

The GLSO NEWS October 2007

A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization Volume 22 Number 10

GLSO Garage Sale

GLSO is having a giant garage sale at the Pride Center on October 5 and 6. We need your help to make it a success. Bring us your "trash" and we will turn them into "treasure\$\$\$" to benefit the Pride Center. We are accepting donations of household items, furniture, nic nacs, tools, books, appliances, electronics, toys, collectibles, holiday items, etc.. So, clean out your garages, storage spaces, junk rooms, attics, basements and -yes-your closets.

Bring your items into the Pride Center, 389 Waller Avenue. We are open, Mon.-Fri. from 10 to 3, Saturdays from 10 to 2. Call Jane if you need to arrange a pickup 859 253-0061. Donations are tax-deductible; receipts will be available upon request. Then, come to the sale and bring a friend.

GLSO Board Report

Last summer, the people who participated in the Community Forum came up with many good ideas of how GLSO could grow and offer benefits to our community. A Financial Committee was formed at that time and has helped us improve our financial stability.

The board is now doing strategic planning to evaluate our work, to consider our mission statement, to determine how to further improve our infrastructure, and to prioritize our work for the next year or so. To learn more about what we are doing and to find ways you can help, see page 6.

Kate Clinton

Kate Clinton, a wonderful lesbian comic, is coming to Lexington on Saturday, October 27. She will be performing "Climate Change" at the Singletary Center for the Arts on UK's campus. There will be a silent auction starting at 5:30 and the show begins at 7 pm. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for students, available at www.uky.edu/SCFA or phone 859-257-4929,

JustFUND Kentucky, Inc the UK Gender & Women Studies Program, and the UK Gay and Lesbian Law Caucus are bringing you this evening of laughter. Reserve your ticket and join the fun.

Imperial Court of Ky Events

The Imperial Court of Kentucky continues its fundraising efforts in October with its annual Diva of Darkness Pageant. The pageant will be held Halloween night, October 31st, at the Bar Complex. Doors will open at 8:30 pm and the pageant will continued on page 3

Kate Clinton Saturday, October 27 Singletary Center 257-4929 JustFUND Kentucky

Bill Petrie: Documentary and Art Show Thursday, Oct. 18

Bill Petrie painted screaming angels, talking cows, drag queens, cowboys, Elvis and Jonas Salk, landscapes lit by shooting stars, mammoth hearts beating wildly in the sky, athletes dancing cheek to cheek, and scenes of sacred solitude.

"In Dreams Awake" is the heartfelt story of Bill Petrie, a prolific painter, tobacco farmer, political activist and passionate Gay man living in rural Kentucky. The documentary is making its Lexington premiere at a special "one night only" event at the Kentucky Theater, Thursday Oct. 18.

In addition to the documentary, the Kentucky Theater Gallery will be filled with paintings by the popular Kentucky artist. Guitarists Duane Corn, Murray Holland and Bob Elliott who are featured in the film's original score will perform.

"In Dreams Awake", created by Kentucky filmmakers Ed Commons and Thomas Lee Brown, premiered at the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and was most recently featured at the Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Described as a documentary about love, "In Dreams Awake" looks at the man, his work and the impact his life and art



continue to have. It is a look at where a generation has been and how the collective memories of a group are held together by one common thread creating a lasting legacy and tribute to their friend, brother, uncle, lover and artist. More information at http://indreamsawake.com





Lexington, Kentucky

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Bill Chandler

859 253-3233

News Editors

Mary Crone - Sarah Phillips

Garage Sale Pride Center Oct 5 & 6 8am - 3pm

Community News

MR. KENTUCKY LEATHER 2008

The Mr. Kentucky Leather Contest is being held the weekend of October 19-20, at StarbaseQ, 921 West Main St., Louisville, KY. The judges will be: Rev. Dan Newman, Mr. Tri-State Leather 2001; Christopher Schiefer, Mr. Dixie Bell Leather 2007; Mark Austin, Mr. Cell Block 2007; Bill Howard, Mr. Kentucky Leather 2007; and Master Deborah. The two-day event is sponsored by Kentucky Leather Productions, Inc.

An opening reception will be on Friday, Oct. 19, followed by a Meet and Greet at 10 pm that will include the introduction of the contestants, judges and special guests. The contest will be held on Sat, Oct. 20, at 11 pm Doors will open at 9 pm and the cover will be \$5.

The opening ceremony on Sat. will include a color guard, the Leather Anthem and a Parade of Colors. Great Lakes Bootblack 2007 Riley Johnson will offer bootblacking. Several gift baskets will be raffled.

The contest is open to Ky residents, including the Greater Louisville and Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Areas. Contestants must be male and be at least 21 years of age as of October 19, and must be able to represent Kentucky at the 30th International Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago, IL over the Memorial Day weekend 2008. There is a \$25 application fee and the application deadline is October 12. The winner's expenses for the Chicago competition will be covered by Kentucky Leather Productions, Inc. For additional info. and/or contest applications contact Larry Stanley, Kentucky Leather Productions, Inc. at 859-312-3816 or LDStanley09@aol.com.

Imperial Court ... continued

begin promptly at 9:30 pm. Cover is a suggested \$5 donation.

