



Gay and
Lesbian
Services
Organization

The GLSO NEWS

September 2007

A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization
Volume 22 Number 9

Pride Night at King's Island

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati has scheduled their Pride Night for Friday, September 21. GLSO is selling tickets at the Pride Center for \$42.99. At the gate the price will be \$45. We have the tickets NOW so come by 389 Waller Ave. GLSO makes a few dollars for each ticket we sell. Call if you need directions and to be sure someone is here. 859 253-3233.

This is a private GLBT event. Straight folks are welcome but we will be in the majority. So it is a great place to be your fabulous self. The Parking lot will open at 5 pm; the park will be open from 6 until Midnight. There is more information at: www.pkipridenight.com.

Time to Clean Out Your Closets

GLSO is planning a giant garage sale at the Pride Center the first weekend in October and 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...and we will sell them to benefit the Pride Center. So, clean out your garages, storage spaces, junk rooms, attics, basements and - yes - your closets.

Donations can be dropped off at the Pride Center, 389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100, Mon.-Fri. from 10 to 3, Saturdays 11

continued on next page

Bluegrass Fairness Meet-n-Greet

You are invited to attend the Bluegrass Fairness Meet-n-Greet on Friday, September 7, from 6pm to 8pm. at Community Ventures Building, 560 E. Third St. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the new Bluegrass Fairness and to get to know the officers and members of the steering committee. Join us to discuss the issues, express concerns, and give us your support.

Bluegrass Fairness, an activist group for GLBT people, has been drumming up visibility and publicity. We have a new mailing list and you can add your name. Please visit our website: www.bgfair.org. It has a user-friendly format that will be updated frequently.

There are volunteer opportunities with Fairness, give us a call. See page 12 for a Fairness Update on recent activities. For more information, go to www.bgfair.org or call 859-951-4450.

sponsor of the month

Bluegrass Fairness

Friday, September 7

Meet-n-Greet

African American/Latino Leadership Conference

The 12th Anniversary of the African American/Latino Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS will be held Thursday, September 6th, Friday, September 7th and Saturday, September 8th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky.

This conference is designed to draw attention to, and stop the spread of, HIV with a focus on HIV/AIDS education, information dissemination, technical assistance, HIV Testing, and medical updates. Anyone interested in stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS should attend. The goal is to mobilize the African American and Hispanic Communities by providing leaders with the skills and knowledge needed for them to return to their communities and implement interventions to stop the spread of HIV.

The conference will focus on these seven tracks: Faith Based, Hispanics, Medical/IDU, Men's/MSM, Transgender, Women's/WSW and Unique Issues.

Why This Conference?

- ◆ Because the AIDS rate for African-Americans in Kentucky is approximately 7 times higher than the rate for Caucasians.
- ◆ Because Hispanics comprise approximately 1/5th of all people estimated to be living with AIDS in the U.S.
- ◆ Because African-Americans comprise 7% of the Kentucky population, yet 33% of AIDS cases.
- ◆ Because Hispanics comprise approximately 14% of the U.S. population, but account for 19%, or about 1/5 of all people living with AIDS in the U.S.
- ◆ Because African-Americans made up 12.3% of the US population, account for 40% of the estimated AIDS cases diagnosed since the beginning of the epidemic.
- ◆ Because AIDS was the 3rd leading cause of death among African-Americans age 25-44 in Kentucky, 2002. Nationally,

HIV/AIDS was the 3rd leading cause of death for African-Americans age 25-34 in 2001.

◆ Because nationally, HIV was the 6th leading cause of death for Hispanics age 25-34 in 2001.

For more complete information see www.aahlc.com or call Beverly Mitchell, Conference Chair, at 1-800-420-7431.

GLSO Gargae Sale *continued*

am to 3 pm. Our parking lot is next door to Waller Center, which has a big green sign. You can call the Pride Center at 859-253-3233 to be sure we are open. To arrange pickup call Jane at 859-253-0061. Donations are tax-deductible; receipts will be available upon request.

Mark your calendar for October 5-6 and tell your friends. Help us make this a great fundraiser for the GLSO & the Pride Center.



GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

Lexington, Kentucky

*Publishes the GLSO News Monthly
Vol. 22 No.9*

*P.O. Box 1172 Lex., KY 40588
www.GLSO.org*

**Pride Center Office Manager
Bill Chandler
859 253-3233**

**News Editors
Mary Crone - Sarah Phillips**

Community News

Imperial Court of Kentucky

Over the past seven reigns, The Imperial Court of KY has raised over \$130,000 for local charities such as Moveable Feast Lexington, GLSO, The Pride Center, AVOL, AVONK, Bluegrass Fairness, Kentucky Fairness Alliance. Nationally, the Court has contributed to The Leather Archives and Museum, and to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts for displaced persons with HIV.

Congratulations to our newly-crowned Miss Closet Ball 2007, Abri Leigh. This fall, the Court will be involved in a national get-out-the-vote campaign for the presidential election, cosponsored by the Human Rights Campaign.

We welcome everyone to become a friend of the ICK MySpace page. You don't have to be a member of MySpace to actually view the page. The web URL is www.myspace.com/imperialcourtofkentucky. We will be using Myspace to notify the community of upcoming shows as well as providing an interactive way for you to provide your feedback on events, and let us know what events you'd like to see in the future.

Karaoke Nights

Tuesday Nights are Karaoke Tuesdays 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.

TransKentucky

TransKentucky is a support, social, and resource group serving Lexington and the state of Kentucky. Our mission is to provide a safe place for transgender individuals and others who do not fit the standard gender norms.

Within the group, individuals can express their true selves and socialize with others without fear of judgment and/or ridicule. At meetings we will support each other, offering advice, resources and insights from our own unique experiences.

Family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend meetings to gain understanding and be supportive of their loved ones. We also welcome supportive community members who have an interest in issues concerning gender presentation, identity, and variance. The group meets on the first Saturday of each month at 7:30 pm in Lexington. email TransKentucky@gmail.com for 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.

Bluegrass Women's Network

Bluegrass Women's Network is a social group for women of all ages. We have gone camping, shared dinner at local restaurants, and gone to the comedy Club together. To receive emails about events. Contact debbywoman@gmail.com.

Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club

The Lexington Lyons will meet on Sept. 10 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>.

MR. KENTUCKY LEATHER 2008

The 2008 Mr. Kentucky Leather Contest will be held October 19-20, 2007 at StarbaseQ in Louisville, Ky. The two-day event is sponsored by Kentucky Leather Productions, Inc., a not-for-profit Ky corporation. The winner will represent Kentucky at the 30th annual International Mr. Leather competition in Chicago, IL over the 2008 Memorial Day weekend.

The contest is open to Kentucky residents, including the Greater Louisville and Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Areas. Contestants must be male and be at least 21 years of age as of Oct. 19, and must be able to represent Kentucky at the 30th International Mr. Leather Contest over the Memorial Day Weekend 2008. There is a \$25 application fee and the application deadline is Oct. 12, 2007. The winner's expenses for the Chicago competition will be covered by Ky Leather Productions.

The weekend will get underway with a reception on Friday, Oct. 19 at StarbaseQ for judges, contestants, and special quests from 9 to 10 pm. A Meet and Greet will follow including introduction of the contestants, judges and special demonstrations. The contest will be held on Saturday, Oct. 20, at 11 pm. Doors will open at 9 pm with a \$5 cover.

StarbaseQ is located at 921 West Main St. in downtown Louisville. For info and/or contest applications contact Larry Stanley, Ky Leather Productions, Inc. at LDStanley09@aol.com or 859-312-3816.

LGBT and "Redneck"?

There is an e-group started by Patrick for GLBT individuals, their friends and families, who are involved in or interested in experiencing working class, blue collar, and rural lifestyles including, but not limited to, those commonly referred to as "Redneck."

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LesbigaytransRednecks/members>

Integrity
Episcopalian GLBT Group
Cookout - see page 17
Sunday Sept. 16

The Ohio Lesbian Festival

The Ohio Lesbian Festival and Jetgirl Productions presents SIREN: A Celebration of Womyn's Power, Saturday, September 8, 2007 in Kirkersville, OH, at the Frontier Ranch. This all day event features a range of performances, workshops and a craft market area.

