



**GAY and
LESBIAN
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION**
Lexington,
Kentucky

GLSO NEWS

September 2004

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Volume 19 Number 9

BLUEGRASS FAIRNESS

NO on the AMENDMENT UPDATE

The Bluegrass Chapter of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance has been very busy maintaining chapter needs and working to defeat the proposed constitutional amendment that will ban gay marriage. There are many upcoming opportunities for you to be entertained and donate to the cause:

Come see Robbie Bartlett and Bernie Lubbers on Thursday, Sept 23rd at 8 pm at the State Theater, inside the Ky Theater. This is a new act that has been getting great reviews and support in the Louisville and surrounding area. Robbie Bartlett fans can expect the same fantastic performance and Bernie Lubbers fans will be impressed with his musical talent, in addition to his stand-up comedy.

Tickets for open seating are \$15. Or if you want to be a major supporter, meet-and-greet tickets for front-row seating, drinks and hors d' orves with the artists before the show will be sold for \$50.

On Saturday, Sept. 25th, we will host Bluegrass Fairness's annual fundraising dinner. This year all proceeds will go to the NO on the Amendment campaign - a good way to kick off your Saturday evening festivities. It will be held at the Sheraton. A \$60 dollar ticket will include appetizers, dinner, desert, speakers and an art auction of items donated by local artists.

Volunteers are greatly needed to go door to door and talk to registered voters about the ballot measure. This is the most effective work that ...*continued on next page*

Miss Gay Club 141

On Thursday, September 23 at 9:30, the Miss Gay Club 141 Pageant will be held at the Club, 141 West Vint St.. The Pageant will feature Miss Club 141, the first Lady of Kentucky, Latoya Bacall. The entrance fee is \$5.

Entertainment will be provided by former Miss Club 141's, Wendy Williams, Nicole Diamond, Taylor Bryce, Lady Devane, Tracy Taylor, and special guest Rhonda K. Steele. With all that talent, this is sure to be a grand evening.

Those interested in being contestants should contact LaToya at 294 0901 or Club 141 at 233-4262 for more information. Judged Categories include Presenttion, Talent, Evening Gown, and On Stage Question. Entry Fee is \$30

The Winner will receives \$125 on the night of the contest, a crown, and bookings at Club 141.



ICK Closet Ball
Wed. Sept. 29 page 3-4

Sponsor of the Month

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**GAY and
LESBIAN
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION**
Lexington, Kentucky

The **GLSO NEWS**

Volume 19 Issue 9

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Lesbian Service
Organization*

389 Waller Ave.

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GLSO Annual Dues & Newsletter.

Individual - \$15

Opinions expressed in the GLSO News are those of the authors and don't necessarily represent those of the GLSO Board. Submissions are welcome and staff reserves the right to edit submissions and advertisements as well as the right to reject submissions or advertisements.

we can be doing to defeat the so called" marriage amendment. When we go out we learn that folks are with us 2-1, and that it's our personal stories that move them!

We are able to talk with voters about how this amendment does so much more than defining marriage, but prohibits basic protections like civil union and domestic partnerships and denies Kentuckians and their children protections that foster loving and stable families. When folks find out just how extreme this amendment is, they are willing to stand with us and vote NO in November. But we need your help to build a bigger team of folks talking with voters.

Help us get Lexington off the ground! Our upcoming walks will be Saturday, Sept. 11 from 9 AM to 1 PM & Sunday Sept. 12 from 4 PM to 8 PM and Saturday Sept. 25 & Sunday Sept. 26 (same time as previous walks). There is a training before every walk so that folks are prepared to talk with voters. We meet at 110 North Upper Street.

To participate in the walks or to find out more about defeating the amendment contact netta brooks at netta@noamendmentky.com or 859-396-5251. **See page 8 for info about the Bluegrass Steering Committee and a Bowlathon.** Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming events: house parties hosted by your friends, a bachelor auction and an Imperial Court event. For more info and to get involved, call 859-806-4114 or www.bluegrassfairness.org.

SisterSound Invitation

SisterSound is gearing up to start a new season of singing together. We are looking for new members and we do not require auditions. Come to a rehearsal, meet some people, try singing with us and see what you think. No previous experience required.

Our first rehearsal will be at 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, at Lansdowne Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 333 Redding Road. We're looking forward to an exciting season. Please read the longer article on page 10 for more information. You can also call Patti at 806-0243 or paowens@excite.com. Visit our web site at www.geocities.com/sistersound, or Google "sistersound".

Community News

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers

Lexington has a new club in town. Frontrunners/Frontwalkers is back and ready to get in step. We will be meeting twice weekly for running/walking and socializing. Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m. at the UK Arboretum. Plan to meet near the Water Tower.

If you have any questions, please call Hal Kutter or Ken Waibel at 859-294-7944 or email Hal at haroldkutter@aol.com.

RAINBOW LEAGUE CONVERTS TO SOCIAL BOWLING

The Rainbow League will be meeting on September 8, at 8 p.m. in the conference room at Collins Lanes on Southland Dr.

This year the Rainbow League is trying something different. Instead of having an organized league, the members of the league will sponsor a social bowling event that will be held every Wednesday starting at 9 p.m. on Sept. 15, and lasting through April of 2005.