The Diva of Darkness pageant is Halloween-themed with fun categories: Spooktacular Presentation, Halloween Talent, and Creative Funeral Wear. Interested contestants can contact Empress Lawrenor for applications or info at lawrenlamoore@insightbb.com. You can also get information on the web at myspace.com/imperialcourtofkentucky.

This is typically one of the Court's most entertaining and well-attended events, so plan to come out early to celebrate Halloween with the Court. A Halloween costume contest, raffles, and other exciting activities will be incorporated into the evening, so look for flyers around town.

The Court has also begun its Entertainer of the Year fundraising series. Each year members of the female line compete to raise the most amount of money, with the winner being crowned Entertainer of the Year.

Adrianna Fuentes began the series at Club 141 in September with Latin Nights. And in October, Eve St. Mychal will host her show, "Fairytales: the Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful," on October 10th at Bluegrass Connection on Winchester Road.

In September, members of the Kentucky Court attended our sister court of Cincinnati's Coronation. And later in the month, we had an opening show at Niche for the U.S. Hunk's Hunkamania Male Review Show, and a midnight show at Mia's later that week. As always the Court would like to thank the community for its continued support of our fundraising efforts.

Invitation from SisterSound

SisterSound, invites interested women to join the chorus. We do not require auditions. Come to a rehearsal, meet some friendly women, try singing with us and see how much fun we have together.

Rehearsals are at 6pm every Sunday at Landsdowne Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 333 Redding Rd. For more info. see www.geocities.com/sistersound or contact Pattie at paowens@excite.com or

TransKentucky

TransKentucky is a support, social, and resource group serving Lexington and f Kentucky. Our mission is to provide a safe place for transgender individuals and others who do not fit the standard gender norms. At meetings we will support each other, offering advice, resources and insights from our own unique experiences.

Family, friends and supportive community members are invited to attend to gain understanding of issues concerning gender presentation, identity, and variance. The group meets on the first Sat of each month at 7:30 pm in Lexington. email TransKentucky@gmail.com for meeting place and other info.

Meetings are free and you may dress however you feel comfortable. The TransKentucky peer group is not a therapy group or a dating service.

OUTsource

OUTsource is for GLBTQQA students at U. K. Their mission is to provide an affirming, safe, and confidential space where students can learn more about gender identity, human sexuality, and related issues. They hope to change the campus climate and culture to become more inclusive of GLBTQQA students. For information contact Susan at:

susanmatsubara@yahoo.com.

Karaoke Nights

Tuesday Nights are Karaoke Tunesdays in the Gilded Cage Showroom of the Bar Complex. Hosted by Bill "Melater" Chandler, this event is a weekly fundraiser for the GLSO Pride Center. You can help make it a success simply by coming out and singing a song or supporting those who do.

Audience members are invited to sing their favorite songs; bring your own or use one of the songs on the CDs we will have there. Friends and other audience members will be encouraged to tip. The tips will go to help support the GLSO Pride Center.

Latin American FILM FESTIVAL

Wed Oct 3 MY FAMILY Francis Ford Coppola produced this sprawling immigrant saga that tells the stories of three generations of the Sanchez family as they migrate to California during the 1920s, weather the Depression and a world war and look to the future

Thu Oct 18 **THE OFFICIAL STORY** A moving story that details the collapse of an affluent Argentinian family as a determined mother seeks to find out the truth about her adopted daughter

Shows start at 6pm at the Downtown Lexington Public Library. The theater is on the first floor. Free parking is available in the library garage, tickets validted at the circulation desk.

Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club

The Lexington Lyons meet the second Monday of each month. Join us Oct 8, at the Pride Center, at 7 pm. The Lyons are a group of friends who celebrate strength, unity, and diversity for those who enjoy the Leather /Levi Lifestyle. For info visit http://www.lexlyons.org.

CLINTON COMES TO LEXINGTON ONE NIGHT ONLY

KATE CINTON

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AN EVENING OF COMEDY

Saturday October 27, 2007
Silent auction at 5:30
show at 7:00
Singletary Center on UK's campus
Lexington, Kentucky
Tickets: \$35 adults, \$30 students
available at www.uky.edu/SCFA
or phone: 859-257-4929

brought to you by:

JustFUND Kentucky, Inc.
UK Gender & Women Studies Program
UK Gay and Lesbian Law Caucus



GLSO Pride Center

389 Waller Ave. 859 253-3233 Open 10 to 3 Mo - Fr 10 - 2 Sat.

Garage Sale Oct 5 & 6 Pride Center 89 am to 3 pm

GLSO Board Report Continued

The Board is also looking for new members. You will need to attend two consecutive board meetings and do some volunteer work with us before applying. Our board meetings are open to interested members of the community. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Oct 18.

GLSO has recently taken responsibility for a garden plot at the



Discussion Group Every Wednesday Night 7 to 9 All Are Welcome

GLSO can use Your Help

call Mary if interested 266-5904

- 1. Subscribe to this newsletter \$20. Fill out the form on page 19
- 2. Work on the newsletter we could use someone to take pictures around town to print in the newsletter, several people to write columns, and help with advertising 5. Volunteer to been the Pride Center.
- 5. Volunteer to keep the Pride Center open one Saturday a month 10 am 2 pm.

