



The Gab

Let's Gab About Dallas

October 2023

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The Myth of the "Gay House": Exploring the Fascinating Stories Behind Unique Homes

Gal Pal of the Month Patty Collins

Meet Harriet Shaw: Dallas Icon, Urban Pioneer, and MLS Trailblazer



Plus

MEET BETH & JESSIE: A Heartwarming Journey of Love, Community & Family

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BETH AND JESSIE

A Heartwarming Story

OF LOVE, COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

INTRODUCTION

In the bustling Uptown area of Dallas in the early 2000s, there was a place that held a special charm for everyone who ventured through its doors – Texas Land and Cattle on Cole Avenue. At the heart of this popular establishment was a woman named Beth, a remarkable manager who left an indelible mark on the lives of countless patrons. This is the story of Beth, her journey from Uptown Dallas to a quaint town in Celina, Texas, and the loving family she shares her life with, including her wife Jessica and their adoring son.

AN UPTOWN GEM: BETH'S EARLY DAYS AT TEXAS LAND AND CATTLE

Beth was more than just a manager at Texas Land and Cattle; she was the soul of the restaurant. Her warm and welcoming personality drew people in like a magnet. Every weekend, the place was abuzz with eager patrons, not just for the delectable steak and ribs but also to experience Beth's unparalleled hospitality.

She had a knack for making everyone feel like they were family. Whether it was a regular customer or a first-time visitor, Beth greeted them with a genuine smile, making them feel right at home. Her dedication to her customers went beyond providing excellent service; she built relationships, creating a loyal following.

But Beth's commitment to the community extended

far beyond the walls of the restaurant. She was actively involved in various LGBTQ community organizations, dedicating her time and energy to make Dallas a better place for everyone. On her days off, when she wasn't tirelessly working at Texas Land and Cattle, she would visit her beautiful family near College Station, cherishing every moment spent together.



HOME SWEET HOME: BETH'S LIFE IN BRYAN'S PLACE

In the midst of her busy life in Uptown Dallas, Beth found her oasis in Bryan's Place, a charming three-story townhouse. This became more than just a residence; it was a place where Beth truly belonged. She integrated seamlessly into the community, becoming a valued member who gave back in numerous ways.

One of her notable contributions was her work with Texas Land and Cattle in organizing events with food pantries throughout Dallas. Together with her colleagues, they prepared food baskets for the less fortunate, forging a meaningful partnership with the Cathedral of Hope Church. Beth's compassion and dedication to community service left an indelible impact on the lives of many.

THE ENCHANTING PRESENT: BETH, JESSIE AND THEIR SON'S JOURNEY IN CELINA

Fast forward to the present day, and Beth's life has taken on a new, enchanting chapter. She now resides in Celina, Texas, with her beloved wife, Jessie. Together, they have created a haven of love and artistry within their beautiful home. Their son, an avid reader and sports-loving soul, fills their lives with joy and wonder.

The decision to move to Celina was not just about finding a place to live; it was about creating a life that embraced their values. They were drawn to Celina by its exceptional school system, which they believed would provide their son with the best opportunities for growth and learning. Celina, a town with a small downtown area and a charming country feel, captured their hearts from the moment they arrived. They found themselves welcomed warmly by the tight-knit community and embraced the peace and tranquility that the town offered. The diverse architecture of the homes in Celina allowed them to choose a residence that resonated with their unique tastes.

A SON'S ADVENTURES IN CELINA

Their son, a hilarious nine year old and the heart of their family, is a bundle of energy and curiosity. He has a deep passion for sports of all kinds, spending countless hours honing his skills on the local fields and courts. His creative spirit is nurtured by the beautiful artwork that adorns their home, many of which are his own creations.

One of his favorite pastimes is visiting the zoo, where he can marvel at the wonders of the animal kingdom. But perhaps his ultimate joy is indulging in mint chocolate chip ice cream – a sweet treat that never fails to bring a smile to his face. He enjoys outings to the beach, refreshing swims in the pool, and the



exhilaration of bouncing on their trampoline. Jump Zone is a cherished destination that guarantees hours of laughter and fun.


As Halloween approaches, their son eagerly anticipates the festivities, though he's yet to decide on the perfect costume. Regardless of his choice, it's clear that the love and support of his two moms will make it a memorable celebration.

