



GAY
LESBIAN
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION
Lexington, Kentucky

The GLSO NEWS

March 2002

A publication of the Lexington Gay Lesbian Service Organization

Volume 17 Number 3

Come On Down

On Tuesday March 5th, The Imperial Court presents "Come on Down", an evening of exciting game shows, prizes, and a fabulous celebrity auction. The fun starts at 8:30 pm at the State Theater, located in the Kentucky Theater. Auction items include an autographed photo of Elizabeth Taylor, a jacket signed by Bette Midler, and an autographed UK basketball. Tickets are \$8. Hosts for the evening are Bernie Lubbers and Chelsea Pearl.

This promises to be a banner year for the Court; to date the calendar sales alone have grossed more than \$10,500, the largest fundraising project in the Court's twenty year history. Limited numbers of calendars remain, contact Michael Thompson at Moveable Feast. (252-2867)

Moveable Feast

Moveable Feast Lexington is participating in Lazarus' Shop for a Cause, a semi-annual shopping event for charity. A \$5 donation ticket gets you an all-day shopping pass and \$5 off any purchase on Saturday, March 23rd. Moveable Feast keeps 100% of money raised from the \$5 tickets they sell before the event.

There are also other specials you can take advantage of on that day including 20% off regular, sale and clearance prices, doorbusters specials, and a chance to win a \$500 shopping spree. Donation tickets are available from Moveable Feast (252-2867) and at the Pride Center(253-3233).

Knowing the World as Story

Laura Simms tells stories to carry the listener across boundaries of culture, religion, race, age, and ethnicity- awakening compassion and enabling understanding of the world as story. She will be entertaining willing listeners at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Saturday, March 16th at 7 pm as part of the Republican Meeting House Resurrection Project.

Laura has been a preeminent storyteller in the world-wide storytelling revival for more than three decades. Using movement, chant, gesture, rhythm, and visualization, Laura tells original and well-known stories in ways that are tailor made for the audience at hand.

There is no charge for this event, a free will donation will be asked in support of the Republican Meeting House Project. This name comes from the work of Richard Allen who established a meeting house for people of all beliefs to gather and express themselves.

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See ad on page 5



THE GLSO NEWS

Volume 17 Issue 3

**published monthly by
The Lexington Gay
Lesbian
Service Organization
389 Waller Ave.**

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**GLSO Annual Dues &
Newsletter.
Individual - \$15
Couple - \$25**

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.

Gill Grant

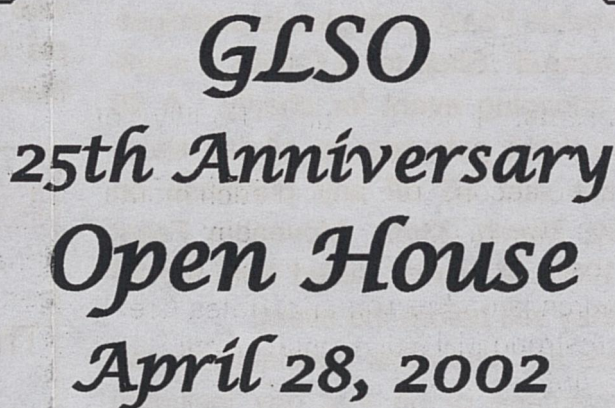
GLSO is excited to announce we have received another Gill Foundation Grant. This one is to support a part time paid office manager, liability insurance for volunteers, and training for board members. We do not have the money in hand; we have to raise matching funds and submit income statements to them before they write us a check.

Gill specifies what income we can use for matching funds. For example, people who have donated before will only have their donation counted toward matching funds in the amount they increase their previous donation. It may seem complicated, but they set these requirements in order to improve our fundraising capability.

We have established a fundraising committee and are looking for interested people to join us. You do not have to be a member of GLSO to serve on one of our committees. call Ginger at the Pride Center 253-3233.

Volunteer Awards Banquet

The yearly Awards Banquet sponsored by GLSO has been moved to October, Coming Out Month. It is the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the GLSO, a good year to have a bash in the fall to honor volunteers and to celebrate how far we have come as a community. We will also plan an open house in April on the actual day the incorporation papers were signed (see below.)



GLSO
25th Anniversary
Open House
April 28, 2002

Community News

Miss Majestic USA

The First Miss Majestic USofA Pageant for female impersonators will be held this year on March 14th starting at 9.30 pm at Lexington's CLUB 141. Over \$3,400 in cash and prizes will be awarded.

Applications for entry may be submitted electronically over the pageant website, www.usofa.org/majestic or may be obtained by calling the Majestic office at 859-948-1952. The cost of entry is \$100 and must be submitted before March 3rd.

Special guests appearing include: Erika Norell, Miss Gay USofA 2001 from Miami Florida; from Louisville, The Mistress of Mayheim, Hurricane Summers; the current reigning Miss Delaware National, Dakotah Lawrence; and Florida's Latin Goddess, Jessica Nolan.

The pageant will be a night of pure excitement, as we crown the first Miss Majestic USofA. The winner and first alternate will be sent to represent KY at the nationals May19-24 in Dallas, Texas. All proceeds from the pageant will be donated to the American Cancer Society. Please come out and support the art of female impersonation. Questions can be answered by E-mailing the office at majesticusofa@aol.com or by calling Lexington or Phoenix at 859-948-1952

PFLAG

Parents, Friends, and Family of Lesbians and Gays, will be meeting regularly on the second Tuesday of each month. In March, we will meet on Tuesday 12th, 7 p.m. at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church. The church is on the corner of Tates Creek and Armstrong Mill Rd. Contact Dotti Berry for info at 489-4791 or Dotti@EmpoweringDiversity.com.