6. Start a group for parents of GLBT youth. Could be affiliated with PFLAG or just a discussion group. We have parents willing to help.

Stonewall: The Movie Pride Center: The Place

To celebrate our history in Lexington and our GLBT history in this country we will be showing *Stonewall* on Saturday, Oct 27 at noon. This film is a fictionalized-although accurate-- account of the events surrounding the 1969 riots at the Stonewall Inn that is credited as the beginning of the modern day GLBT rights movement. We will provide the pop corn

Lexington Insight

Beginning in October, Lexington Insight will meet for Potluck on the first Friday at 7 pm at the Pride Center. That will be Oct.5. We will meet on the third Friday at 6:30 for our Insight Out Activity. This month we will be going bowling at Southland Bowlling Lanes on Southland Dr. Join us there on Friday, Oct. 20th.

Dana is the coordinator of Insight and can be reached at 859-230-2428. New people are always welcome to join us.

Low Cost Printing at the Pride Center

Black and White \$.06

Color Printing \$.50

call 253-3233

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EMAIL: ELSTONLAW@WINDSTREAM.NET

NEW! PRINCIPAL OFFICE IN LEXINGTON

FAMILY LAW FOR OUR FAMILIES

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VISITATION, CHILD SUPPORT, SAFER SCHOOLS, DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE, ELDER LAW, & ESTATE PLANNING

Member, Kentucky Bar Association; Fayette County Bar Association; Louisville Bar Association; American Bar Association, Section on Family Law & Committee on Alternative Families, & National Lesbian & Gay Law Association.

US AND THEM THE JENA SIX

by mary crone

Oppressions are linked. Those in power use the same techniques and words to describe those they oppress. By learning how other groups have been discriminated against and oppressed, we can see some common patterns and learn how to confront homophobia. By becoming allies to other people working to end oppression(s), we can strengthen the fight for justice and gain allies.

A series of racist events in Jena, Louisiana has been in the news lately, although the media has been slow to cover these events. The recent coverage, they have left out significant details. I definitely see connections between this story and the way homophobic comments and behaviors are ignored in public schools.

Last fall at Jena High School, two black students sat under a tree that was usually a gathering place for white students. They had asked the administration and gotten permission to sit under the tree. The next day, three nooses were hung from the tree. The principal recommended expulsion for the three white students responsible but the superintendent dismissed the nooses as a "prank," and gave the students a three-day suspension. More Black students sat under the tree in protest.

The District Attorney then came to the school accompanied by the town's police and demanded that the students end their protest, telling them, "I can be your best friend or your worst enemy... I can take away your lives with a stroke of my pen." This statement is often left out of accounts.

Racial tension escalated and on Nov. 30, the main academic building of Jena High School was burned down in an unsolved fire. Later the same weekend, a black student was beaten up by white students at a party. The white assailant

cracked a beer bottle over the black student's head and was charged with "simple battery." I have not seen a picture of the black student after he was assaulted. I have seen pictures of the white victim.

The next day, black students at a convenience store were threatened by a young white man with a shotgun. They wrestled the gun from him and ran away. While no charges were filed against the white man, the black students were later arrested for the theft of the gun.

That Monday at school, a white student, a vocal supporter of the students who hung the nooses, taunted the black student who was beaten up and allegedly used the "N word." After lunch, he was knocked down, punched and kicked by black students. He was taken to the hospital, but was released and was well enough to go to a social event that evening.

For this offence, six black Jena High students were expelled from school, arrested and charged with attempted second-degree murder. That charge was later reduced to aggravated battery. This summer, Mychal Bell, who has been in prison since December 2006, was convicted of aggravated battery and conspiracy to commit aggravated battery (both felonies) by an all-white jury in a trial where his public defender called no witnesses. During his trial, Mychal's parents were ordered not to speak to the media.

In September Mychal Bell's conviction was overturned on the grounds that he should not have been tried as an adult. The other five students have not been brought to trial. For info or to sign a letter of protest, go to: www.colorofchange.org/jena/?id=202h8-365668

We have not seen much coverage of the ongoing racial conflict in Jena in the Herald Leader or elsewhere. Why is that? We should be having a national conversation about this and other aspects of racism, homophobia, classism, and all

OCT 11 COMING OUT DAY

Coming Out is a process. We encourage everyone to consider what your next step might be. Stage One is coming out to yourself. Talking about your internal questioning can be helpful. A trusted friend or a a therapist may be a good place to start.

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The Second Stage is to gradually tell other people. There are many benefits of Coming Out. As the number of people you tell increases, you will be less concerned about hiding important aspects of your life. Your stress will decrease. You will be more genuine and spontaneous with people. And you will gain confidence that you are known and loved for who you really are.

People you come out to may need some time to process and understand you in this new way. It can help if you have information to give them. We have Human Rights Campaign pamphlets for straight people at the Pride Center.

Living Out is the Third Stage When you begin to tell random people in daily conversations without prior planning, you have reached this stage. That doesn't mean you have to bring it up in every conversation, it means that you share it comfortably when it seems appropriate.