THE LOVE THAT BINDS THEM TOGETHER

Beth and Jessie's journey from Uptown Dallas to Celina, Texas, is not just a geographic transition; it's a testament to the enduring power of love, community, and family. Through their shared experiences, they have built a life that reflects their values, passions, and the importance of giving back.

Beth's warm and welcoming nature, which once graced the doors of Texas Land and Cattle, now fills their home in Celina with love and laughter. Her commitment to community service has evolved into a family ethos of kindness, generosity, and inclusion.

Jessie, a kind and nurturing presence, complements Beth perfectly. Jessie is one of six children. Together, they have cultivated a home where their son can thrive, explore his interests, and experience the world's wonders with two strong and loving role models by his side. Jessie, a brave soul, is the president of their HOA in Celina.

In Celina, they have discovered not just a place to live, but a place to truly call home. The town's warmth and the support of their neighbors have made their journey all the more special. As they continue to build their life together in Celina, Beth, Jessie, and their son exemplify the beauty of family, the power of community, and the enduring bonds of love. Their story is a testament to the transformative power of acceptance, compassion, and the pursuit of happiness in its truest form! 

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WHERE THE BOYS ARE *And The Girls Too*

As seen in "The Gab" September 2023 Issue

THE URBAN PIONEERS OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY IN DALLAS

In the heart of Texas, a vibrant and stylish community is leaving its mark on the real estate landscape of Dallas. The LGBT community, known for its unique sense of style and a knack for transforming spaces into welcoming havens, is taking the city's housing market by storm. From the established neighborhoods to the up-and-coming districts, these urban pioneers are reshaping the concept of home ownership and leaving their unmistakable mark.

OAK LAWN AND OAK CLIFF: A TALE OF DIVERSITY AND ACCEPTANCE

When it comes to the LGBT community's homebuying preferences, two neighborhoods in Dallas stand out: Oak Lawn and Oak Cliff. Ask anyone familiar with the city's pulse, and these names are likely to be mentioned in the same breath. Oak Lawn, often dubbed the heart of Dallas's gay community, has been a historic haven for LGBT residents. Its charming streets, lined with diverse architecture and a welcoming atmosphere, have attracted a significant proportion of the community.

According to the 2022 census, Oak Lawn continues to be a hub for LGBT households, with over 77% identifying as such. While this number is slightly lower than the 2021 figure of 83%, it still underscores the neighborhood's enduring appeal. Oak Cliff, on the other hand, boasts 39% gay households, making it another destination of choice for the community. Within these neighborhoods, several areas have become particularly popular among LGBT residents. Beckley Club, Stevens Park, Kessler Park, Kiest Park, Winnetka Heights, Wynnewood

Village, Oak Park, Kidd Springs, and Beckley Club have all carved out spaces that reflect the community's aesthetic sensibilities and its dedication to maintaining their homes with style and care.

DIVERSE ZIP CODES AND EMERGING HOTSPOTS

Beyond Oak Lawn and Oak Cliff, the Dallas LGBT community is establishing its presence in various zip codes, each with its unique character and potential. One notable area is 75229, where approximately 33% of households identify as gay. This zone encompasses charming subdivisions like Midway Hollow and the Disney Streets, which have garnered attention for their architectural character and welcoming community atmosphere. In 75227, near White Rock Lake, another zip code is making waves in the LGBT homebuyer scene. Despite its



surprising location, 75227 is home to communities like Buckner Terrace, The Enclave at Grove Hill, and the promising Tennison Village area. The 2022 census indicates that around 27% of households here are part of the LGBT community.

MAPPING THE HEART: OAK LAWN'S ENDURING ALLURE

Oak Lawn remains the epicenter of the LGBT community in Dallas, and its significance is underscored by maps that highlight the strength of gay households during election years. While the LGBT community thrives in various pockets of Dallas, Oak Lawn's historical role in providing a safe and inclusive space has solidified its place in the hearts of the community members. Yet, as Oak Lawn evolves and available home sites dwindle, many LGBT homebuyers are exploring new construction options in other parts of the city. Simultaneously, there's growing interest in single-family homes located in different neighborhoods. This diversification of preferences speaks to the community's adaptability and its desire to make a home wherever it feels welcomed.