SIREN: A Celebration of Womyn's Power, promises to be an exciting new collaboration guaranteed to "Rock Kirkersville" on September 8th! This year's Fest will include the All Ohio Day Stage, the new Limelight Stage, Night Stage, and an After Hours Party with Jetgirl.

Lucie Blue Tremblay and The Breast Exam Project will highlight the Night Stage. Other performances include Nyla Stats, JD Samson & Johanna Fateman (of LeTigre), Gloria Bigelow, Cindy Wolfe & Jenn Litt, Shelley Graff, Tracy Walker, Royal Renegades, Bitch and the Exciting Conclusion, Rebel Girl, Doctor Sustain, Nedra Johnson, VJ's Lime & Coconut, and Sacred Shimmy Partyline.

You can save money by buying a ticket in advance. Please visit the festival website at www.ohiolba.org for details

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.

Please join us for a

Fairness Meet-n-Greet

Come meet the members of the steering committee and find out what's being done for LGBTQQ rights in the Bluegrass and Kentucky

When: September 7th from 6 to 8 p.m.

**Where: 560 E 3rd Street
(corner of Midland and 3rd)**

Why: Meet us; Learn more about the NEW Bluegrass Fairness; Give us feedback

Refreshments provided



Advocating for LGBTQQ rights in the Bluegrass through public education, grassroots organizing, and local lobbying

P.O. Box 22032
Lexington, KY 40522

Phone: 859-951-4450
E-mail: info@bgfair.org
www.bgfair.org

GLSO Pride Center

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

Discussion Group
Every Wednesday Night
7 to 9
All Are Welcome

Movie Night

A documentary that is relevant to GLBT people will be shown at the Pride Center on Thursdays, Sept. 13 and 25 at 7 pm. *Morristown* explores the impact of globalization on communities and people.

The film centers on working-class people, including Mexican immigrants, in Tennessee who are caught in the throes of massive economic change, challenging their assumptions about work, family, nation and community.

Immigration effects us all in a variety of ways. GLBT individuals are disproportionately represented within the immigrant population because many are fleeing discrimination and oppression in their country of origin. Aaron Hutson will lead a discussion after the film.

Lexington Insight

The Insight Potluck in September will be at 7 pm at the Pride Center on Friday, September 7th. The "Out" activity will be on the third Saturday, Sept. 15th. Meet at 12 noon at the center, then we will have lunch out, and hike at McConnell Springs, off Old Frankfort Pike in Lexington. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Dana is now the coordinator of Insight and welcomes new members and suggestions for other activities. Dana can be reached at 859-230-2428.

Kate Clinton

Saturday, October 27

Singletary Center

257-4929

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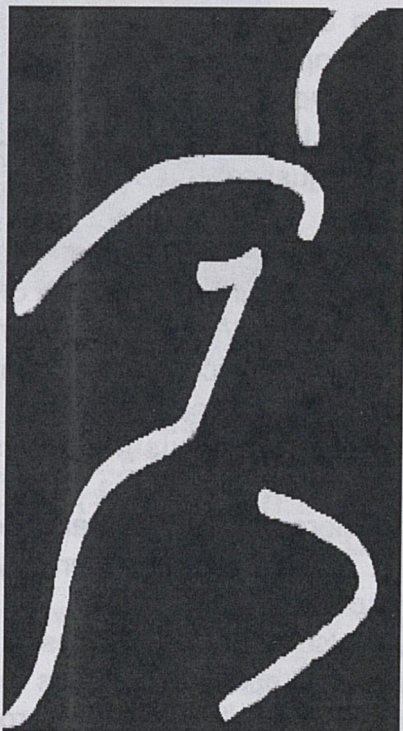
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US AND THEM

by mary crone

Human Beings have been dividing themselves into groups throughout history. In fact, the tendency to divide all that is perceived into categories seems so deeply rooted that some researchers think our brains may be "wired" to make sense of the external world by cataloging.

When we divide human beings into categories we often think of these groups as "us and them", such as "we play bridge, they play scrabble." However, many of the categories people have created over the centuries are hierarchical, with value assigned to each level.

Where there are value judgments, there is likely to be prejudice, discrimination, mistreatment, and exclusion. And as prejudice intensifies,

humans have found reasons to enslave, kill, start wars, and commit genocide.

