

Join us in Houston, March 17–20

As the “Oil Capital of the World,” Houston’s unbridled energy offers visitors a 24/7 adventure that unleashes knowledge, imagination, time and space. Houston is one of five US cities that offer world-class, year-round performing and visual arts. Renowned cultural institutions await for aficionados of art, history and science. A few of the museums are the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Natural History, Contemporary Art Museum, the Menil Collection and the Holocaust Museum Houston. Nature lovers can bask in the botanical splendors of the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center and the Japanese Gardens at Hermann Park and the new 500,000 gallon aquarium is divided into fresh and salt water exhibitions, including a 200,000 gallon shark tank. No trip to Houston would be complete without a tour of Space Center Houston where “Mission Control” is located!

Houston’s Theater District is second only to New York City when it comes to the concentration of seats within a single geographic area. The performing arts include performances at the Alley Theater, the Houston Grand Opera, the Houston Symphony, and the Houston Ballet. The meeting will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel – Galleria. The hotel is located in the Uptown Galleria area of Houston. The corridor surrounding the hotel is a world class shopping district. There are more five star restaurants than any other area of the city and Jim Gilfoil will guide us through the best restaurant choices! [see below] The average temperature in March is 72 degrees and there are two highly acclaimed golf courses ten minutes from the hotel.

We look forward to seeing you in Houston!

Frances Roton

Members

Our best wishes to Irv. Berkovitz and Max Sugar both recovering from cardiac surgery.



Jim Gilfoil’s Gustatorial Houston

Jim Gilfoil’s Gustatorial Houston

ASAP in Houston? I know what you’re thinking, but I’m here to educate you about this unfairly and much maligned city. Hell, being from Louisiana, I was prejudiced against Texas and Texans until I spent some time there. Texans are a fun loving bunch and Houston is a fun town with some excellent restaurants. Just a few other cultural notes before I get to the restaurants. Houston is known for its gentlemen’s clubs with the requisite dancers. It’s also known as “Silicone City” for the easy availability of breast implants complete with payment booklets—like car payments. And it has a wealth of paternity clinics if you need that checked out—just check the billboards. These attractions offer a number of interesting possibilities for you if you have down time during the meeting. For example, your wife or significant other could have a breast implant leading to future employment at a gentlemen’s club while you resolve the paternity issue which could solve the relationship issue. You’re only limited by your imagination. Be prepared, however, for that annoying question from the kiddies, “Mommy, Daddy, what are those squiggly things on that billboard?” Best answer gets a door prize at the convention.

Now to more mundane matters. Houston is a lot like LA. It’s a sprawling metropolis, so a car is definitely the way to go while you’re there. Cabs are tough to find, and yea they do have a new Metro

rail, but its service is pretty limited. Be careful driving, though, for the Metro rail in only a year has collided with 32 cars. Supposedly the autos were at fault, but still. On to the restaurants—the best two in town are Café Annie and Mark’s. Café Annie has been around it seems like forever and its chef, Robert del Grande, is one of the architects of Southwestern cuisine. He’s lost none of his edge. A recent addition to the Café is Bar Annie with a more casual menu. Annie is a must, as is Mark’s. In the Montrose (artsy) area in a converted church where the choir loft serves as the wine cellar, Mark’s has been voted #1 in food and popularity in the Zagat guide.

The city’s best-loved restaurant award, however, goes to Ibiza Food and Wine Bar. Ibiza is more casual than Annie or Mark’s, but it is wonderful. It features a hard to define blend of Mediterranean and Iberian food with lots of Gulf Coast and Louisiana influences. This describes most of the restaurants in Houston. They tend to be fairly casual with a very eclectic blend of foods and spices that are in between Southwestern, Louisiana, and Mediterranean cuisines. I guess you’d call it Texas cuisine, and it will definitely be

Texans are a fun loving bunch and Houston is a fun town

fun, interesting, and exciting.

Since we’ll be in the Galleria area, you will hear about the revered and much overrated Tony’s. Don’t bother, unless you’re just dying to throw away some of that money you could put to better use at the Galleria. Also in the area is Americas, once voted the best new restaurant in the US. The Alice-in-Wonderland atmosphere alone is worth the trip. The South American food is good, but I’ve never been blown away by it. Its cousin, Churrascos, is a little better food wise and, if you go, you must have the Mexican classic tres leches for dessert. I have had no better! There is a modest little place, hard to believe I know, close to

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