This is a social bowl and consequently there is no obligation for a bowler to commit to bowling every Wednesday night. Instead anyone can simply come on any Wednesday when the spirit moves him or her and join other bowlers for a fun evening of bowling. The participant will pay the open bowling rate - roughly \$10.00 for three games. Payment of ABC sanction fees is optional. Shawn Fritz will maintain statistics for those who want to be sanctioned and participate in the tournaments sponsored by the International Gay Bowling Organization.

We hope you will join us on Tuesday for a night of bowling and companionship. For further information call Shawn Fritz at 859- 271-8919

PRIDE NIGHT Kings Island

Pride Night at Paramount's Kings Island will be on Friday Oct. 1. The park opens to guests at 6 pm and stays open until midnight. GLSO is selling tickets at the Pride Center, 387 Waller Ave, 10am to 3 pm daily and on Sat. Sept. 25, from 10 to 5. Call 253-3233 to be sure a volunteer is here. Tickets are \$39.99 for adults and \$20.99 for children and seniors, age 60 and over. (Cost will be more at the door.)

The entertainment this year includes an Island Idol contest hosted by Andrew Hyde, Simone Denny, and the Island Queens. The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati will benefit from the sale of tickets. GLSO will make a small amount per ticket so purchase here.

THE IMPERIAL COURT

The Imperial Court of Ky has gotten another year of fundraising off to a great start, and we would like to remind everyone of our upcoming benefits.

Join us on Wednesday, September 8th, as we host Larry's Birthday Bash, an evening of celebration and entertainment in honor of Emperor 22 Larry Stanley's 65th birthday. Doors @ 141 will open @ 8:30 p.m., with the show starting at 9:30 p.m. Cover is five dollars, with proceeds benefiting the Court's general fund and AIDS Volunteers (AVOL).

Wednesday, Sept. 29th, we will present our longest-running event, the **Julie Vaughn Memorial Closet Ball**. In this pageant, males and females who have never performed in drag before are allowed the opportunity to be made over into the other gender, perform, and possibly walk away as Mister or Miss Closet Ball, 2004.

....continued on next page

Contestants must first present themselves in their natural gender, then have exactly one hour to transform themselves into the drag queen or king they always knew they could be and perform for the audience. Think "The Swan" meets "American Idol," with our own panel of drag experts.

Closet ball is always one of our most popular events, so come early for a gender-bending evening of fun. Show time is 9:30 p.m., with the doors opening at 8:30 p.m. Cover is five dollars, proceeds benefit the charities of Reign 23.

Entry fee is ten dollars, and applications can be obtained by contacting E.V., Lady Marmalade, Imperial Court Board Members, or by emailing Board President Wayne Swope at NicoleDiamond1@aol.com.

Jo-Beth GLBT Reading Group

Meredith Whiles has formed a GLBT reading group, the Lavender Book Group, at Joseph-Beth Booksellers. The next meeting will be on Sat., Sept. 4, at 3 pm, at the bookstore. We'll be discussing "Queer Ideas". If you have any questions or title suggestions please feel free to e-mail mwhiles@joseph-beth.com.

Diversity in Gender Alliance

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lexDGA>

The Lexington Diversity in Gender Alliance meets the first Saturday evening of each month at a private location. Contact Kelli at kellindel@hotmail.com for info.

We welcome all people who transcend gender norms or who are questioning their gender identity. We welcome transsexuals, intersexuals, effeminate men, masculine women, drag Kings, drag Queens, gender queers... and more. Family and supportive allies who would like to discuss trans issues are welcome. This is not a therapy group.

Lyons Levi/Leather Club

The Lexington Lyons meet every other month at the Pride Center, the next meeting will be in October. We also meet for brunch at Mia's on the last Sunday of each month at 1 pm. You are welcome to join us.

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER

KY Men of all Colors Together (MACT) is a local chapter of a national gay multiracial organization which fosters a supportive environment where friendships and partnerships can be celebrated free of racial and cultural barriers. For information call 859-351-4453 (Jon) email MACTky@aol.com, or www.mactky.com

GLSEN

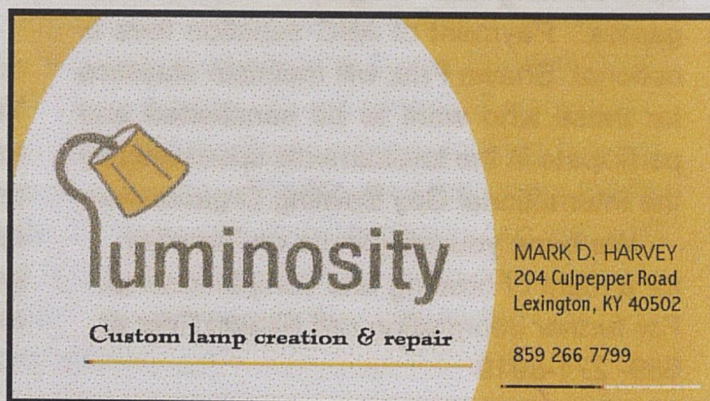
On October 2, the Cincinnati Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) is hosting a Youth Summit at Northern Kentucky University. Gay, straight, bisexual, transgender, and supportive youth and adults are invited to come together and discuss major issues facing GLBTQ individuals. The Pride Center has asked for some flyers and pamphlets about this event. Drop by or call for more information. 253-3233

Additional News

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Religious Groups page 17



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PRIDE CENTER NEWS and ACTIVITIES

389 Waller Ave. 859-253-3233 Mon-Sat we open at 10 am.
We stay open until 5 pm on most days, and on Wed until 7pm.



Register to Vote GLSO Pride Center

Gay Straight Alliance for Youth

The Gay Straight Alliance is open to all youth ages 15 - 20. You do not have to label yourself to join. We meet every week at a private location. Sometimes we just hang out and talk, other times we watch a video, discuss some issue, or have a speaker. This fall we are planning our 4th trip to Kings Island Gay Day on Oct 1.