Historically, most human cultures have included systems of oppression and privilege. Oppression, simply put, exists where individuals from groups with power institutionalize their values and their prejudices. Privilege is the automatic advantages people get by belonging to the favored group. Being privileged does not mean you buy into any of the stereotypes or practice discrimination, but you nevertheless receive some of the advantages of your group.

As GLBT people, we know about the prejudice and discrimination directed towards us. Some of us have less discrimination to deal with, others more. Many of us work in a variety of ways to end the discrimination we experience and to obtain basic civil rights, such as civil marriage. The most basic way to work against our oppression is to come out.

By telling people you are gay, you open the possibility that you can influence their ideas about GLBT people. Coming Out Day

is coming up on Oct 11, so start thinking what your next step "out" might be. Talking to co-workers or extended family members are possibilities. The Human Rights Campaign is offering materials to help you come out and celebrate who you are. To request stickers and pamphlets, go to <http://www.hrc.org/comingout>. We will also have some at the Pride Center.

Why do people decide to stay in the closet? Sometimes it is job security or concerns about family knowing. It can also be internalized homophobia. As often happens with oppression, we tend to internalize what the dominant culture says about us. Our embarrassment or fear of coming out is one way that oppression

keeps us quiet. If this is part of what is going on for you, your next step may be to "come out" about those fears. In other words, talk about

your reluctance to be more out with people who already know that you are gay.

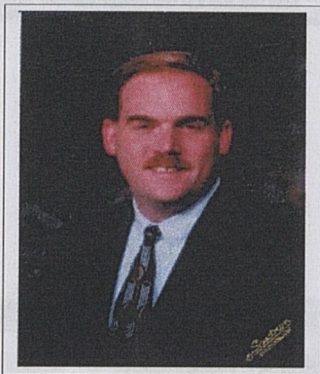
In the Positive View (page 16), the Prism Research team reports that many GLBT individuals say that being gay helped them understand other forms of prejudice and opened them to appreciate and enjoy diversity. Several reported becoming allies to other oppressed groups in the work for justice and equality for all people.

Not all GLBT folks become more accepting of other minorities as part of the coming out process. We have our share of "us and them" prejudices existing within our community. We need to look at our classism, racism, sexism, ableism, ageism, biphobia, transphobia..all of it. I plan to write more essays on "us and them" issues and I invite you to submit your opinions for publication also.

I would also like to show films at the Pride Center that speak to various forms of oppression. If any individuals or groups would like to be involved with that, give me a call, mary crone at 859 266-5904.

We have homophobia and discrimination directed at us, but we also need to look at our prejudices against other minorities.

Scott Ackerman Real Estate Service With



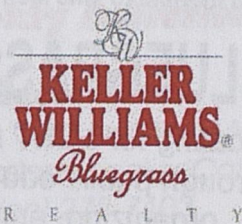
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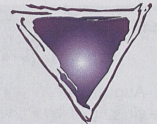
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GLSO Newsletter Calendar SEPTEMBER 2007