For example, last night a door to door sales person asked me what work I did. I told her that I worked with LBGT teens ans well as teens at church. I then invited her in for a glass of water and introduced her to my partner.

I did not need her to know, but I do need to stop censoring myself. By making it just part of my everyday conversations, I believe that I send the message that it is not something that should be hidden.

We have many pamphlets from the Human Rights Campaign at the Pride Center. There are pamphlets on coming out as transgender, coming out in religious communities, and resources for straight people,



Ann Olliges Massage Therapist KY Lic. No. 0926

145 Walton Avenue Lexington, Ky. 40508 Phone: 859-421-1916 Annolliges@aol.com other forms of oppression.

What captured my attention in this series of events was the hanging of the nooses and the inappropriate response from the superintendent. The noose is a symbol of lynching. Thousands of sadistic tortures and murders of black men (and some women and children) occurred during the end of 19th and the first half of the 20th Century.

The term lynching came from "Judge" Lynch who established a citizen's court to provide a way for people to deal with horse thieves, prostitutes and gamblers. They were often tarred and feathered and run out of town. During our westward expansion, "lynching" came to mean vigilante hangings.

The term changed meaning again as southern white men sought ways to remain in control of former slaves during the Reconstruction Period. Lynchings became public spectacles where a victim was slowly tortured to death. Typically, pieces of a victim's body-- fingers, genitals, ears and gorged- out eyes--were cut off and thrown to the crowd. The victim was often set on fire, . Pictures were taken and passed around, with some being made into postcards.

This history has been buried, leaving us ignorant and allowing a superintendent to say that hanging a noose is a "prank" rather than a threat. Lynching was terrorism, used to intimidate and enforce white power and privilege. The "crimes" for which men were lynched included alleged murder and rape, but were more often actions that transgressed social norms. For example, not getting out of the road to let a white person pass, looking at a white woman the "wrong way", making moonshine (a white man's prerogative), hunting on white's men's land.

Some say this is all in the past. The nooses on the tree in Jena say otherwise. The tree was actually called the "white tree" and the students thought that the black teens were transgressing a social norm by sitting there. The tree has now been cut down, which is indicative of how the school system thinks the problem will be resolved. Proclaim that racism is over, and go back to business as usual.

Racism /Homophobia Any Connection?

Black students get called the "n word" and white administrators may or may not respond appropriately. But, most teachers and school administrators consider it an offence that requires their intervention.

GLBTQ teens are called all kinds of names in public schools: dyke, fag, queer, etc. Very few teachers or administrators intervene. "That's so gay" is spoken so often that kids tell me that when they object many students who use the expression will say it does not really mean "gay." It is an expression that means something weird, ugly or generally bad. Right.

GLBTQ people do not have a history of oppression that is passed down in their family. They are, therefore, less likely to suffer from generational oppression in the same way that black people in this country do. We do have a history of oppression that has been buried, but it is not inherited in the same way. The flip side of this, is that we have to come out to family members who may not understand or accept us. We do not share our oppression with those who love us and home may not be a safe place.

Is there any terroristic violence that is directed at queer people? When a gay man is murdered and buried with his penis sticking out of the ground, that is an intentional threatening act. When a man is beaten and left tied to a fence to die, when our bodies are mutilated, and when our graves our desecrated, we are all meant to get the message. This violence does not come close to the years of lynching, but it is a form of terrorism meant to keep us "in line", in the closet, and fearful.

My goal is not to say that we have it "as bad". My point is that we can learn from other forms of oppression and other movements for civil rights. We can become allies to others, even those who may not be comfortable with us. The more we work with and for them, the more comfortable they will become.

The GLSO Directory

Manual openin Same, of Assaults	
GLSO Board:	
GLSO Boaro: GLSO Pride Center (Bill)	Lex. Lyons Leather/Levi Club (Paul))396-6936 www.lexlyons.org Lex. Human Rights Commission252-4931 Lex. Insight Group(Dana)859-230-2428 Louisville Youth Group502 894-9787 MACT Men of All Colors Together (Jon)351-4453mactky@aol.com Moonshine Bears of y (Jim)859 299-2047www.moonshinebears.com People for Unity & Fairness803-1130
Jessamine County	Sienna (Gender Identity Lou'ville)502 346-5298 SisterSound (Patti)806-0243 Sisthas in the Life (Joan)252-2657
Madison County	TransKentuckyTransKentucky@g,ail.com 24 hr. Crisis Line
HIV/AIDS Info/Services:	Religious Groups:
AVOL, AIDS Volunteers Inc	Interweave (Unitarian-Mary)
Louisville Region (Geri)	RainbowWind (Pagan-Sarah)273-2455 Soulforce (Jamie)859 230-5625www.soulforcekentucky.org St. Mychal the Martyr (Rev. Ken)338-1195
Community Groups	
Alcoholics Anonymous (Ron)948-0434	The American Conservation and an

Alcoholics Anonymous (Ron)948-0434
Office276-2917
Al-Anon (office)277-1877
Bluegrass C.O.L.T.S. (Morris)225-9169
Bluegrass Fairness859 806-4114
Council for Peace & Justice (Richard) 277-6101
Fairness of Louisville502 893-0788
First Link (formerly-Ask Us)313-5465
International Gay Bowling (Steve)276-3058
I.C.K. (The Imperial Court of KY)859 269-7756
imperialcourtkentucky@yahoo.com
Kentucky Leather Productions (Larry)253-0185