EMERGING TRENDS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

As Dallas continues to flourish and evolve, several emerging neighborhoods are piquing the interest of the LGBT community. The spotlight is turning toward areas like Midtown, Farmers Branch, Casa View, Piedmont, Parkdale, Royal Lane near Central Expressway, and Queen City. These districts are drawing attention for their potential, affordability, and the promise of becoming the next safe havens for the LGBT urban pioneers. In conclusion, Dallas is witnessing a captivating transformation in its real estate landscape, thanks to the dynamic presence of the LGBT community. With its penchant for style and commitment to maintaining beautiful homes, this community is reshaping the perception of homeownership in the city. From established neighborhoods like Oak Lawn and Oak Cliff to emerging districts, the LGBT community's impact is undeniable. As urban pioneers, they are leaving their indelible mark on the map of Dallas, turning houses into homes and neighborhoods into vibrant havens of diversity and acceptance. 🌟





HALLOWEEN

A Joyous Celebration of Diversity and Inclusivity

FOR LGBTQ+ FAMILIES

INTRODUCTION

Halloween, often referred to as “Gay Christmas” in LGBTQ+ communities, is a time of year that holds a special place in the hearts of many. It’s a celebration of self-expression, creativity, and community that resonates particularly strongly with LGBTQ+ families. In this article, we will explore the reasons why Halloween is cherished within the LGBTQ+ community and how it serves as a powerful platform for fostering inclusivity, embracing diversity, and spreading love and acceptance.

A CELEBRATION OF AUTHENTICITY

For LGBTQ+ individuals and families, Halloween offers a unique opportunity to express their authentic selves. Dressing up in costumes allows people to explore different facets of their identity, experiment with gender presentation, and celebrate their true selves without judgment. This sense of liberation and self-acceptance is a central aspect of the LGBTQ+ experience and is beautifully embodied in the spirit of Halloween.



CREATIVITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Halloween encourages boundless creativity, and LGBTQ+ families often excel in turning their costumes into works of art. Whether it’s crafting extravagant ensembles, paying homage to LGBTQ+ icons, or inventing entirely new characters, the LGBTQ+ community consistently raises the bar when it comes to costume innovation. This

showcases the unique talents and artistic flair within the community and fosters an environment where everyone’s creativity is celebrated.

A SAFE SPACE FOR EXPRESSION

In many parts of the world, LGBTQ+ individuals and families still face discrimination and prejudice. Halloween provides a safe space where LGBTQ+ people can express themselves openly and without fear. It's a night when love is celebrated over hate, and self-expression is celebrated over conformity.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY AND INCLUSIVITY

LGBTQ+ families often come together to celebrate Halloween with a sense of unity and belonging. Parties, parades, and neighborhood trick-or-treating events become spaces where LGBTQ+ families can connect with one another, form bonds, and create lasting memories. Halloween fosters a sense of community that transcends gender, sexual orientation, or any other differences, promoting a message of inclusivity and acceptance.

HONORING LGBTQ+ ICONS

Many LGBTQ+ individuals have made significant contributions to culture, art, and entertainment. Halloween provides a platform to pay homage to these icons, both historical and contemporary, by dressing up as them. From icons like Marsha P. Johnson to modern LGBTQ+ celebrities, these costumes are a celebration of resilience, creativity, and the trailblazing spirit of LGBTQ+ individuals.

TEACHING VALUES TO THE NEXT GENERATION

For LGBTQ+ parents, Halloween presents an excellent opportunity to teach their children about acceptance, diversity, and the importance of being true to oneself. By participating in Halloween festivities, LGBTQ+ families can instill values of love, tolerance, and inclusion in their children, creating a more compassionate and understanding society.V

EMBRACING ALL GENDERS AND IDENTITIES

Halloween transcends traditional gender norms, allowing people of all genders and identities to explore and celebrate who they are. Whether it's a drag queen costume, a gender-bending outfit, or simply choosing a costume that resonates with one's gender identity,



