical, Studio Head Louis Goldman sends his practical, no-nonsense secretary, Rebecca Klemm, to find the missing star – and when the legendary Parisian crosses swords with the indomitable American, nothing short of fireworks ensue. Don't miss this blissful prequel to the famous movie, featuring some of the best-loved songs written by George and Ira Gershwin including: “*S Wonderful*,” “*They All Laughed*,” “*Stairway to Paradise*” and many more.

Before the performance, attend a pre-curtain event with complimentary hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages. At 7:30, head downstairs to the performance. The ActOUT event is FREE with your ticket to the May 8 performance. Use the promo code: ActOUT when you purchase your tickets [online](#) or call the box office at 713.220.5700, then enter 1.



Montrose Counseling Center has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™. If you have concerns about client safety or quality of care at Montrose Counseling Center, you may report these concerns to the Commission at: One Renaissance Blvd.; Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 or at <http://www.jointcommission.org/>



takes us on a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the legendary movie-musical. Reuniting Ken Ludwig, George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin – the team behind the Broadway smash

## SPRY Socials

Ever since Montrose Counseling Center launched the SPRY (Seniors Preparing for Rainbow Years) program, we've heard that many would like to participate in organized events for GLBT seniors. The first social will be the May 8 ActOUT performance of **The Gershwins' An American in Paris**. Later this month, the SPRY Social Group will attend the Bayou City Women's Chorus presentation of **ECHOES of WOMEN** at Bering United Methodist Church. If you would like to join us, or would like more information, please contact Ben Morgan at 713.529.0037 x350 or Delma Cummings at 713.529.0037 x363.



Mark your calendar for upcoming events...

June 1 excursion to the **Museum of Fine Arts Houston**, admission is free

June 21 Gay Men's Chorus performance of **Echoes of the Voyage** at Jones Hall

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