We are always open to new members. Some teens who attend are questioning their sexual orientation, others are sure they are gay, lesbian or bisexual. Some are the children of gay or lesbian parents. Others are straight and come with gay friends. Everyone is welcomed. For information contact Mary Crone at 266-5904 or email lexgsa@yahoo.com or visit www.lexingtongsa.com

Discussion Group

The discussion group meets every Wednesday night at 7 pm at the Pride Center and is open to all. We strive to make this a safe space where you can be yourself. If you are just coming out, or are new to the community, this is a great place to come meet some good people.

If, on the other hand, you have been out forever and would like to participate in some lively discussions, please join us on any Wednesday evening at the pride center. For more info contact Jane at lady-janey@yahoo.com

Tenemos una persona que puede hablar espanol en la oficina cada jueves desde las 3 pm hasta 5 pm

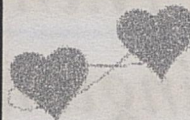
40+ CLUB FOR WOMEN

The 40+ Club is a group for women over 40 (and their younger friends) who are interested in attending a wide variety of activities together. In the past we have gone to plays, attended sporting events, visited museums, and enjoyed many meals together. We get together in groups of 2 to 20. If you have something you want to do there is probably someone in the group that would love to join you. With the 40+ Club you don't have to go it alone.

If you are interested in joining the Club we meet every month on the second Sunday at 2pm at the Pride Center to plan the next month's activities. Bring your ideas and join us at our next meeting, Sunday September 12th at 2pm at the Pride Center and plan to go out to eat afterward. You can also call or email Ginger and Jane at 859-253-0061 or ggclr@yahoo.com.

LESBIAN VIDEO NIGHT

Lesbian Video Night will be Friday, September 10, at 8 pm. We will be watching **The Laramie Project** which examines the town's response to the death of Matthew Shepard. The movie includes some excerpts from the trial not in the play. Everyone is invited to join us. (men also!)



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CLUB 141 PRESENTS

THE MISS CLUB 141 PAGEANT

*Featuring Miss Club 141,
The 1st Lady of Kentucky,*

Latoya Bacall



Thursday, September 23rd 9:30 pm

Club 141

141 West Vint St. Lexington, Ky.

Door Cover \$5

Entertainment by former Miss Club 141's:

Wendy Williams Nicole Diamond Taylor Bryce

Lady Devane Tracy Taylor

and special guest Rhonda K. Steele

**Judged Categories: Presenttion, Talent, Evening
Gown, and On Stage Question Entry Fee \$30**

Winner Receives: \$125 night of contest, crown, and bookings at Club 141

Contact LaToya at 294 0901 or the Club 233-4262

Ky. Fairness Alliance, Bluegrass Chapter Seeks Steering Committee Members

The Bluegrass Chapter of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance (KFA) invites applicants to join the organization's steering committee. KFA is a statewide, non-partisan network of people and organizations dedicated to:

Promoting equality for all people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Educating the public about the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Facilitating the passage of information between local and statewide efforts.

Supporting local efforts that are consistent with the goals of the Alliance.

KFA seeks to advance equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people through leadership development, public education, and by encouraging participation in the democratic process.

Applicants to the board should be committed to the values, vision, and mission of the organization and be willing to accept leadership responsibilities in the organization. We especially encourage applications from people of diverse ages, sexual orientations, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. Responsibilities of board members include:

Clarifying and overseeing the organization's mission and taking responsibility for long-range planning

Establishing policies for the organization's operations

Raising funds for and giving funds to the organization

Overall fiscal and legal responsibility of the organization

Membership on the Steering Committee of the Bluegrass Chapter of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance offers exciting opportunities to work for progressive social change. The organization is an active one, with Steering Committee members meeting monthly. In addition, service involves about

5-10 hours a month of related work, including committee planning and assignments, e-mail and other communications, conference calls, and fundraising activities. Steering Committee terms are for two years and will begin in January 2005.

Interested persons may apply by completing the on-line form at www.bluegrass-fairness.org/form. Those selected to serve will be notified by phone and/or U.S. mail. Announcements of new members will be made in November 2004. Questions can be directed to Mahjabeen Rafiuddin at mrafiudd@nccj.org or Jerry Thomas at jerry.thomas@eku.edu.

BOWLING FOR VOTES

The KFA Action Fund will be sponsoring a bowl-a-thon with proceeds going toward the Vote No on the Amendment Campaign. VOTE NO is the state wide effort to defeat the proposed constitutional amendment defining marriage as being only between one man one woman and banning civil unions or domestic partner arrangements.

The bowl-a-thon will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2004 at Collins Southland Lanes, 205 Southland Drive, Lexington. The entry fee is \$15 per person. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m. with bowling at 2 p.m. Bowling should be completed by 4 pm.