Halloween is a time when everyone's gender expression is honored and respected.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Halloween is more than just a holiday; it's a celebration of diversity, self-expression, and inclusivity. For LGBTQ+ families, it holds a special place as a time when they can truly be themselves, connect with their community, and share their love and acceptance with the world. Halloween serves as a reminder that, no matter who you are or where you come from, there is always a place for you in a world that values authenticity, creativity, and love above all else. So, as we prepare for this year's festivities, let us remember the true spirit of Halloween and continue to build a more inclusive and accepting world for everyone. Happy Halloween! 🍬



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HARRIET SHAW, REALTOR

Dallas Icon, Urban Pioneer and MLS Trailblazer

INTRODUCTION

In the bustling metropolis of Dallas, where real estate is a dynamic and ever-evolving industry, one name has stood the test of time and left an indelible mark on the community: Harriett Shaw. A true icon and urban pioneer, Harriett Shaw's journey in the world of real estate is not only a testament to her dedication but also a celebration of her unwavering commitment to inclusivity and humor. As the former chair of the Oak Lawn MLS committee for decades, she transformed what could have been mundane meetings into lively gatherings, attracting a large following due to her informative nature, quick wit, and sense of camaraderie.

EARLY LIFE AND BEGINNINGS

Harriett Shaw's story begins in the heart of Dallas, where she was born and raised. Growing up in a city known for its diversity and entrepreneurial spirit, she developed a passion for real estate from a young age. Her family's involvement in the industry played a significant role in shaping her future. It was clear that Shaw was destined to become a force to be reckoned with in the Dallas real estate scene.

In the late 1970s, Shaw embarked on her real estate career with David Griffin Realtors, a firm renowned for its commitment to excellence and community involvement. Little did anyone know that



this partnership would mark the beginning of an extraordinary journey that would span several decades.

LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

One of the hallmarks of Harriett Shaw's career was her ability to lead and innovate. As chair of the Oak Lawn MLS committee for over two decades, she took on a role that required not only a deep understanding of the real estate market but also exceptional leadership skills.

Under her guidance, the Oak Lawn MLS committee became a hub for real estate professionals to come together, learn, and grow. Shaw's unique approach involved infusing humor

and inclusivity into every meeting. These gatherings became known not just for their informative content but also for the warm and welcoming atmosphere she created. Attendance soared as professionals flocked to the meetings, eager to benefit from her expertise and enjoy her sense of humor.

INCLUSIVITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Harriett Shaw's dedication to inclusivity was a cornerstone of her career. She believed that a successful real estate community was one that embraced diversity and welcomed everyone with open arms. Shaw made it her mission to ensure that underrepresented voices were heard and respected in the industry.

She actively supported initiatives that promoted diversity in real estate and worked tirelessly to create opportunities for aspiring professionals from all backgrounds. Her commitment to inclusion not only earned her the respect and admiration of her peers but also made Dallas a more welcoming and diverse place to live and work.

IMPACT ON DALLAS REAL ESTATE

Harriett Shaw's impact on Dallas real estate extended far beyond her role as the chair of the Oak Lawn MLS committee. She was a trailblazer, challenging the status quo and pushing the industry to evolve. Her innovative ideas, coupled with her dedication to excellence, helped shape the Dallas real estate landscape into what it is today.

Shaw's legacy can be seen in the thriving and competitive real estate market that Dallas boasts today. Her emphasis on education and collaboration left a lasting impression on the professionals she mentored and inspired. Many credit her as a driving force behind their success, and her influence continues to ripple through the industry.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Harriett Shaw's contributions to the Dallas real estate community did not go unnoticed. Throughout her illustrious career, she received numerous awards

and recognitions for her exceptional service and leadership. Her accolades include the prestigious Dallas Realtor of the Year Award, which is a testament to her impact on the industry and the city she loved.

CONCLUSION

Harriett Shaw's journey from a young Dallas native to an iconic realtor and urban pioneer is a story of dedication, innovation, and inclusivity. Her leadership as the chair of the Oak Lawn MLS committee for decades left an indelible mark on the Dallas real estate community. Shaw's ability to infuse humor and inclusivity into her meetings attracted a large following, and her commitment to diversity and community engagement made Dallas a better place for all.