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GLSO News Deadline OCTOBER 15

Please send all articles and ads to lexingtonglso@yahoo.com marycrone@insightbb.com

GLSO Newsletter Calendar OCTOBER 2007

To schedule events at the Pride Center, call Bill at 253-3233 Visit us on the web at: www.GLSO.org

Friday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Saturday Garage Sale @ Pride Center 8:00 a -3:00p 7p GSA (call for place 266-5904) Center Open 10a-2p Garage Sale @ Pride 6p Film: My Family @ Public Library Theater Center 8:00 a - 3:00 p 7p GLSO Discussion 7 p Lexington Insight 7:30p Trans Kentucky Group-PC 8p Gay/Lesbian AA PotLuck **Mondays:** 9p Karaoke Tunesday @ The Bar Complex A Weekly Benefit for The Pride Center Call for Place Call for place 948-3434 10:30 a St. Mychal's 11a UU Church 7p GSA (call for place 266-5904) 7p GLSO Discussion Center Open 10a-2p Group-PC SoulForce (Jamie 230-5625) 5p Integrity Cookout @ St. Martha's Episcopal Church 9p Karaoke Tunesday @ The Bar Complex A Weekly Benefit for The Pride Center 6p. SisterSound Rehearsal 8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 948-3434 7p GLSO Discussion 10:30 a St. Mychal's 11a UU Church SoulForce(加麗e 230-5625 6:00p Imperial Court Mtg.PC Gp SisterSound Refiearsal 7p GSA (call for place Center Open 10a-2p Mr. Kentucky Leather In Dreams Awake One Night Only 266-5904) Contest in Louisville @ Mr. Kentucky Leather Contest in Louisville @ Starbase Q. The Bill Petrie Story
The Kentucky Theater
6p Film: The Official Story 6:30p Lexington Insight Insight Out Activity Bowling @ Southland Lanes Starbase Q. 9p Karaoke Tunesday @ The Bar Complex A Weekly Benefit for The Pride Center (Call for Location) 278-7103 @ Public Library Theat 8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 948-3434 7:30p GLSO Board Mtg. **Newsletter Dead-line** 7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC 10:30 a St. Mychal's 11a UU Church 7p GSA (call for place Center Open 10a-2p 12N. Stonewall The Movie @ The Pride Center 266-5904) SoulForce (Jamie 230-5625) 6:00p SisterSound Rehearsa 9p Karaoke Turiesday @ The Bar Complex A Weekly Benefit for The Pride Center 7p Kate Clinton @ The Singletary Center for the 8n Gay/Leshian AA Call for place 948-3434 7p GLSO Discussion 7p GSA (call for place Group-PC Bp Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 948-3434 9:30 Diva of Darkness @ The Bar Complex 10:30 a St. Mychal's 11a UU Church SoulForce (Jamie 230-5625 266-5904) GLSO GARAGE SALE 6:00p Imperial Court Mtg.PC 6p SisterSound Rehearsal

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Monthly Activities:

Mondays:

Lexington Lyons (2nd Mon.)

Saturday:

9p Karaoke Tunesday @ The Bar Complex A Weekly Benefit for The Pride Center

7:30p Trans Kentucky 1st Sat.

www.GLSO.org

OCT. 5 &6 8 AM - 3 PM

PRIDE CENTER 389

Weekly Activities:

8pm - Gay/ Lesbian AA Discussion/Speaker(Call for Location) 278-7103

Tuesdays:7pm- GSA(Gay Straight Alliance) 9pm - Karaoke Tunesday @ The Bar Complex

Wednesdays:

7pm - GLSO Discussion Group 8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for Location) 278-7103

Fridays: 8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA

Saturdays:

Sundays:

11:00 am - UU Church Worship 10:30 - Mass, St. Mychal The Marty

6pm - SisterSound Rehearsal @ Landsdowne Presby. Church.

6pm - The Imperial Court SoulForce -Call Jamie 230-5625

1st Fridays & 3rd

7pm - Lexington Insight

More information about many of the events are in this newsletter. You may want to call or email the group to confirm the date and time, please see the directory for phone listings.

Pride Center may be abbreviated - PC

Call for Place may be abbreviated- Call

Head's up

Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky

Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky (BFCK) has learned of some disturbing issues affecting all Kentuckians and the drive for fairness.

First up: Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) has demonstrated an anti-gay agenda. Under oath in May, Sam Moore, current member of KFB's board of directors, admitted that KFB fired employee Todd Eklof for taking a public, pro-fairness stance on gay marriage.

More than three years ago, Eklof, who is the minister of Clifton Unitarian Church in Louisville, told his congregation that he would not perform traditional weddings or commitment ceremonies until the 2004 marriage amendment was overturned. Shortly thereafter, KFB released him from employment for reasons of poor performance and absenteeism.

Time and again, Eklof has proven in court documents that those accusations are false. Now, Moore, who was president of KFB at the time of Eklof's dismissal, has testified that KFB terminated employment due to Eklof's publicly stated opinion of gay marriage.