The entry fee will be waived if the bowler brings in a minimum of \$50 in pledges. This is excellent way for you to help defeat the proposed constitutional amendment. Please make plans to come to what will be a fun event. This event has the potential to raise \$2,500 if fifty bowlers will bring in \$50 each.

For further information and pledge sheets, call Jim Dickinson at 252-5801 (e-mail JLD50ALJ@qx.net). We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, October 12 at 1:30 p.m. Good luck and good bowling.

KFA ACTION FUND

Please join us for an evening of fine dining and a silent auction for our fall fundraiser.

Saturday, September 25th
Sheraton Suites

2601 Richmond Rd

6:30 pm - Cocktail reception and silent art auction

7:30 pm - Dinner with supportive elected officials

\$60 per person

Cash bar

Reservations strongly suggested

859-806-4114 or

fundraiser@bluegrassfairness.org

Proceeds to benefit:

NO on
the
AMENDMENT

SisterSound *Inviting Women To Join*

by Emily Hendren

I first heard of SisterSound when I picked up a flier at a Take Back the Night rally several years ago. I hadn't done any organized singing since high school, so I was pretty nervous. I called the number to ask about it, though, and reached Patti Owens, who totally put me at ease. She assured me that auditions were not required, people were easy-going and welcoming, and I should come along and try it out.

That was the semester we performed with Reel World String Band. It was my favorite kind of music - folk songs, including the beautiful "Appalachian Round," which we wound up singing in darkness during the concert, perched in four points in the Singletary Center recital hall, a web of eerie voices weaving around the room. From the audience, my mother was completely blown away.

I appreciated the attention to detail and the deep involvement of all the members of the chorus. We didn't just run through the song a couple of times at rehearsal. We picked it apart, our director pointing out tricky bits and suggesting things we could do to improve our technique. Everyone piped up with ideas for staging and suggestions as to who should sing this or that solo part.

Most of all, though, I came to love the chorus for the people. "SisterSound" isn't just a clever name. Patti was right: The people were welcoming, and as a new member, I felt invited to jump in and get involved. I have never felt left out of anything with this group of women.

And then they made me their queen. OK, I was elected president, but I really like saying it that way. One of my most important responsibilities, as I see it, is to make

the members, old and new, continue to feel as welcome as I felt when I started singing with SisterSound.

So here's the official invitation: Come to a rehearsal, meet some people, try singing with us and see what you think. We're looking forward to an exciting season, with one concert exploring different variations of music, rhythm and dance, and another concert devoted to one of the greatest pleasures of life: food. Don't worry if you don't have any experience. We still laugh at the idea of auditions, and our director's approach make it easy to learn your part in the songs.

Our first rehearsal starts at 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, at Lansdowne Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 333 Redding Road. Hope to see you there!

For more information visit our web site at www.geocities.com/sistersound, or Google "sistersound".

Wishing Chair

Big News first: Wishing Chair has been booked on the Olivia Cruise Line tour to Alaska, May 8-15, 2005. Thanks to all who have been singing our praises to them -- it worked! Plan your vacations now and come along. Let them know that part of your reason for going is us! Visit <http://www.olivia.com/cruises> to see the details of this cruise.

Here are some September play dates:
Sept 5 DeKalb, IL (w/ Kara Bamar) Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest mwautumn.com
Sept 8 - Cincinnati, OH, Rivertowne Bar & Grille (On the River)
Sept 11- Louisville, KY, Rainbow Cafe w/ KY Bootleggers opening, 2530 Frankfort Avenue. \$7-\$10 . 8 pm

And if you are going to **Woman's Week in Provincetown this October**, we will be playing Oct 15 at the UU Meetinghouse

...continued on page 14

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SisterSound268-0113.

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SEPTEMBER 2004

To schedule events at the Pride Center, call Bill at 253-3233.