As we reflect on her remarkable career, it is clear that Harriett Shaw's legacy will continue to shape the Dallas real estate landscape for generations to come. Her dedication to excellence, her sense of humor, and her unwavering commitment to inclusion are qualities that will inspire real estate professionals and community leaders for years to come. Harriett Shaw will forever be remembered as a true Dallas icon and a pioneer in the world of urban real estate. She has certainly earned the title of Talented Realtor!





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LGBTQ FINANCIAL PLANNING:

Navigating Life Insurance, Retirement, and Independent Living with a *Focus on Financial Security*

As seen in "The Gab" September 2023 Issue

In recent years, society has made significant strides in recognizing and respecting diverse relationships, including those within the LGBTQ+ community. While these positive changes are heartening, there is still work to be done to ensure that financial planning adequately addresses the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and couples. This article delves into the essential aspects of financial security, covering life insurance, retirement planning, and the pursuit of independent living, all tailored to the specific circumstances of same-sex couples and LGBTQ+ individuals.

UNDERSTANDING LGBTQ+ FINANCIAL PLANNING

LGBTQ+ individuals often encounter distinctive financial situations that require careful consideration. It is crucial to approach financial planning with sensitivity to these unique challenges.

1. Life Insurance Planning for Same-Sex Couples and LGBTQ+ Individuals

Life insurance plays a pivotal role in safeguarding loved ones in times of need. For same-sex couples and LGBTQ+ individuals, navigating life insurance necessitates a thoughtful approach due to distinct legal considerations and societal norms.

a. Ensuring Equitable Coverage

Past Challenges: In the past, same-sex couples and LGBTQ+ individuals might have faced difficulties obtaining equal life insurance coverage due to discriminatory practices.

Progress and Equality: As society has evolved, insurance practices have also improved, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, have access to appropriate coverage.

b. Tailoring Policies

Customization: Working with LGBTQ+-friendly insurance providers or agents can help tailor policies to meet the specific needs of same-sex couples and individuals. Adequate coverage for dependents and beneficiaries remains a top priority.

2. Retirement Planning: Crafting a Stable Future

Retirement planning is essential for everyone, but it carries distinct considerations for LGBTQ+ individuals and couples.

a. Benefit Eligibility

Social Security Benefits: Same-sex couples might have faced challenges accessing Social Security survivor benefits in the past. However, legal changes

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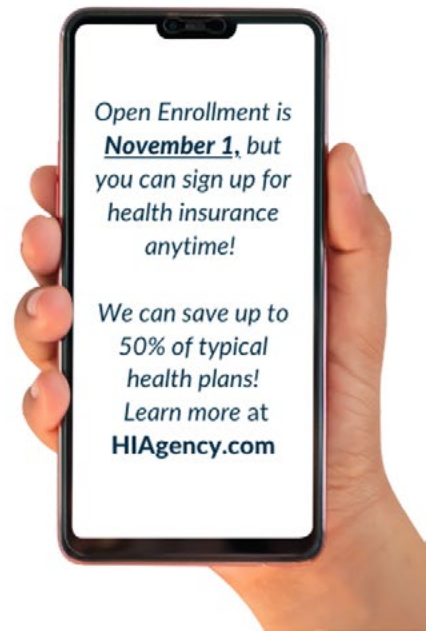
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have increased access, ensuring that partners can benefit from these safety nets.

Pension Planning: Pension plans, traditionally designed for heterosexual couples, might require adjustments to ensure fair benefits for LGBTQ+ couples.

b. Legacy and Estate Planning

- *Securing Legacies:* Estate planning through wills and trusts ensures assets are distributed according to personal wishes. This is especially important for LGBTQ+ individuals, as it guarantees partners receive the intended inheritance.
- *Naming Beneficiaries:* Designating beneficiaries on retirement accounts, life insurance policies, and financial assets is vital to ensure that assets are directed correctly.

3. Pursuing Independent Living with Financial Confidence

Independence is a common aspiration, but it can be uniquely challenging for LGBTQ+ individuals due to familial dynamics and other factors.

a. Family Relationships

Diverse Support Networks: Some LGBTQ+

individuals might have chosen families that include close friends and supportive peers. Financial planning should reflect these relationships as well.

