



What's COOKING

CALENDAR of EVENTS

MAY

11 **Mother's Day**
Open 10:45 am serving until 10 pm

JUNE

15 **Father's Day**
Open 10:45 am serving until 10 pm

21 **Grilling School**
Includes lunch, begins at 9 am

24 **Grandparents & Grandchildren TX History Tour**
Includes lunch with Nina, begins at 9 am

AUGUST

23 **Adult TX History Tour with Nina**
Includes lunch, begins at 9 am

OCTOBER

06 **Wine Dinner**
Featuring Duckhorn Wine Company, begins at 6:30 pm

18 **Adult TX History Tour with Nina**
Includes lunch, begins at 9 am

NOVEMBER

15 **Christmas Decorations Tour with Nina**
Tours offered @ 9, 10, 11, 12, 1, & 2
Refreshments served

NOTE:

Sign up for special events online @ www.tasteoftexas.com

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE NEW ARTIFACT GUIDE



MOTHER'S DAY – Sunday, May 11 FATHER'S DAY – Sunday, June 15



As the dinner table is the "Heart and Soul of Texas", celebrating Mom on her day at the Taste of Texas has become a family tradition. Our goal is to make your "Mom" feel very special as she gathers at the table with her family. We have second generation mom's coming to dinner with their family at the Taste – just as their

mother did just a few years ago! Each mom will receive a rose and a photo with her family to commemorate this day. We will open at 10:45 am and serve continuously through dinner.

Father's Day is celebrated by giving each Dad a "Top Chef" Taste of Texas Apron which they proudly wear in the restaurant! We will also have complimentary commemorative photos of Dad around the grill with his family to capture these memories. So celebrate Father's Day at the Taste of Texas on June 15th with a great steak dinner. We will open at 10:45 am and serve through 10 pm.

Taste of Texas Online

High School and College Graduation; Mother's & Father's Day are all great reasons to go to www.tasteoftexas.com for steak dinners and gifts that are sure to please. Taste of Texas gift cards are perfect for a great steak celebration any time and graduates love them!

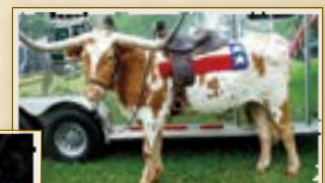
Treat Dad to our Certified Angus Beef steaks shipped right to your door and watch him fire up the grill! Send Mom a package of 6 oz. filets, steak butter and marinated shrimp skewers with the promise that you'll do the cooking. Tasteoftexas.com has everything you need to celebrate your family this summer.

Special "Texas Experience" for OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE Visitors

This is your ONE STOP Texas experience for OTC guests who want to enjoy a little "Taste of Texas!"

- Live Texas Longhorns with Souvenir Photos
- Live Cowboy Music
- On site Western Wear for sale
 - Shudde's Hats & Gifts
 - Cavender's Boots, Belts & Buckles
- * No Reservations Necessary

Join us Sunday May 4 through Wednesday May 7 from 6pm to 9pm nightly





FAMILY NEWS



Nina & Edd celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary this year and Nina's 60th Birthday by taking a 20 day trip of a lifetime. They visited 6 countries from the South Pacific through Asia and traveled 28,000 miles in just 3 weeks. Among the highlights was a visit to the Mother Teresa Orphanage "Asha Daan" in Mumbai, India.

Chris and Lisa Blackard are the busy parents to Hannah, 3, and Elizabeth, 1. The girls are at very fun ages with Hannah in preschool and Elizabeth just about to take her first steps. Chris is training hard for his second Iron Man Triathlon in the Woodlands May 17. He will begin with a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, then run a full marathon 26.2 miles. Lisa loves being a mom and staying in touch with the Taste of Texas Restaurant as our Chef Consultant.

Kristin and Corbin Blackford will graduate May 18 from their Post Grad studies at University of Virginia. Corbin graduates UVA Law and Kristin graduates UVA Darden MBA Program. Both have chosen Houston for their careers and they will soon post a "G.T.T." (Gone To Texas) sign in their Virginia home! Congratulations to both!

Claudine and David Hartland are now H7! They welcomed baby Conrad on February 7. Their house is full and the car is always running as you can imagine with 5 children: Sam 10, Campbell 8, Hudson 7, Reagan almost 5, and Conrad 3 mos. This spring all three boys played West University Little League and Reagan was in Ballet. Life is very fun but very busy!

Andrew Mawdsley Awarded The Edd K. Hendee Fellowship Award



On April 24, Capt. Andrew Mawdsley, a Harvard Business School student and Houstonian was awarded the Edd K. Hendee Fellowship. He is a 2005 graduate of the US Naval Academy and furthered his education at the George H.W. Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M. He is currently completing his MBA at Harvard. He is married

to Christy and the proud dad of three children.