www.webspawner.com/users/glsqxnet

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>More information about many of these events is in this newsletter. You can call or email the group to confirm the date and time, see the directory on back page. Pride Center may be abbreviated - PC. Call for Place may be abbreviated - Call</p>			<p>1 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA</p>	<p>2 Pride Center open til 5pm Tenemos una persona que puede hablar español en la oficina cada Jueves a las 3 pm hasta 5 pm</p>	<p>3 Pride Center open til 5pm 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)</p>	<p>4 9a Frontrunners/ Frontalkers Arboretum Pride Center Open 10 - 5 3pm Lavender Book Group, Joseph-Beth 8 pm Diversity in Gender - call for place</p>
<p>5 9:15 & 11 UU Church Service First Sunday Lunch 10:30 a Mass @ St. Mychal the Martyr 4 p Integrity at St Michaels</p>	<p>6 Pride Center open til 5pm AA Step Study (Call for place)</p>	<p>7 7 pm Gay Straight Alliance (Call for place 266-5904) Pride Center open til 5pm</p>	<p>8 6:45 Frontrunners/ Frontalkers Arboretum 7 pm Discussion Group 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 9:30 ICK Birthday Bash Club 141</p>	<p>9 Pride Center open til 5pm Tenemos una persona que puede hablar español en la oficina cada Jueves a las 3 pm hasta 5 pm</p>	<p>10 Pride Center open til 5pm 8 pm Lesbian Movie Night, Pride Center 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)</p>	<p>11 9a Frontrunners/ Frontalkers Arboretum Pride Center Open 10-5 pm</p>
<p>12 9:15 11 a UU Church Service 10:30 Sunday Mass, St. Mychal 2 p 40+ Group- PC 6 p SisterSound rehearsal L nsdowne Cumberland Presby Church 6 pm Imperial Court PC</p>	<p>13 Pride Center open til 5pm</p>	<p>14 7 pm Gay Straight Alliance for youth (Call for place 266-5904) Pride Center open til 5pm</p>	<p>15 6:45 Frontrunners/ Frontalkers Arboretum 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA call GLSO News Deadline</p>	<p>16 Pride Center open til 5pm Tenemos una persona que puede hablar español en la oficina cada Jueves a las 3 pm hasta 5 pm</p>	<p>17 Pride Center open til 5pm 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)</p>	<p>18 9a Frontrunners/ Frontalkers Arboretum Pride Center Open 10-5pm</p>
<p>19 9:15 & 11 a UU Church Service 10:30 Sunday Mass, St. Mychal 6 p SisterSound rehearsal come sing with us 7p MACT PC</p>	<p>20 8 pm AA Step Study GLSO Board Meeting 7:30 pm</p>	<p>21 7pm GSA for Youth ages 15 - 20 call mary for place 266-5904 Pride Center Open til 5</p>	<p>22 6:45 Frontrunners/ Frontalkers Arboretum 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA</p>	<p>23 Pride Center open til 5pm 8 Fairness Fundraiser Robbie Bartlett KY Theater 9:30 Miss Gay Ky, Club 141</p>	<p>24 Pride Center open til 5pm 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)</p>	<p>25 9a Frontrunners/ Frontalkers Arboretum Pride Center Open 10-5 Fairness Dinner</p>
<p>26 9:15 & 11am UU Church Service 10:30 Sunday Mass, St. Mychal 1 pm Lyons Brunch Mia's 6 pm Imperial Court PC 6 pm SisterSound rehearsal come sing with us</p>	<p>27 AA Step Study (Call for place) 7 pm Gay Straight Alliance for youth (Call Mary for place or info 266-5904) Pride Center open til 5pm</p>	<p>28 7 pm Fairnes Steering Committee, P C Pride Center open til 5pm</p>	<p>29 7 pm Discussion Group 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 9:30 Closet Ball ICK Club 141</p>	<p>30 Pride Center open til 5pm Tenemos una persona que puede hablar español en la oficina cada Jueves a las 3 pm hasta 5 pm</p>		

Wishing Chair cont. from page 10
with Lucie Blue Tremblay.

The new WC T-shirts have been a big hit all summer and we just got a new batch in. We have in stock green, sage, charcoal and lavender T's in sizes ranging from medium to 2X. Other sizes can be special ordered, just ask. Visit www.wishingchair.com. or email us at infor@wishingchair.com.

We're getting ready to start recording our new CD in October. The fundraising effort has been going well but we still have a ways to go. If you would like to help check out our web site. Make a donation and receive a signed copy of our CD in the Spring. Thank you to all who have donated so generously already.

We're looking at having a big 10th anniversary Wishing Chair bash with the CD release in the spring. If you are interested in helping you can check it out on the website. www.wishingchair.com.

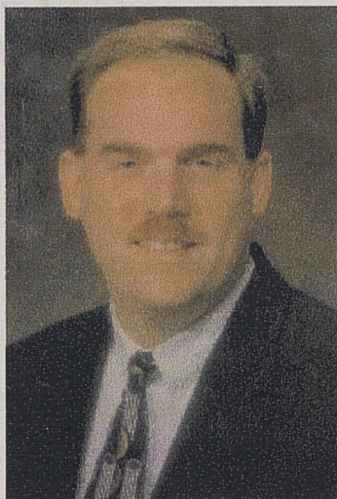
Ray Allen, Regent Emperor I

Regent Emperor I of Kentucky Ray Allen passed away near the end of August. Ray was originally a member of the Denver Court, holding a perpetual title from Denver prior to moving to Kentucky. He was appointed Regent Emperor I several months after Empress I Julie Vaughn was crowned at our first Coronation.

Ray remained active in the Court for many years and has always been held in the highest regard. At Coronation you could often find Ray helping out at the voting booth or at the door. He always wanted to contribute, and never worried about the spotlight.

He truly was one of our shining stars, and an example of how to play this game with style and dignity. He will be missed.

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**EMPEROR 22 LARRY'S
BIRTHDAY BASH**

AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION AND
ENTERTAINMENT IN HONOR OF LARRY'S
65TH BIRTHDAY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH
Club 141

Show @ 9:30 p.m. \$5 COVER

* Proceeds to benefit the Court's general fund and 

the julie vaughn memorial

CLOSET BALL

wednesday

9.29.04

club 141

show @ 9:30 p.m.

\$5 cover

*for an application, see lady marmalade, EV,

Imperial Court board members, or contact board
president wayne swope @ nicolediamond1@aol.com.

*proceeds to benefit the charities of the Imperial Court.

Gay Spirituality Icon #7

By Fr. Ken Waibel

As so we begin the second set of spirituality icons for GLBT persons – those common experiences that help us better define who we are and what our relationship with the Divine One might be. The first six icons reflected the GLBT experience from those moments of “desolation” or times where God might seem absent. These next icons surface from the “consolation” moments in our lives where we find strength and encouragement.