Familial Estrangement: Estrangement from biological families can impact financial support. Independent living plans should consider alternative support structures.

b. Navigating Housing

Legal Protections: Legal protection against housing discrimination varies. Individuals should be prepared for housing challenges and consider building an emergency fund to address unexpected changes.

4. Fostering Financial Security for Same-Sex Couples

Same-sex couples have unique financial considerations that require a tailored approach.

a. Legal Recognition

Importance of Legal Status: Legal recognition of same-sex marriage or partnership is crucial for accessing financial benefits and protections.


Legal Documentation: In regions where legal recognition might be limited, couples should work with legal professionals to establish agreements that outline financial responsibilities and rights.

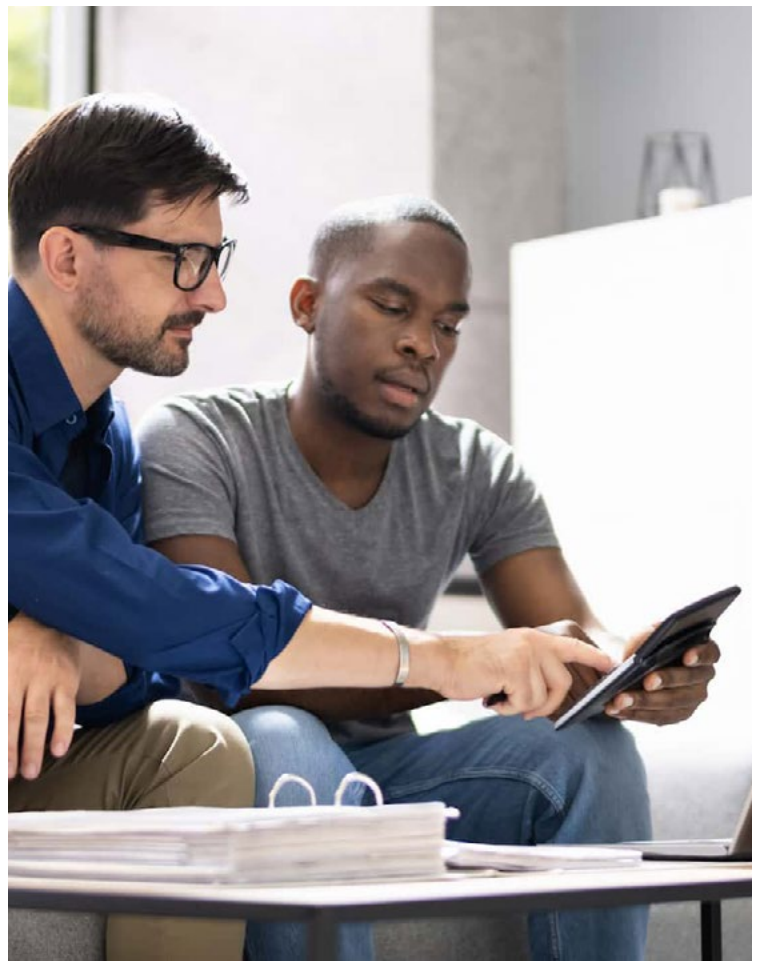
b. Collaborative Financial Management

Joint Financial Accounts: Shared bank and investment accounts can simplify financial management, ensuring both partners have access to funds.

Power of Attorney: Granting power of attorney to a partner empowers them to make financial decisions if necessary.

CONCLUSION

As society continues to evolve, so too does the landscape of LGBTQ+ financial planning. By tailoring financial strategies to accommodate the unique needs of same-sex couples and LGBTQ+ individuals, we can help foster a more secure and equitable financial future. From life insurance to retirement planning and independent living, inclusivity in financial planning ensures that all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, can pursue their aspirations with confidence and peace of mind. 



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PATTY COLLINS

Gal Pal of the Month

A BEACON OF SUPPORT AND COURAGE

INTRODUCTION

In the vibrant and diverse community of Dallas, there is a group of individuals who stand out as pillars of support, allies, and sources of inspiration for the LGBTQ+ community. These incredible individuals, often referred to as “gal pals,” play a crucial role in fostering an inclusive and accepting environment. Every month, GAB Magazine proudly recognizes one outstanding gal pal, celebrating their commitment to creating a better world for their gay brothers and sisters.