KFB, a company dedicated to promoting the interests of farmers, takes conservative stances on several hot-button issues in its policies handbook that explicitly states opposition to gay marriage, abortion, and pornography in an attempt to uphold high morals.

From their handbook:

The institution of marriage should only be recognized as the legal union of a man and a woman. We strongly believe in the value of all individuals both born and unborn. We support an effort toeliminate the pornographic menace to the moral fiber of our nation

To date, Eklof's story has gone mostly unheard. After Moore's revelation, Eklof sent a press release, which detailed the courtroom testimony, to all the major media outlets. So far, only WHAS11 has covered the story.

Second on the agenda: Frank Simon, a long-time anti-fairness campaigner and current coordinator of the American Family Association (AFA), hosted a "Protect Our Children" Rally at Winburn Middle School in Lexington September 18th. BFCK steering committee member Phil Mulholland attended the event to learn what anti-gay rhetoric the AFA currently espouses.

Mulholland reports that Kent Ostrander of the Family Foundation spoke to the evils of domestic partner benefits. A presentation was made about the terrible use of tax dollars in schools toward promoting tolerance of same-sex parents. Lastly, Simon encouraged the audience to buy a Kroger gift card from the AFA. When a supporter purchases a gift card from AFA for as little as five dollars, four percent of the money goes directly to AFA.

Lastly, Mitt Romney, Republican contender for president of the United States, became the first candidate to play the anti-gay card. Despite the elections being more than a year away, Romney began television ads declaring himself the sole Republican blatantly opposed to gay marriage. He fully supports an amendment that would protect marriage. In doing so, he hopes to set himself up as the true defender of family and moral values at the expense of the needs of LGBT people.

Romney's public opposition to gay marriage may not be the last political slam on gay issues that Kentuckians see in the near future. The governor's election is coming in November. The polls show that current governor Ernie Fletcher is trailing opponent Steve Beshear by a large margin in almost every definable category despite

a massive anti-casino campaign aimed at preserving morals. Political scuttlebutt would suggest that Fletcher may roll out the issue of domestic partner benefits in a last-ditch effort to win back support and secure victory.

Fletcher has turned a cold shoulder to LBGT people. First, he stripped sexual orientation from the list of protected classes in the state's hiring practices on a day that he publicly declared Diversity Day. Second, Fletcher backtracked on his stance toward U K's and U of L's offering domestic partner benefits.

Initially, he agreed to let the universities' boards of directors decide

the issue. When those boards approved the benefits, Fletcher decided to jump ship and support legislation banning the benefits. With such a record, it would be no surprise for Fletcher to use LGBT people once again to bolster support.

Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky encourages everyone to get involved in the fight for fairness. One way people can get involved is by writing a letter to the editor. Another is to contact BFCK for volunteer opportunities or information on how to contribute to profairness candidates' campaigns. For the latest on BFCK, go to www.bgfair.org, or call 859-951-4450.

KFA Congratulates LEXMARK INTERNATIONAL for Recognition as "BEST PLACE TO WORK"

Lexmark International has earned a "Best Place to Work" designation from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, and a third consecutive 100% rating in HRC's 2008 Corporate Equality Index. Lexmark is the only Ky company to achieve either honor

"Lexmark International has proven itself a leader and strong partner in promoting a fair workplace and a fair Kentucky," said Christina Gilgor, executive director of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance. "KFA extends sincere congratulations and thanks to Lexmark for its leadership on these issues."

The Index rates employers on their treatment of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees, consumers and investors. Ratings are based on factors like non-discrimination policies, diversity training and benefits for domestic partners. Companies also earn points by supporting GLBT community events and organizations, such as the Kentucky Fairness Alliance's annual dinner, which Lexmark has sponsored every year since the dinner's inception.

The Corporate Equality Index rates businesses each year. Here are others that have received top scores.

Xerox Corp: Respecting employees as individuals and providing them with support systems and benefits helps make Xerox a great place to work

American Airlines: has a perfect score in the Diversity Index and promotes partnerships with GLBT groups.

Avaya: "We embrace diversity as a competitive advantage."

Eastman Kodak: "We're proud to have policies that treat all employees with dignity, fairness, and respect.

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.: an industry leader in both employee benefits and community donations.



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Socially Responsible Investing Investing for a Cause

by Mohua Das
Financial Advisor
UBS Financial Services Inc.

A growing number of people are investing to achieve change in the future of their communities, the environment and the world. As a result, over the last ten years, the amount of assets managed according to socially responsible criteria grew at a faster rate than the entire universe of managed assets in the United States. Socially responsible investing (SRI) assets rose more than 258 percent from \$639 billion in 1995 to \$2.29 trillion in 2005.

SRI is an investment process that considers the social and environmental consequences of investments, both positive and negative, within the context of rigorous financial analysis. Social investment managers often overlay a qualitative analysis of corporate policies, practices and impacts onto the traditional quantitative analysis of profit potential.

Today, nearly one out of every ten dollars under professional management in the United States is involved in socially responsible investing. According to the Social Investment Forum's most recent biennial report¹, \$2.3 trillion out of the \$24.4 trillion in total assets under management are in professionally managed portfolios utilizing one or more of the three core strategies that define SRI: Screening, Shareholder Advocacy and Community Investing.