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Our Thanks to This Month's Newsletter Sponsor</i></p> <h2>BLUEGRASS FAIRNESS</h2> <p>Advocating for LGBT rights in the Bluegrass through public education, grassroots organizing, and local lobbying.</p>		<p>Let's Give an Award to the Group that has done the most for the community in the past year.</p> <p>Every Tuesday @ The Bar Complex 8:00pm - 1:00 am</p>	<p>Wednesday Night Discussion Group</p>			<p>Center Open 10a-2p 7:30p Trans Kentucky Call for Place</p>
<p>10:30 a St. Mychal's 11a UU Church SoulForce (Jamie 230-5625)</p>	3	<p>7p GSA (call for place 266-5904)</p> <p>9p Karaoke Tuesdays @ The Bar Complex A Weekly Benefit for The Pride Center</p>	<p>7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC</p> <p>8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 948-3434</p>	6	<p>6p-8p Fairness Meet & Greet 560 E. 3rd St. 7p Lexington Insight Potluck @ the Pride Center</p>	<p>Center Open 10a-2p 8</p>
<p>10:30 a St. Mychal's 11a UU Church SoulForce (Jamie 230-5625) 6:00p Imperial Court Mtg.PC</p>	<p>Lexington Lyons L.L. Club, Inc. 7p Lexington Lyons-</p>	<p>7p GSA (call for place 266-5904)</p> <p>9p Karaoke Tuesdays @ The Bar Complex A Weekly Benefit for The Pride Center</p>	<p>7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC</p> <p>8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 948-3434</p>	12	14	<p>Center Open 10a-2p 12N Lexington Insight-Will meet @ Center for "Out Activity" Call Dana for details 230-2428 Newsletter Dead-line</p>
<p>10:30 a St. Mychal's 11a UU Church SoulForce (Jamie 230-5625) 5p Integrity Cookout @ St. Martha's Episcopal Church</p>	17	<p>7p GSA (call for place 266-5904)</p> <p>9p Karaoke Tuesdays @ The Bar Complex A Weekly Benefit for The Pride Center</p>	<p>7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC</p> <p>8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 948-3434</p>	20	<p>6p- Pride Night @ King's Island. Tickets Available @ The Pride Center 10a-3p</p>	<p>Center Open 10a-2p 22</p>
<p>10:30 a St. Mychal's 11a UU Church SoulForce (Jamie 230-5625) 6:00p Imperial Court Mtg.PC</p>	24	<p>7p GSA (call for place 266-5904)</p> <p>9p Karaoke Tuesdays @ The Bar Complex A Weekly Benefit for The Pride Center</p>	<p>7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC</p> <p>8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 948-3434</p>	27	28	<p>Center Open 10a-2p 29</p>
<p>10:30 a St. Mychal's 11a UU Church SoulForce (Jamie 230-5625)</p>	<p>7:30p GLSO Board Mtg.</p>					

Weekly Activities:

- Mondays:**
8pm - Gay/ Lesbian AA Discussion/Speaker (Call for Location) 278-7103
- Tuesdays:**
7pm - GSA (Gay Straight Allian
9pm - Karaoke Tuesdays @ The Bar Complex
- Wednesdays:**
7pm - GLSO Discussion Group
8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for Location) 278-7103
- Fridays:**
8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for Location) 278-7103
- Saturdays:**

- Sundays:**
11:00 am - UU Church Worship Services.
10:30 - Mass, St. Mychal The M
6pm - SisterSound Rehearsal @ Landsdowne Presby. Church.
- Bi-weekly:**
6pm - The Imperial Court
SoulForce -Call Jamie 230-56;
- 1st Fridays & 4th Saturd**
7pm - Lexington Insight

Monthly Activities:

- Mondays:**
7:30pm - GLSO Board Mtg. (4th Mon.)
7pm - Lexington Lyons (2nd Mon.)

- Saturday:**
7:30p Trans Kentucky 1st Sat.

www.GLSO.org

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

Bluegrass Fairness Update

by Paul Brown

On August 9, Bluegrass Fairness hosted a viewing of the Presidential Forum dedicated to GLBT issues. The forum, hosted by Logo and HRC, sported six Democratic contenders for president. Several people turned out to watch and to learn what the candidates think of LGBT people and issues. Here is a summary of the forum:

Who stole our hearts? Dennis Kucinich. Moderator Melissa Etheridge summed it up best when addressing Kucinich: "I hope you run until you win." Kucinich showed unabashed support for gay issues. One of only two candidates in full support of gay marriage, he revealed that he keeps the HRC equal sign in his office and encouraged people to think of that symbol inside a heart because "there is no greater power than love on this planet."

Contender Mike Gravel came in a close second. Gravel, the other candidate in full support of gay marriage, provided the most comical statement of the evening: "A good politician can tell you to go to hell and make it sound appealing."

Who stole our apathy? Bill Richardson. The governor of New Mexico fell flat with many gay people when he stated that being gay was a choice. When pressed on the issue, Richardson said he was no scientist and did not want to get bogged down in "science or anything else he didn't understand." Spectator Aaron Hutson wondered if Richardson had had any prep people to coach him before the event.

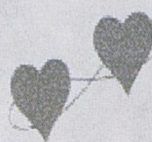
Surprisingly, John Edwards stalled as well. His answers to questions appeared supportive, but many spectators commented that he seemed very uncomfortable. A majority of watchers thought he was disappointing.