For this month’s Gal Pal of the Month award, we are delighted to shine a spotlight on Patty Collins, an exceptional realtor associated with Ebby Halliday Realtors. Patty Collins has not only excelled in her professional field but has also dedicated her time and energy to serve her community. Her involvement with the Resource Center of Dallas and her unwavering support for LGBTQ+ causes make her a deserving recipient of this esteemed accolade.

GAL PALS: A CORNERSTONE OF SUPPORT

Before we delve into the remarkable contributions of Patty Collins, it’s essential to understand the significance of gal pals within the LGBTQ+ community. The term “gal pal” is not just a catchy phrase but embodies the spirit of friendship, allyship, and unity.



Gal pals are individuals who, regardless of their own sexual orientation, stand firmly alongside their LGBTQ+ friends and acquaintances. They provide unwavering support, empathy, and love, which are essential for creating a more inclusive society.

Gal pals help bridge the gap between the LGBTQ+ community and the wider world, promoting acceptance and understanding. Their presence fosters an environment where everyone can feel safe, celebrated, and free to express their authentic selves. In essence, gal pals are allies who actively work towards dismantling stereotypes, prejudices, and discrimination.

PATTY COLLINS: A REMARKABLE GAL PAL

Patty Collins, a seasoned realtor affiliated with Ebby Halliday Realtors, has exemplified the essence

of a gal pal through her tireless efforts in both her professional and community life. Her journey to becoming the Gal Pal of the Month is filled with stories of courage, compassion, and commitment.

A DISTINGUISHED REALTOR

Patty Collins is no stranger to success in the competitive world of Dallas real estate. She has built a sterling reputation as a knowledgeable, dedicated, and trustworthy realtor. Her clients consistently praise her for her professionalism, attention to detail, and her ability to make the often daunting process of buying or selling a home an enjoyable experience.

Patty's excellence as a realtor extends beyond her business acumen; it is rooted in her genuine care for her clients. She understands that finding the perfect home is not just about bricks and mortar; it's about finding a space where people can truly be themselves. Patty's commitment to inclusivity shines through in her work, where she helps LGBTQ+ individuals and families find homes where they can thrive without fear of discrimination or judgment.

MENTORSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Patty's impact goes well beyond the real estate market. She dedicates her time and expertise to mentoring others, both within her field and the wider community. Aspiring real estate professionals have found in Patty an invaluable mentor who generously shares her knowledge and experience, helping them navigate the intricacies of the industry. Furthermore, Patty's dedication to the Resource Center of Dallas reflects her unwavering commitment to the LGBTQ+ community. The Resource Center is a vital hub that provides essential support, healthcare services, and educational programs to LGBTQ+ individuals in Dallas. Patty's

involvement in this organization demonstrates her deep-rooted desire to make a positive difference in the lives of her gay brothers and sisters.

A FRIEND AND ALLY

One of the most remarkable qualities of a gal pal is the ability to be a true friend. Patty Collins embodies this quality wholeheartedly. Her friendship extends far beyond professional relationships or casual interactions. Patty takes the time to truly get to know the people she meets, celebrating their joys and supporting them during difficult times.



Within the LGBTQ+ community, Patty is recognized as a trusted ally who champions the rights and well-being of her gay friends. Her genuine compassion and understanding create a safe space where LGBTQ+ individuals can be themselves without fear of judgment. Patty's friends describe her as someone who not only accepts them but also celebrates their uniqueness.

SUPPORTING LGBTQ+ CAUSES

Patty Collins doesn't just stop at being a friend and mentor; she actively supports LGBTQ+ causes and advocates for equality and acceptance. Her involvement in community events, pride celebrations, and fundraising efforts demonstrates her dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals in Dallas.

By using her platform as a successful realtor, Patty raises awareness about LGBTQ+ issues and promotes inclusivity. She understands that by being open and vocal about her support, she can inspire others to do the same, fostering a more accepting society.

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I'm so grateful to live and work in a major real estate market that just keeps growing, allowing me to perfect my craft with every passing day. Being recognized as a D Best Real Estate Agent and Top Producer for 2023 is a highlight of my year, but so is getting to work with and for amazing clients and fellow agents. Thank you for helping me achieve this milestone - I couldn't do it without your support!