Our first consolation icon (seventh in the series) surrounds the experience of being “out” of the closet. The opposite of “silence” this experience offers a new freedom within the person that wasn’t experienced before. Whether this “coming out” is only to self or to the world the moment of honesty carries with it a sense of peace and finality – at least now I can go on with who I really am! This sense of peace does not negate the angst that also surrounds such an experience. Coming out to self and/or others is a complex process that often carries with it much pain and fear. Once spoken aloud, however, the expression of one’s true nature also carries great freedom and truth.

As with the first six icons each of these has a negative side and a positive side. We have heard repeated throughout this AIDS pandemic that “silence equals death.” That statement is very true concerning the reality of any disease, its prevention and its cure/maintenance. When truth is kept silent it also runs the risk of damaging the internal peace of the individual and clearly leads to isolation – death of self. “Being honest with self” can be described as the first step to personal wholeness and is certainly a necessary step to unity with God. Self acceptance (self love) must come before we can ever accept love from another or from God.

The positive aspect of “coming out” leads to this kind of self-love and better acceptance of God’s love. If a person truly is GLBT and has yet to accept it, the person is only partially “whole” for he or she has denied an important part of self. Even if the person can only “come out” to him or herself the path to wholeness has begun and all the other “parts” of the self will begin coming into place. This “coming to wholeness” becomes even more profound if the person is able to share his or her orientation with others.

We have seen over the past few months the ...continued on next page



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Spiritual Resources

Icon #7 *continued* ...power and necessity of coming out publicly about who we are as mothers and fathers, lovers and children, friends next door and fellow workers. Look at the wonder of where we are today compared to where we were. Everyone knows a gay person perhaps a closeted one. Not everyone can or needs to come out publicly but if we can, at least to ourselves, we and the world will be a better place.

INTEGRITY

Integrity, a group of GLBT Episcopalians and friends will hold its September gathering on Sunday September 12. Meetings are always at 4 p. m. on the 2nd Sunday of the month at Saint Michael's Episcopal Church on Bellefonte Drive in Lexington. The

September gathering will feature the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington, Stacey Sauls. He will be talking about the relationship of the church with gays and lesbians. All are invited to attend.

Society of Friends - Quakers

Do you seek a religious home, without creeds or required statements of belief? Are you looking for a meaningful spiritual community? Are you concerned for peace, justice and reconciliation? We invite you to join us for silent worship where we do not have the complications of rituals or programs. We believe that in such periods of quiet waiting we can open to spiritual resources which will enable us to live more calmly, more compassionately and more creatively in this chaotic age. Sundays, 10:30a-11:30a, 649 Price Avenue, Phone 254-3319. Everyone is welcomed.

Spiritual Resources continued page 19

*There's No Place Like Home,
There's No Place Like Home,
There's No Place Like Home, ...Dorothy*

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Pride Center Library Highlights: How Queer Books Got Me to Read By Jane Minder

Say librarian and most people see Marian the Old Maid Librarian, with glasses and sensible shoes, who wants nothing more than to read, read, read. Truth is, I never was much of a reader. In library school, I started calling myself the Unread Librarian. But ten years ago something happened that got me reading in a big way; I came out.

In the beginning I didn't have anyone to talk to (Sound familiar?) so I started to read. Correction, I did want any good librarian would do, I started to find out about all the information (books, magazines, web sites) that was out there about being queer. I was amazed and began devouring books like I never had before. I started with coming out stories, read books on how to meet Ms Right, moved on to social commentary and biography, and finally made my way into fiction through short stories and novels. Oh yea, there was that sex manual too.

Finding the books eased me through my coming out process and I would like to share some of my favorites with you:

Original Coming Out Stories (HQ 75.3.C65) edited by Julia Penelope was one of many books I read hoping to find someone whose story was just like mine. I haven't found that story yet but can still remember the elation I felt when I read Julia's story. She had gone to high school in the neighborhood I grew up in. If I ever get back to Hialeah High, I'm going to look her up in a yearbook.

Skin: Talking About Sex, Class & Literature (PS 3551.L453 Z475) the essays of Dorothy Allison whose radical opinions sometimes made me cringe, but whose words I fell in love with. The woman can write.

Desert Hearts (VIDEO Dese) the first lesbian video I had the courage to rent at my local video store. The first time I watched it, I got dizzy.

Art of Meeting Women: A Guide for Gay Women (HQ 75.5.S33) by Rhona Sacks is a How to book. I remember this being a fun read and I must have gotten something from it because I've met a lot of women since then.

Lesbian Sex (HQ 76.5.G37) by Joann Loulan. This book was recommended to me when I was first coming out. I read a couple of chapters and had to stop; wasn't ready for it. A year later, I picked it up again and read it cover to cover.

Geography of the Heart (HQ 75.8.R67 J65) a touching memoir by Kentucky native Fenton Johnson that helped me to understand how wonderful a queer relationship could be. One of the best books I have ever read.

Safe Sea of Women: Lesbian Fiction 1969-1989 (PS 153.L46 Z73 S128) by Bonnie Zimmerman is this lesbian librarian's dream; a book about books about lesbians. After I read it, my personal reading list expanded tenfold.

Tasting Life Twice: Literary Lesbian Fiction by New American Writers (PS 648.L47 T37) this was one of many collections of short stories read. So many stories so little time.