Who walked away a winner? It's a tie: Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama came out on top. The top two contenders already had solid leads in the polls and continue gaining strength. While gays were in love with Dennis Kucinich, most feel like the priority is to support a Democrat who can win and oust the non-gay supportive Republican regime.

Why a tie? Some gay people left the forum feeling that Obama, being a black man, has suffered inequality and understands what it is to fight for equality. He does not compare the GLBT struggle to that of black people, but having experience as a person of color, the sentiment is that he will be more willing to fight for LGBT equality.

However, others got the impression that Clinton simply has the experience. She, too, has fought for equality as a woman. She has put in her time and has what it takes to run our nation well. Spectator Daryl Royse commented, "She is ready to be president."

So, what's up next for Bluegrass Fairness? The group will host a Meet-N-Greet September 7th. This is an opportunity for you to provide feedback on how you think Bluegrass Fairness should spend their energies. Details on page 1. For the latest on Bluegrass Fairness, visit www.bgfair.org, or call 859-951-4450.



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You & Us



Unsilencing the T

By Christine Maxwell
TransKentucky Leader
TransKentucky@gmail.com

As an *active* member of the Transgender community (and active participant,) I have often been very skeptical of the inclusion of Transgender in LGBTQI. For the longest time I was under the impression that we were completely separate groups, who don't really want to have anything to do with the other. But I have learned that this is the wrong way to view things.

I think that there are issues on both sides of the coin. Transgender individuals have for too long been prone to hiding and being anti-social. The rest of the LGBTQI spectrum has taken to ignoring or forgetting about the Transgender community, because of ignorance or lack of participation from Transgender members. So in effect it has been a collective failure of all parties to bridge the gaps between the Transgender and LGBTQI community as a whole. But I must stress that I am not accusing anyone of any purposeful wrongdoing or harm.

For too long the two sides have been divided, yet we do have many things in common. While one group battles for equality based on sexual orientation the other battles for gender identity, but in both cases we are trying to be ourselves in a society that for the most part is against us. I think society has become far more accepting of Gay and Transgender to an extent, but Transgender still has a greater distance to travel.

One of the ways that Transgender people can narrow that distance, is to become more visible, to make people more aware that we exist and that we are ordinary people. This is a lesson the Transgender community can learn from the past actions of the Gay community and

forerunners of our own. I must note that when I started out, I had no intention of being an activist of any type, but I find myself more and more compelled to be one.

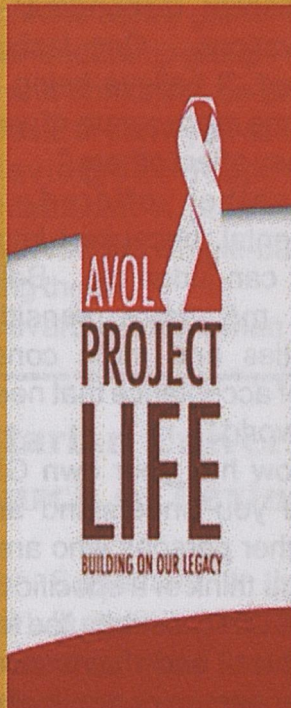
Within the last six months, I have accepted leadership of the group formerly known as LexDGA. I have come to know many lovely people from being a member of this group. I have also learned about (others) struggles other than my own. The transgender experience is a very personal one, but we *also* (all) have many things in common. What scares me the most are the Transgender people who don't know about our group or others like it, who are all alone trying to do this without support. I know how hard it was for me and I had some very good resources at my disposal.

What we can all do is try to be more understanding and patient with each other. As a Transgender person, I will definitely try to be more visible and TransKentucky will do so as well. We meet on the first Saturday of the month, all are welcome regardless of your gender identity. You may dress however you feel comfortable. The TransKentucky peer group is not a therapy group or a dating service. Please e-mail the group for more details: TransKentucky@gmail.com

Our group is also working on new projects to improve the Transgender community, and the bonds between us and the rest of the LGBTQI community. It is my personal hope that the T will no longer be silent, but be bolder than ever.

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.