**If I can help with a real estate need or
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Patty Collins

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Housing Board Director

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THE GAB GAL PAL IS A GREAT HONOR!

Patty Collins, our Gal Pal of the Month, embodies the spirit of gal pals who play a vital role in the LGBTQ+ community. Her dedication to her profession as a realtor, her mentorship, her involvement with the Resource Center of Dallas, and her unwavering support for LGBTQ+ causes make her a true beacon of courage and acceptance. Patty's actions demonstrate that being a gal pal goes beyond words; it's about actively creating a world where everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation, can thrive and be themselves.

As we celebrate Patty Collins and her remarkable contributions, we are reminded of the importance of gal pals in our community. They are the friends, allies, and advocates who stand with us, supporting us in our journey toward a more inclusive and accepting world. Congratulations to Patty Collins for being a shining example of what it means to be a gal pal, and may her story inspire others to join the ranks of those who champion love, equality, and unity for all. 



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THE MYTH OF THE GAY HOUSE

Exploring the fascinating stories

BEHIND UNIQUE HOMES

INTRODUCTION

In the world of real estate, every house has a story to tell. From charming cottages with a rich history to modern masterpieces designed by renowned architects, homes come in all shapes, sizes, and backgrounds. However, every so often, one encounters a unique claim – that a house is “gay.” But what exactly does it mean for a house to be gay, and why do some people feel this way about certain properties? In this article, we’ll dive into this intriguing phenomenon and explore the stories behind these remarkable homes.

THE TALE OF THE “GAY HOUSE”

It was 1999 when a real estate agent received an unusual call. A kind lady on the other end of the line claimed to have a “gay house” for sale, describing it as a “big ole gay house” that exuded a distinctive vibe. The agent, intrigued by the concept of a gay house, asked for the location, and the answer was Pinocchio Street in North Dallas.

Curiosity piqued, the agent decided to check it out. Upon entering the house, they couldn’t help but notice an undeniable gay energy and aura. The lady selling the house then revealed the secret behind this unique label – the first owner was a gay architect who had designed the house.

The house itself was a testament to mid-century architecture, which often exudes a distinctive style that resonates with various individuals, including



the LGBTQ+ community. With its vibrant colors, bold design elements, and an overall welcoming atmosphere, it was easy to see why this house had earned its “gay” reputation. The mystery of the “gay house” was solved, but it left the agent with a new perspective on homes and their unique histories.

THE MYTH PERSISTS

The story of the “gay house” may sound like a one-of-a-kind tale, but it’s not the only one of its kind. Over the years, other real estate professionals have encountered similar claims about houses having a

particular happy vibe. While this may raise eyebrows or provoke laughter, it’s important to recognize that these labels are not meant to discriminate but rather to celebrate the diversity of homes and their owners.

UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF A “GAY HOUSE”

So, what does it mean when someone describes a house as “gay”? In most cases, this is not a statement about the orientation of the house itself but rather a reflection of the energy, style, or history associated with it. It’s a testament to the idea that houses can have unique personalities, just like the people who inhabit them.

For example, a “gay house” might be one that is decorated with vibrant colors, bold artwork, and eclectic furniture, all of which are associated with the LGBTQ+ community’s vibrant culture. Alternatively, it could be a home with a rich history of LGBTQ+ residents or owners who have left their mark on the property, making it a place of historical significance for the community.

In essence, a “gay house” is often a lovingly accepted masterpiece that radiates a sense of inclusivity, warmth, and openness. It’s a place where all are welcome, regardless of their orientation, and where diversity and self-expression are celebrated.

CONCLUSION

While the idea of a “gay house” may initially sound whimsical or even perplexing, it serves as a reminder that our homes are more than just structures; they are the physical embodiments of our lives, personalities, and histories. Each house has a unique story to tell, and the concept of a “gay house” is simply one way of recognizing and celebrating that diversity.

Ultimately, the label “gay house” is not about imposing an orientation on a property but about embracing the idea that homes can be vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive spaces where people of all backgrounds and identities can feel at home. So, the next time you encounter a house with a unique personality, don’t be surprised if someone describes it as “gay” – it’s just another way of appreciating the colorful tapestry of the real estate world. 🌟





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