Phases of the Moon (F Watt P536) by Julia Watts, a native of Kentucky, who wrote novels about lesbians in Kentucky, who knew? I met her at the Kentucky Book Fair and had her autograph two copies of her books. One kept for myself, the others are in the Pride Center Library.

Patience and Sarah (F Mill P298) by Isabel Miller is a classic lesbian novel that has won awards and is #24 on the list of 100 Best Gay

...continued on next page

and Lesbian Novels. But forget all that, read it for the love story.

I don't read as much as I use to. Truth is my life is so full that I don't have the time but I still remember the power these books had to teach me, comfort me, enlighten me, shock me, entertain me, and make me feel less alone. If you have a story about a favorite GLBT book and wouldn't mind sharing it in GLSO News, send it to ladyjaneky@yahoo.com.

The Pride Center Library is located at 389 Waller Ave, and is open from 10-3 Mon. through Sat. All books, videos, DVDs, and sound recordings can be checked out. And the next time you see Marian, forget that Old Maid stuff, she could be Marian the Lesbian Librarian.

St Mychal The Martyr

St. Mychal is a member of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America, a national denomination that is gay supportive. Rev Ken Waibel performs mass every Sunday at 10:30. We welcome all people regardless of the blessings or problems in their lives. The OCCA performs blessings of gay unions, welcomes divorced people, and ordains women to the orders of Deacon, Priest and Bishop. see ad below ↓

Spiritual Resources continued



Unitarian Universalist Church

The UU Church of Lexington actively supports the GLBT community and its work for civil rights including the right to marry. On Sun. Sept. 19, there is a program planned at 10 am (between the two services) concerning the NO on the marriage amendment. Our Sunday services are at 9:15 and 11 am. For information visit www.uucl.org

We do not have a dogma or creed that defines the beliefs of all members. Our UUA President has suggested that we each work on an elevator speech, a short response to the question What is a Unitarian Universalist? Here is part of one written by David Schafer President of the HUUmanists.

Religious Humanists hold conscious life precious and we cherish the inherent worth & dignity of every member of our human family. Because the universe is hostile to life and the earth is a tiny oasis supporting life, we struggle to preserve our fragile environment here. So that every member of our human family may achieve the greatest possible fulfillment, we strive to create for all humanity the conditions of a joyful life: beauty, love, health, education, justice, freedom, peace.

I don't agree with him about the hostile universe. As UUs, we welcome the chance to discuss such disagreements. www.uua.org



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Traditions of Marriage by mary crone

*Some material and all specific quotations in this article are taken from **What is Marriage For?**, by E. J. Graff, a book reissued by Beacon Press and available at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington. Other material is summarized from an article off the internet.*

The most commonly expressed argument against allowing us to marry is that the traditional marriage will be undermined. The stated belief of the opposition is that marriage has been an unchanging institution and the bedrock of western civilization. (Apparently western civilization is the ONLY civilization worth considering. The fact that our country is lucky to have a wonderful mix of cultural heritages does not get much attention from the right wing.)

Marriage is not an unchanging cultural institution. There have been many marriage traditions within the history of our country, some of them shameful. With a little background from the part of our heritage that is Western European, here are some examples of how marriage has changed over the last 600 years.

In Europe, roughly 14th through 17th centuries, marriage was a private contract most often between wealthy landed families, designed to insure that property remained within a particular lineage. In the upper classes, families essentially married other families, forging political alliances and social obligations. The Roman Catholic Church, the official religion closely tied to the European Monarchies, did not have priests officiate wedding ceremonies. Vows spoken in the presence of family were considered a

There have been many marriage traditions within the history of our country, some of them shameful.

binding marriage contract. Most couples made agreements to set up housekeeping without legal documentation.

During the Reformation (16th century), Protestants began to speak about companionate marriage in which an emotional bond between husband and wife was considered something to strive for. This was the beginning of a new understanding of marriage as a spiritual friendship. European Protestants began to require a public ceremony with the presence of witnesses. Marriage became regulated by increasingly secular governments.

As the United States was being settled (18th -19th centuries), people spread out across the continent and there were too few ministers or justices of the peace to meet the need of performing marriages. Personal agreements were therefore accepted as marriages. As in previous centuries, wealthy individuals made use of legal

documentation to a greater degree than the rest of society. As states developed legal codes, common-law marriage and the children they produced were accepted as legitimate. Eleven states still recognize such marriages.

It was also during the late 18th and early 19th centuries that romantic love began to appear as a reason for marriage. Today, people in this country do not question that falling in love is the reason most people choose to marry. But this is a relatively new understanding, not traditional at all.

Before the Civil War, most African Americans held in slavery were not allowed to marry. They did, of course, make commitments to each other and had ceremonies with elements drawn from their African traditions which over time also included

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Christian ritual. But slave dealers and owners did not consider these commitments to be "real marriages" and maintained control by having the final say concerning the partnering of slaves, by raping women, and by routinely separating families by selling one of the adults and/or the children. This is a shameful part of our heritage and not a tradition we would ever uphold.

There is some commonality here in that many conservative people today do not believe that the commitments we make to each other are "real". As more of us talk about our partners and in other ways make our relationships known, more Americans understand that we are living within committed relationships that are as real and as important as their marriages.