Andrew served as Civil Military Cooperation Officer at NATO - Allied Force Command Madrid, Division Officer at Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 26 in Al Asad Iraq.

Nina and Edd, along with daughter Lisa Blackard and daughter-in-law Claudine Hartland celebrated Andrew's fellowship award with the Mawdsley family in Boston.



TEXAS TRIVIA ☆ ☆ ☆

- 1 What airport has the world's 3rd largest runway and was the alternate landing site for the space shuttle?
- 2 What state experiences the most tornadoes in the US with an average of 125 per year?
- 3 It is still illegal for what animal to run loose on the streets of Galveston?
- 4 In 1831 Col. Ugartechea, commander of all Mexican troops in Texas, sent 100 dragoons to retrieve the "Come and Take It" cannon from the Texas settlers. What were dragoons?
- 5 What famous actor was born in San Saba TX? His mother was the first female police officer in Midland.
- 6 Where is one of the last four Tee Pee Motels left and operating in the US located?
- 7 In the Brookwood Community in Brookshire TX, a special chair can be found all over the campus. Whose chair is it?

1. The Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport 2. Texas. Most occur in North Texas and the Panhandle 3. A camel. Camels were imported into TX in the 1850s by the US War Dept to use during the Indian Wars - hence the law. 4. Mounted Infantry 5. Tommy Lee Jones. 6. Wharton TX. Purchased and renovated in 2004, lottery winners, Barbara and Bryon Woods now welcome a new generation of travelers intrigued by these iconic structures. 7. It's God's chair - to remind us of His constant presence in our lives.

Edd Retires From KSEV Radio

After 15 years on 700 KSEV radio, Edd has retired from broadcasting. No more 4am alarms and 3 hours of radio from 6am to 9am, before going to work at the real job – Taste of Texas!

On April 7th Edd did his last show highlighting some of his most memorable projects and radio shows. Congressman John Culberson recalled the years of planning the Katy Freeway expansion and Edd's contribution in modifying the design to better fit traffic flows and to insure the construction would be completed in record time and on budget.



Former Border Patrol Agents Ignacio Ramos, Jose Compean and Gary Brugman, told their stories of imprisonment and detention as border patrol agents defending the Texas/Mexican border. Tara Setmeyer also recalled Edd's influence and relentless pursuit for their freedom as they worked together to gain their release from Federal Prison and

to restore them to their families. Laura Ingraham recalled the battle for freedom for Ramos and Compean, and Edd accompanying Laura to Iraq in 2006.

Close friend, Danny Lee told how a call from Edd in Iraq at 4:30 am one morning began the Humvee Armor Program that sent the necessary tools and materials to reinforce Humvee vehicles in the field with armor steel panels to help protect soldiers from incurring catastrophic injuries. Heart of Texas Founder, Grove Norwood, recounted Edd's commitment to bringing key people in Texas government and the prison system to establish seminary level courses and the graduation of ministers within the prison system to serve inmates.

But the real focus of the 15 years and all of the programs and projects that spun off the radio show was the listeners who supported not only these efforts but changed the face of Texas Politics forever in Primaries and grass roots organizations like the Tea Party. Thank you all for your strong support and for being there in the mornings with Edd.

Dream Wedding at The Biltmore Estates



Last April 15, 2013, Houstonian Rebekah Gregory and her son along with her boyfriend Pete DiMartino were standing near the finish line of the Boston Marathon waiting for Pete's mom to finish. Moments later the first bomb exploded ten feet behind them seriously injuring all in the area including Rebekah, Pete, and 5 year old Noah. A week later Edd was in Boston and visited Rebekah and her family in the hospital which has resulted in a friendship with these two families in the months of recovery that have followed. Nina and Edd deeply admire this

couple's faith, perseverance and tenacity to work through the tragedy of the damage and loss they incurred physically. Rebekah was the last Boston Bombing victim to leave the hospital, and after a challenging year including 15 surgeries, recovery and rehab, Pete drove to Houston last October and asked Rebekah to marry him! A wedding planning company – "The Knot" heard of this story and selected them to receive "The Knot Dream Wedding for 2014". Rebekah asked Edd to officiate their wedding April 4th at the beautiful Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC. The wedding was spectacular but the real beauty was the commitment Pete and Rebekah have to continue life and love in spite of last year's tragic event. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Peter DiMartino!

You can view the wedding highlights at www.theknot.com.

STAFF UPDATES

Waiter **Michael Fischer** was involved in a very serious accident this winter. He was rear-ended on the Katy Freeway after leaving work, and spent months recovering before he could return to work. Michael is back and doing very well – Praise God he has recovered.



We said farewell to **Karla Armas** this Spring. Karla has been a member of our waitstaff for 5 years. She recently graduated from Lone Star College and after passing her boards she is a Licensed Respiratory Care Practitioner. Karla has joined Memorial Hermann at the Medical Center and we are very proud of her accomplishments. She was class president and is the mother of 4 year old Kaden. Like so many other staff, she benefitted from the support and encouragement of our Staff Scholarship Program. Congratulations, Karla!