**AVOL TESTING CLINIC
NEW HOURS**



**START DATE:
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10,
2007**

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WEDNESDAY'S: 6PM-9PM**

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The Positive View

Part 8: Increased empathy and compassion for others

By Dr. Sherry and Prof. Skippy

Empathy is an important quality in fostering positive relationships with others, whether in close personal relationships, friendships, or in our connection to others in the world. The ability to empathize leads to compassion for others. Many eastern philosophies identify compassion as the foundation for peace in the world.

Lesbians and gay men who took part in our survey reported feeling that they had an increased sense of empathy and compassion for other people who are oppressed. This was the most common theme mentioned by gay men in their answers. One gay man eloquently stated, "I enjoy being a member of the gay community because it teaches me a lot of things about acceptance, openness, diversity and sincerity. If I had turned out to be straight, although I would like to think that I would be as accepting of others as I am now, I still would have been missing the perspective that only minority members feel and can share with others."

Another gay man wrote, "Being gay has also given me experiences in discrimination that have opened my eyes to the plight of other peoples and individuals. I think being gay has made me more empathic and compassionate than I would otherwise have been as a white Southern man."

The awareness of privilege provided a source of motivation for one gay man who stated, "I would say first that for me, the journey from a white male privileged identity to the inclusion of a gay identity forever changed my experience and passion for working with others who are oppressed."

While this was a common theme for Caucasian/white gay men, it was also mentioned by gay men of color. For

example, an Asian-American gay man wrote, "I'm a better person, more sensitive to prejudice, discrimination, etc. because I'm gay." A Latino gay man similarly reported, "If I were not gay, I don't think I would understand and/or appreciate differences between peoples (sex, gender, ethnic, race, cultural) as well as I do now."

Lesbian respondents made similar observations. One lesbian participant reported, "I believe being a lesbian has made me more aware of world issues and how they affect others."

Another offered, "I am less judgmental, because I know how easily others can judge me. Being 'other' has made me more sensitive to other minorities and more conscious of the work of acceptance that needs to be done in the world."

How has your own GLBTQ identity helped you understand and empathize with other persons who are stigmatized? Can you think of a specific instance when being GLBTQ contributed to your ability to empathize and have compassion for another person or group of people? How can you use that insight to increase understanding of others?

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*.

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Integrity

Please join us for a cookout to kick off a **new beginning for Integrity** in the Diocese of Lexington, Sunday, Sept. 16 at 5pm at St. Martha's Episcopal Church, 1321 Trent Blvd. We will have lots of time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. We will also talk about activities for the next few months as we gather interest in a more formal leadership group.

Hot dogs and drinks will be provided; please email David or Jon if you can bring a sidedish (david@davidcupps.com, jonny@insightbb.com) A portion of the grill will be reserved for veggie-burgers if you want to bring them.

Trent Bouevard is inside Man O' War

between Tates Creek Road and Armstrong Mill Road in south Lexington. Follow Trent about 3 1/2 blocks from Man O' War, and you'll find us on your right.

For more information see www.LexIntegrity.org or contact David Cupps or Jon Parker.

Integrity is a nonprofit organization of Llesbian, 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.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington

Starting on September 9, the U.U. worship service will again begin at 11 am. In addition to worship, there is a Sunday morning Buddhist sitting practice at 9 am and a Buddhist discussion group (Sanga) at 10 am, both in the Fellowship House next to the church. We are located at 3564 Clays Mill Rd.

On Wednesday nights, we offer adult religious exploration. On Sept. 5, we will be talking about the Genographic Project, which is mapping ancient human migration through the study of DNA. Several members of our church have sent in samples to this project and have received a report of their ancestry based on the markers in their DNA.

The discussion of this project and the implications it has for our understanding of race and racism will continue on Sept. 19 and 26. We will be watching an excellent film, *The Way Home*, featuring women separated into eight ethnic identity groups on Sept. 26th and Oct. 3. The film is mostly about the effects of racism but also

includes lesbians and some discussion of homophobia.

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.