At the end of the Civil War, many states, north and south, passed Jim Crow laws including miscegenation policies that made it a crime for black and white people to marry. These laws were enforced for many decades. The first state to remove its anti-miscegenation law was California, in 1948.

For nearly two decades thereafter, the Supreme Court avoided the controversy over interracial marriage, exercising its discretion not to hear a case. In 1967 the Court agreed to hear *Loving v. Virginia* and unanimously ruled that anti-miscegenation laws were unconstitutional. Sixteen state laws were overturned in that decision. Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote in the official opinion: "The freedom to marry has long been recognized as one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men." It is time to apply

In the 1920's, birth control was said to be a danger to traditional marriage: it would turn "wives into harlots."

this rule of law to all Americans.

In the decades after the Civil War, states began to regulate marriage in other ways, also. For the first time, people who wanted to marry had to submit to medical examinations, and those with syphilis or gonorrhea were prevented from marrying by criminal statute. State legislatures set various conditions for marriage including who could or could not marry, age of consent (some as low as 10), and required that couples obtain a marriage license.

In most state definitions of marriage, the husband owned his wife, her body, her property, any money she might make, and any children they produced. Husband and wife were clearly not seen as equals. When birth control first became available in the 1920s, some states required a husband's signature for a woman to be able to receive a gynecological examination or a diaphragm.

The struggle over birth control was another cultural flash point that resulted in wide spread discussions about the nature of marriage. Many argued that birth control was acting against God's will. The

In the late 1970s and early '80's, making spouse abuse including rape illegal was said to be undermining traditional marriage.

term "crimes against nature" is centuries old and originally included any attempt to prevent conception. As Margaret Sanger fought for the right to spread knowledge and methods of birth control, one religious leader said that attempting to separate sex from procreation made a wife "no better than a harlot and the husband an adulterer with his own wife."

His phrase was a popular one in the 20's, used frequently in support of "traditional marriage." At that time, it was believed

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that marriage was meant to create children; sex for pleasure was considered a sin by many. Some ministers refused to remarry widows that were past childbearing age. In some states, sterile individuals were not allowed to marry.

After World War II the advantages of birth control became so clear that old beliefs died away. Marriage was understood to be primarily a loving union between two people whether there were children or not. Married sex for pleasure was no longer considered a sin. It was not until 1965, however, that the US Supreme Court overturned the last state law prohibiting birth control (Massachusetts).

I can't resist telling how this ties into my personal family history. My mother, Dr. Emily Warfield, started the first birth control clinic in Lexington right before WW II. She was accused of undermining traditional family values. She saved some of the right wing literature of that time which I read with interest in the early 60's. (John Birch Society pamphlets and more) The issue has changed, but the warnings that marriage is being attacked by immoral segments of society remains the same.

The laws and traditions of viewing a wife as her husband's property also included the understanding that a man could not be prosecuted for beating or raping his wife. Through the hard work of feminists and their allies, domestic violence including spousal rape is now illegal in every state. One popular argument against changing such laws was that feminists were trying to undermine traditional marriages. The legal struggle lasted well in the 1980's

As a result of the feminist movement, men and women now enter marriage with more legal equality than ever before. This

really does mark a fundamental change in marriage, even if the Promise Keepers and others try to turn back the clock.

We are now working towards the recognition of our right to marry. We deserve the same benefits given to heterosexual unions and we deserve recognition of our love and commitments to each other. We will achieve this goal eventually.

We may not succeed in defeating the Ky marriage amendment in November, but we will succeed in changing the thinking of many of our fellow citizens as we discuss the issues with them.

Using the dates in this article, for example, I can say: "When I graduated

from high school in 1964 there were still 16 states that did not allow marriages between black and white americans, birth control was still illegal in some states and it was not illegal for men to rape their wives in many states. Are those traditionst we should continue?"

Marriage is --and has always been -- an evolving institution. The fulfillment of our struggle, the right to get married everywhere in this country, will not occur in the next few years, but it will happen. One day we will have to explain to our children that

"The freedom to marry has long been recognized as one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men."

**Supreme Court Justice
Earl Warren, 1967**

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New from The Bar Complex

There have been changes in the times we are open. The Living Room Lounge & Johnny Angel Disco will be open Thurs. & Sat. until 2:30 am. On Saturday, after hours at the disco until 3:30a. The other nights still close at 1am. schedule of shows at the Gilded Cage Cabaret. Shows will continue to start at 10 pm but there will be no regular shows at midnight. **Make plans now to attend our Halloween Party. We will be celebrating the 24th anniversary of The Bar on Saturday, October 30th.** Join us!

Are you curious as to when your favorite DJ's are spinning at the Bar Complex? Visit www.djbrady.net to find out & check the calendar to see when DJ's Dusty & Brady will be here to entice you with the best dance music & light show central Ky has to offer! Register with a valid e-mail address and join the mailing list to stay "in the know" about things happening in the Disco at The Bar, 224 E. Main St.

GLSO News Deadline for Articles and Ads

Sept. 15

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UK Lambdainfo@uklambda.com
Berea College ACE League (Ryan)..859-985-3633
Centre College (BGLAD-Mykol)....238-5332

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Lexington-Fayette County288-2437
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MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee)502-587-6225
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.SoulforceLexington.org
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 (Rev. Ken)389-9418
Open Door (Christian-Rev. Pam) ...396-7636
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Articles and Ads: Sept. 15

Put Newsletter in subject line

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