Michelle Slater finished her Certified Personal Trainer program and is looking forward to building her client base. Waiter, **Doug Millar** is participating in the "Tough Mudder Race" in Austin in May. This is year #8 for Waiter/Bartender **Ben Duckett** and #6 for Manager **Jay Fox** to run the river in the Texas Water Safari this summer. This is the toughest endurance race in the country running 4 days nonstop on the river. Both are canoeing solo this year in the 265 mile river race.

Waiter **Michael Tucker** and his fiancé are engaged to be married on October 17th. Waitress **Pam Poullard** will marry her sweetheart in August this summer. **Tina Nguyen** is engaged to former employee, Ryan Weaver. Tina also graduated in December from UH with a degree in accounting. Congratulations to all these couples!

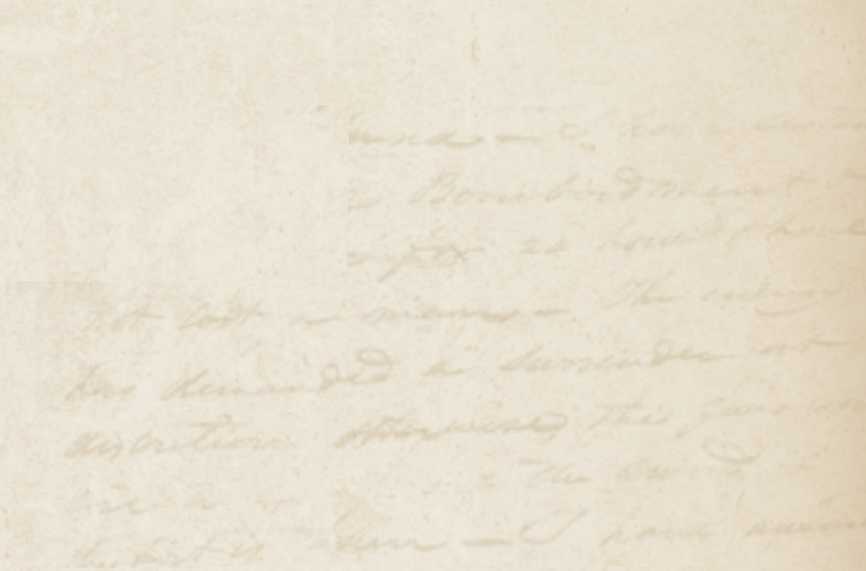
Tyler Scott completed his internship with ESPN Radio and will join ESPN as an assistant producer.



10505 KATY FREEWAY, HOUSTON, TX 77024
 WWW.TASTE OF TEXAS.COM
 713.932.6901

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRST STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT NO 1123
 HOUSTON, TX



New Uniforms for the Staff

It was time for a “new look” for our staff to match the exceptional service and hospitality they are famous for. It’s a logistical challenge to change 75 staff members uniforms overnight – but everyone worked hard at this and the new look is exceptional!

Taste of Texas Dress Code

The dress code for our customers has come up in discussion in the last few months as America has moved even more casual. The best description we have for our customer dress code is “Tasteful Casual” – All attire must be suitable for an upscale dining experience. Thank you for your cooperation and for being our customer.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Please check our website for details and register online at www.tasteoftexas.com

WWW.TASTE OF TEXAS.COM

Thank you for supporting our Special Events at the Taste. All Special Events are Fun with a Purpose! All proceeds go toward our Staff Scholarship Fund. The staff thanks you for your support!

August 23 & October 18

Adult Texas History Tour with Nina: Join Nina for a morning of Texas History and Legends like you have never heard it before. Lunch is included. Cost is \$25 per person

June 21

Grilling School: You’ll learn about USDA grading, trim specifications, the aging process and how to grill a perfect steak every time. This makes a wonderful Father’s Day gift for the steak lovers and “grillers” in your life. Cost is \$75 per person and includes Steak lunch.

June 24

Grandparents & Grandchildren TX History Tour: Join Nina for her presentation of Texas History and Legends like you have never heard it before. You are invited to bring your grandchildren ages 8 and older

for a special morning together. Cost is \$25 plus tax for adults and \$10 plus tax for children and includes lunch.

October 6

Wine Dinner featuring Duckhorn Wine Company: Join us for another amazing 5 course dinner and wine pairing. Cost is \$149.95 per person includes tax and gratuity. *Space is limited.*

November 15

Christmas Decorations Tour with Nina: Nina will be giving a Christmas tour and talk about her favorite Christmas collections and more. Come and enjoy the spectacular Christmas décor that has become a Houston holiday destination. Tours are at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00 & 2:00. Refreshments will be served. Cost is \$15 plus tax per person. *Space is limited.*