Frank Bielec and wife Judy still live in Katy

THE STARS OF ALL CELEBRITIES RECOGNIZED AROUND THE WORLD

ELEBRITIES RECOGNIZED AROUND THE WORLD STILL MAINTAIN LOCAL ROOTS

Katie Conrad still remembers the first time she came face-to-face with local celebrity, Frank Bielec, of Trading Spaces. "I was sitting at Texas Traditions with my family one afternoon and there he was!" she says. "He looks exactly like he does on TV, so I knew it had to be him." Since then, Conrad has seen Bielec around town several times, and even took a picture of him at this year's Katy Home and Garden Show. "It's fun seeing him around!" she says. "He's a celebrity, but he's such a normal person." Like Bielec, there are several celebrities who have called Katy home. Here are just a few...

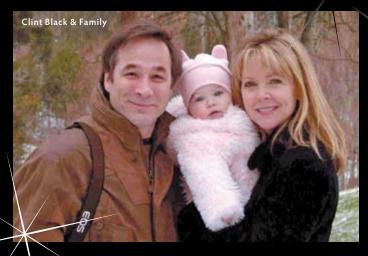
Frank Bielec, Trading Spaces TV Personality

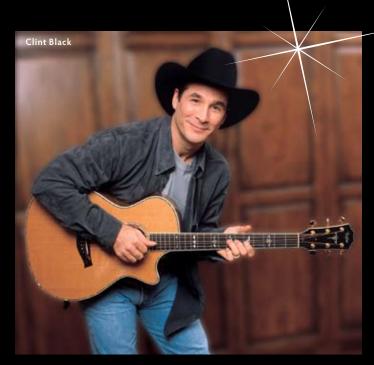
Frank Bielec first became a household name thanks to his role as a popular designer and artist on the TLC shows Trading Spaces who is known for his whimsical, eclectic country style. Although he was born in Wallis, Texas, Frank, his wife Judy, and their brood of beloved pets now claim Katy as their home. Bielec, who is often seen around Old Katy, publicly promotes Katy as a great place to live and raise a family.

He sometimes makes appearances at community events, such as this year's Katy Home and Garden show, and in 2005 he brought the cast and crew of Trading Spaces to Katy to makeover rooms for two local families. Aside from his stint on Trading Spaces, he and Judy work on their cross-stitch pattern and art company, Mosey 'N Me. The Bielecs are friends of Katy Magazine and were profiled in our cover feature in Summer 2005.

Clint Black, Country Music Star

Clint Black's family moved from Houston into the Westlake subdivision just off North Fry Road in Katy while he was still in school. Black says he and his brothers spent many days catching snakes and building bike ramps in nearby fields that are now covered with homes and shopping plazas. At age 15, Black started playing the guitar and was quickly hooked. He and his brothers got small gigs around Houston which soon distracted him from getting his diploma. Black dropped out of Katy High School to hit the road in search of country music stardom. After working several odd jobs, he became a full-time musician in 1983 and, six years later, had





his first big hit with the song "A Better Man". Black has gone on to record 13 albums, over half of which received platinum, double platinum, or triple platinum status.

Black still has brothers and other family members in the Katy area so he can sometimes be spotted at a local golf course or restaurant. His wife, Lisa Hartman Black, is from Southwest Houston so she has ties to the area as well. Right now the Blacks live in





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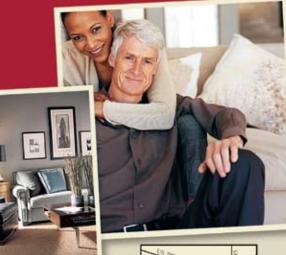
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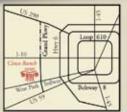
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THE STARS OF KATY

Nashville where they are happily raising their little girl, Lily Pearl, age 6. Clint Black was interviewed and profiled in the cover feature in Katy Magazine's Spring 2005 Issue.