Screening

Screening is the process of including or excluding securities from a portfolio based on social or environmental criteria. There are two types of screening: positive and negative.

Positive screening attempts to identify profitable companies with a history of

excellent employee relations, community involvement, and environmentally conscious policies and practices. Respect for human rights and safe, useful products are also often considered. Investors use positive screening to invest in industry leaders - despite the reputation of an industry as a whole - in the hopes that the general standard of business practices will improve.

Conversely, negative screening identifies companies with poor records in these areas. These companies are then excluded from an investor's portfolio.

Shareholder Advocacy

Shareholder advocacy goes beyond screening. Shareholder advocates will purposely invest in companies with poor social or environmental records and actively work with the company's management to improve its practices. These activities may include filing, co-filing and voting on shareholder resolutions that focus on social and corporate-governance issues. They generally intend to improve a company's policies and practices, encouraging management to exercise good corporate citizenship and promote long-term shareholder value and financial performance.

Thanks to the efforts of socially responsible investing advocacy, shareholder resolutions implemented on social and environmental issues increased by more than 16 percent, from 299 proposals in 2003 to 348 in 2005. Additionally, social resolutions reaching a vote rose by more than 22 percent, from 145 in 2003 to 177 in 2005.

Community Investing

This form of SRI provides investment capital to communities not served - or underserved - by traditional financial institutions. Community investing gives these communities direct access to credit, equity, capital and basic banking products they would otherwise lack.

continued on page 18



Domestic partners may share similar goals with married individuals, yet they face unique challenges when it comes to financial planning. We will help you develop a plan that's appropriate to your needs—one that takes into account not only where you want to go, but also how you want to get there.

For information, call

Mohua "Mou" Das Financial Advisor 859-335-8118 888-390-6900 mohua.das@ubs.com

307 South Ashland Avenue, Lexington, KY 40502 www.ubs.com/fa/mohuadas

You & Us



Community investing allows local organizations to provide financial services to low-income residents and supplies capital for small businesses and community services, such as affordable housing, child care and healthcare.

According to the Social Investment Forum, assets in community investing institutions rose by 40 percent, from \$14 billion in 2003 to \$20 billion in 2005. Community investing assets have nearly quintupled from the \$4 billion identified a decade ago.²

What's Behind the Growth?

SRI is one of the fastest growing types of asset management. There are a number of factors potentially contributing to this growth:

Performance Many people assume that SRI results in underperformance. However, research has shown that, when properly managed, risk-adjusted and controlled for investment style, socially screened portfolios perform comparably to their unscreened peers. In addition, a 2002 study of international SRI mutual funds found little evidence of significant differences in risk-adjusted returns between ethical and conventional funds for the 19902001 period. However, past performance is not an indication of future results.

Information Today, investors can easily access a wealth of information about SRI.Investors are better educated and informed about social and environmental issues. Also, SRI organizations are better able to provide more sophisticated information to a receptive audience.

Corporate scandals Corporate scandals involving accounting fraud and other issues have eroded trust in company leadership. These scandals have resulted in calls for reforms that require more transparency, stricter corporate governance and accountability, and greater disclosure of information.

Sustainability As the general public's concerns about global warming, alternative energy sources, human rights, corporate scandals and other issues grow, new and expanded opportunities will likely be offered to socially-aware investors.

For More Information

If you would like to learn more about developing an investment portfolio that reflects your social concerns, please contact your Financial Advisor. Moh Das can be reached at 859-335-8118 or mohua.das@ubs.com.

- 1 "2005 Report on Socially Responsible Investing Trends in the United States, 10-Year Review," Social Investment Forum, January 24, 2006
- 2. 2005 Report on Socially Responsible Investing Trends in the United States, 10-Year Review," Social Investment Forum, January 24, 2006.
- 3. "2005 Report on Socially Responsible Investing Trends in the United States, 10-Year Review," Social Investment Forum, January 24, 2006.
- 4. "International Evidence on Ethical Mutual Fund Performance and Investment Style," Rob Bauer, University of Maastricht Limburg Institute of Financial Economics (LIFE); ABP Investments, Kees C.G. Koedijk, Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) Department of Financial Management; Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) Erasmus Research Institute of Management (ERIM); Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and Roger Otten, University of Maastricht Limburg Institute of Financial Economics (LIFE), July 2002.

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Taking Care of ALL Our Family's Needs

The Positive View By Dr. Sherry and Prof. Skippy

PART 9: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTIVISM

Last month we discussed the increased empathy for oppressed others that gay male and lesbian participants in our survey expressed. In fact, it was the most common theme mentioned by gay men. The quotes we included touched upon the personal reaction that prompted for many survey respondents a concern for social justice and the desire to help others through social activism.

Several participants expressed their desires to promote social justice and to be active in the struggle for gay and lesbian rights as well as a broader set of social issues. Some respondents expressed that the 'personal is political' and perceived themselves as activists simply by virtue of living "out" their lives.

One lesbian explained,"I like belonging to an alternative group of the population and feeling like I am a part of a political and cultural movement that is very important in our world today. I like the fight for human rights and continuing work toward equality. Being a lesbian is making the personal political, being politically active just by being out."