Interweave will be meeting sometime in September, Call Mary Crone for information,. 859-266-5004

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

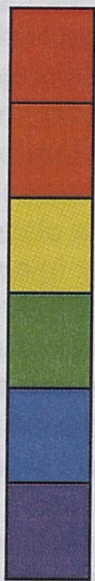
stmychalthemartyr.org

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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GLSO Pride Center (Bill).....253-3233
 GLSO Board (Tom).....
 Discussion Group (Bill)253-3233
 GLSO News (Mary).....266-5904
 Subscriptions (Bill).....253-3233
 Speakers Bureau (Mary).....266-5904
 Youth, Gay Straight Alliance (Mary).....266-5904
 GLSO email.....lexingtonglso@yahoo.com
 GLSO web pagewww.glsopc.org

Student Groups:

EKU Pride Alliance.....alliance@yahoo.com
 UK Lavender Society...uklavender@yahoo.com
 Moorehead State Univ. (Ned).....606 783-2294
 Berea College ACE League (Ryan). 859 985-3633
 Centre College (BGLAD-Mykol).....238-5332

Anonymous HIV Testing:

Jessamine County.....885-4149
 Lexington, Fayette County.....288-2437
 Madison County.....859 723-7312
 Woodford County.....873-4541
 U.K. Adolescent Medicine.....323-5643

HIV/AIDS Info/Services:

AVOL, AIDS Volunteers Inc.225-3000
 Lexington Health Dept. (Julie).....288-2362
 HIV/AIDS Legal Project.....502 584-1254
 HIV Support (Somerset)...679-7478 or 678-5814
 Cumberland Region (SEKY-Pat)....606 864-3776
 ..r 888 425-7282
 Barren River Region.....800 559-4448
 Louisville Region (Geri).....502 574-0161
 Northern Kentucky Region.....859 341-4264
 Purchase Region.....800 522-8289
 Moveable Feast Lex. Inc. (Terry).....252-2867

Community Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous (Ron).....948-0434
 Office.....276-2917
 Al-Anon (office).....277-1877
 Bluegrass C.O.L.T.S. (Morris).....225-9169
 Bluegrass Fairness.....859 806-4114
 Council for Peace & Justice.. (Richard) 277-6101
 Fairness of Louisville.....502 893-0788
 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

Lex. Lyons Leather/Levi Club (Paul).....396-6936
 www.lexlyons.org
 Lex. Human Rights Commission.....252-4931
 Lex. Insight Group(Dana).....859-230-2428
 Louisville Youth Group.....502 894-9787
 MACT Men of All Colors Together (Jon)...351-4453
 mactky@aol.com
 Moonshine Bears of y (Jim).....859 299-2047
 www.moonshinebears.com
 People for Unity & Fairness.....803-1130
 CUFCKT@aol.com
 Pride Alliance of Cent. KY. (Gary) ...859 236-4547
 (Shane) 859 854-05
 pridealliance@yahoo.com
 PFLAG (Ed).....(859) 200-9512
 Pegasus Travel.....253-1644
 Rainbow Families of Lex. (Cheryl).....533-6309
 Sienna (Gender Identity Lou'ville).....502 346-5298
 SisterSound (Patti).....806-0243
 Sisthas in the Life (Joan).....252-2657
 TransKentucky.....TransKentucky@g.aill.com
 24 hr. Crisis Line.....1 800 928-8000
 24 hr. Teen Crisis Line.....1 800 999 9999

Religious Groups:

Interweave (Unitarian-Mary).....266-5904
 Integrity (Episcopal -David).....396-9691
 Lexington Friends Meeting (Quakers).....254-3319
 Jubilee Fellowship (Rev. Cori).....859-514-5518
 MCC Paducah (Rev. lillian).....270.443-3339
 Norse Pagan Community (Rev. Pat).....268-1640
 KY Pagan Forum http://go.to/kypaganforum/
 RainbowWind (Pagan-Sarah).....273-2455
 Soulforce (Jamie).....859 230-5625
 www.soulforcekentucky.org
 St. Mychal the Martyr (Rev. Ken).....338-1195

GLSO News Deadline

SEPTEMBER 15

Please send all articles and ads to

lexingtonglso@yahoo.com

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www.bgfair.org

Windy Knoll Farm

Riding Lessons, Trail Riding, Boarding.....299-7410

Debra Hensley Insurance.....276-3244

1513 Nicholasville Rd.

Lexington Lyons619-3650

Levi and Leather Club

Ky. Department for Public Health.....1 800 420-7431

HIV/AIDS Branch