Janeane Garofalo, Comedian, Actor

Comedian Janeane Garofalo was born in New Jersey in 1964, but

spent her high school years in Katy and is a graduate of Taylor High School. Since her time in Katy, she has gone on to star in several movies and television series and has also been very active in politics.

The controversial Garofalo is recognized most for her dark comedy and dry stand-up routines. She joined the cast of Saturday Night Live for one season in 1994, but left due to tensions on the set. She later went on to earn two Emmys in 1996 and 1997 for her role as Paula on HBO's The Larry Sander's Show. Some of her noteworthy film roles include Abby in The Truth About Cats and Dogs and Heather in Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion. She was originally offered the part of Dorothy in Jerry Maguire and was losing weight and preparing for the role when she learned that it had been given to another actress with roots in Katy -Renée Zellwegger.



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Renée Zellweger, Actor

Perhaps the biggest, most recognizable star that rose from Katy is actress and Academy Award winner Renée Zellweger. Zellweger was born in Katy in 1969 and is a 1987 graduate of Katy High School, where she was a member of the cheerleading squad and drama club.

> After graduating from the University of Texas in Austin, she moved to Los Angeles and pursued her passion for acting. Her breakthrough role was that of Tom Cruise's love interest, Dorothy Boyd, in Jerry Maguire. Following that role, she also had memorable parts in movies such as Bridget Jones's Diary, Nurse Betty, and Chicago. In 2003, she won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Ruby Thewes in Cold Mountain. In May 2005, she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Eric Heitmann, San Francisco 49er

San Francisco 49ers football star, Eric Heitmann, is a Katy native who continues to maintain close ties to the community. He graduated from Katy High School in 1998, where he was very active not only on the football team, but in track and National Honor Society as well.

Despite this busy schedule, however, it was on the football field that Heitmann truly shined. During his time at Katy, he earned First-team All-District his junior year and First-team All-District, All-Greater Houston, and All-State choice his senior year.

Heitmann continued to excel at football throughout his college years, where he played guard at Stanford University for four consecutive seasons. In 2002, he was drafted by the 49ers where he eventually switched positions to play center in 2006. During the 2006 season, he broke his tibia during a game and is now on injured reserve.

Yao Ming, Houston Rocket

Another famous athlete who has ties to Katy is beloved Houston Rockets center, Yao Ming. Although he also maintains homes in California and his native country, China, during basketball season Ming kicks up his size 18 shoes at a home in nearby Windsor Park Lakes.

Ming came to Rockets in 2002 after playing for the CBA's Shanghai Sharks for five years and the Chinese National Team, where he was named MVP. During his time with the Sharks, he earned four league records which still stand today: most blocks in a season, game, and career, and most dunks in a career. He was the first overall pick in the 2002 NBA draft, and has done equally well on the Rockets. He has been named to the NBA All-Stars four times and has been a member of the All-NBA Third Team twice.

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Renée O'Connor, Actor

Actress Renée O'Connor was born in Katy in 1971. She displayed a passion for acting at an early age and attended the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts of Houston for a time, but is a Taylor High School graduate.

O'Connor began her acting career by appearing on commercials and taking small television roles, but she received her big break when she was cast as Gabrielle on the popular show Xena: Warrior Princess in 1995. At the height of Xena's popularity, O'Connor was a viewer favorite and was voted one of the most intriguing and most beautiful people of the 90s by People Online. She continues to work in television and film today as an actor, director, and producer.

Kimberly Caldwell, American Idol Contestant

Katy native Kimberly Caldwell was born in 1982 and is a Taylor High School alumna. She

rose to fame thanks to her time on the second season of American Idol, where she was one of the finalists vying for the Idol crown.

Although she did not win the title of the next American Idol, the show did give Caldwell a career boost and she continues to model, act, and sing. She is currently working on an album and recording music with some help from Idol judge Randy Jackson. She also hosts two shows, Reality Chat and Idol Tonight, on the TV Guide Channel and works as an entertainment correspondent.



Frank Bielec and Carter Oosterhouse television's Trading Spaces with Katrina

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