Another lesbian offered, "I am aware of social justice and civil rights issues in every day life. I'm aware of my status as an 'invisible' minority. I work for civil rights issues. I tend to look at myself and my life as an opportunity to educate others about not assuming too much and living my life as an example of what stereotypes I am not."

Other respondents were active in organizations and outspoken on issues. A lesbian participant wrote, "... because of this awareness I've become involved in social justice organizations attempting to eliminate white supremacist and patriarchal ideals as well as homophobia."

One gay man talked about how his identity led to his involvement as a feminist, "I have been an active feminist as I realize that fighting gender roles and limitations does much to create discussion of and freedom for same-sex relationships."

Another gay man noted, "As I get older, I become more active as a person, more involved in the community and the issues that affect me on a small level and a greater level because I am gay. I realize that my voice counts."

And, a gay man commented on his broadened agenda for social activism, "I am more concerned with social justice, not only for LGBT issues, but any minority, the disabled, children, and so on."

What concerns for social justice do you have? How have you worked or might you work for social change? How might you urge others to work for social justice?

For more information about our work, go to www.PrismResearch.org. Dr. Sherry is Sherry Rostosky, PhD, Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology at UK. Prof. Skippy is Ellen Riggle, PhD, Professor of Gender and Women's Studies and Political Science at UK. This article is based on: Riggle, Whitman, Olson, Rostosky, & Strong (2007). The Positive Aspects of Being a Lesbian or Gay Man.

Readers Write

We would love to include your story, essay, or opinion piece in this newsletter. It may need to be edited so include contact information. Send by the 15th to: lexingtonglso@yahoo.com
Marycrone@insightbb.com
Put newsletter in the subject line.

Religious and Spiritual Resources

Integrity

. Integrity is a nonprofit organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Episcopalians and our straight friends. Since our founding in 1974, Integrity has been the leading grassroots voice for the full inclusion of LGBT persons in the Episcopal Church. Through Integrity's work, thousands of LGBT people, estranged from the Episcopal Church have returned to parish life.

We are working to revilatize our Integrity group in Lexington, For more information see www.LexIntegrity.org or contact David Cupps at david@david cupps.com or Jon Parker at, jonnyp@insightbb.com.

Jubilee Fellowship

Jubilee Fellowship is meeting at St Mychal the Martyr, located at 1350 Eastland Dr. Suite #5 in Lexington. Eastland Dr. is off New Circle Rd one block North of Winchester Rd. Once on Eastland Rd, take your first left. It is "Inside" New Circle. It is in the row of small offices behind Mi Mexico near New Circle.

Jubilee Fellowship welcomes members of the GLBT community and their friends to join us in growing as a community of believers in Christ. We are fanatical about loving people with God's unconditional love.

If you have questions about our fellowship, do not hesitate to contact Pastor Cori Wood ay 859 514-5518 or jfellowship@windstream.net. We have a big vision and a big God. There is room for you.

www.jubileefellowship.us



Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington

Our worship service begins at 11 am. every Sunday. In addition to worship, there is a Sunday morning Buddhist sitting practice at 9 am and a Buddhist discussion group (Sanga) at 9:45 am, both in the AllenHouse next to the church. We are located at 3564 Clays Mill Rd.

On Wednesday nights, we offer adult religious exploration from 7 to 8:30. On October 3 and 17 we will be discussing how systems of oppression and privilege are still strong in our country. We have some great films("Race, the Power of an Illusion" and "Coming Home") that will stimulate good conversations.

Unitarian Universalists have long called for the full inclusion of bisexual, gay, and lesbian people in church and society. We have the highest percentage of openly Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender ministers of any denomination. UUs believe that the life experiences of GLBT people include sacred stories that need to be heard and celebrated. Sharing our stories promotes the spiritual justice seeking work of our church.

The Unitarian Universalist approach to spirituality is fundamentally different from religions based on creed or revelation. We do not believe that "Truth" can be found in one Holy Book. We seek to understand our universe and our place in it by working and talking together. In our search we consider many religious traditions, the arts and sciences, and our own life experience. Our's is a tradition of strong and prophetic voices calling for a larger vision of life, one in which everyone is respected.

ST. MYCHAL THE MARTYR PARISH



Sunday Worship 10:30

Saturday Evening Prayer 5 pm

1350 Eastland Dr. #5 (859) 338-1195

www.stmychalthemartyr.org

St. Mychal The Martyr stmychalthemartyr.org

The mission of St. Mychal the Martyr Parish is to provide a church that welcomes all people in all their uniqueness and giftedness. We are a liturgical church whose worship is filled with ritual and whose heart is filled with joy and hope.

You are invited to our worship services every Sunday at 10:30 with Rev Ken Waibel performing mass. We also

hold Saturday Vespers at 5 pm. We are located at 1350 Eastland Dr., Suite #5, off Winchester Rd.

St. Mychal is a member of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America, a national denomination that is gay supportive. We perform blessings of gay unions, welcome divorced people, and ordain women into the orders of Deacon, Priest and Bishop. The Orthodox Catholic Church is one of about three dozen offshoots of the Roman Catholic Church.

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