PRIDE MONTH

The Pride Month Committee will have its next meeting on March 21st, 7 pm at the Pride Center. It is open to anyone who would like to participate. Some dates have been set but there is still room for more activities. If your group wants to schedule an activity, call Terry at Moveable Feast. The deadline for being included in the Pride Month brochure is Friday, April 26.

Some events being planned include:

The Pride Picnic-- Sunday, June 16.

Men's Chorus Pride Concert - Sat. June 8

Coronation Sun. June 9

ActOut Play Last two weekends

Wishing Chair

Wishing Chair will release their fourth CD, *Crow* with two benefit performances on Saturday and Sunday evening, March 2nd and 3rd, at the Carnegie Center. Both concerts are benefits for the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, which supports and promotes literacy through adult education, school programs and community work. Tickets are \$10 and are available at The Carnegie Center, 859-254-4175, and through Terrakin Records, 859-608-5393, www.terrakin.com. Wishing Chair CD's may be purchased at amazon.com, cdbaby.com, goldenrod.com, terrakin.com, Joseph-Beth Booksellers and Poor Richard's Books, Frankfort.

Lexington Men's Chorus

The Lexington Men's Chorus is starting rehearsals on March 10th for the Pride concert "LMC on Broadway." New members are welcome and encouraged to attend, there are no auditions. Rehearsals are 5:30-7:45 every Sunday at St Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte.

Continued on page 4

SisterSound

SisterSound is a non-audition woman's chorus that is currently open to new members. They rehearse every Sunday evening from 6 to 8:15 at the Landsdown Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 333 Redding Rd. SisterSound tried out and was chosen to sing the National Anthem at a Legends ball game this summer. Join us now and be a part of this fun experience.

Ads In COLOR

GLSO has taken the jump, we have bought color ink for the newsletter. If you are a sponsoring organization, you will receive color in your sponsorship ad in the month you sponsor. Other months will cost you an additional fee. Any advertisers can add color to their ad by contacting Dan Rogers at 494-1832 or Ginger at the Pride Center at 253-3233. It will cost between \$5 and \$10 depending on the amount of ink you want to use. We think this makes ads

much more eye catching, well worth the cost. If you agree, give us a call.

ART FOR LIFE

The second annual ART FOR LIFE art auction is being held on Sunday, March 10th from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM at Sheraton Suites Lexington, 2601 Richmond Rd., Lexington. This is an auction of art donated by local and national artists to benefit AIDS Volunteers, Inc. Admission is free.

This is a unique auction in that pieces are first available for bidding at a silent auction. At the end of the silent auction, pieces will either be sold at the silent auction price or carried over to the live auction based on bidding. At 4:30 the silent auction portion of the event will begin along with hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, viewing of all pieces and musical entertainment by Bliss on Tap. The live auction will begin at 6:00 PM. For more information, please contact AIDS Volunteers, Inc. at (859) 225-3000 or by email at AIDSVolunteers@aol.com.

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PRIDE CENTER NEWS

389 Waller Ave

Monday-Saturday 10-3

Former GLSO Board Members

We are currently seeking the names and addresses of former GLSO Board Members so we can invite them to the celebration of our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. Please call Ginger at the Pride Center (253-3233) and give her your name and the names of anyone you know that we might contact. We are hoping that even out of state people will attend the party in April or the banquet in October.

Writing Practice for Everyone

Everyone is welcome to attend the writing practice group on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, 10 am at the Pride Center. This month that will be March 9th and 23rd. Taking exercises from Natalie Goldberg's work, we will experiment with writing and share our work with each other. No experience necessary, regular attendance not required, just bring a pen and some paper and we will have some fun.

Low Cost Copying

There is a copier in the Pride Center which can be used by community groups that want a good price for doing their own copying. You will be given an ID number and charged \$.03 a page, or \$.06 for double sided copies. You bring your own paper. Call Ginger for details at 253-3233.

Discussion Group

Every Wednesday at 7 pm people gather at the Pride Center for good conversation and some laughs. It is a place to come to just be yourself for a couple of hours. If you are just coming out, new to the area, want to meet some new people, or just enjoy talking this is the place to be. For more information, call Ginger during the day at the Center 253-3233. In the evening, contact Jane for information at 276-0673.

Family Movies

Men's Night Out will feature *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, one of the best films of 2001. It received several nominations for Golden Globe Awards including Best Actor and Best Script. It is a story of a transsexual musician, betrayed by a lover who steals his music and becomes famous. The music is great, the script is original and very funny, and the acting is deserving of more nominations. Several critics have mentioned that this film should not have been passed over for Academy Award Nominations. Join us on Tuesday, March 19 at 7 at the Pride Center.

Lesbian Movie Night will be Friday, March 8, 7 pm at the Pride Center. We are looking for a video copy of *Chutney Popcorn*. If we cannot find that we will show, *Losing Chase*, Starring Helen Mirren and Kyra Sedwick. In this film, Chase is recovering from a breakdown and is spending the summer on Martha's Vineyard with her children. Her husband hires a young woman, Elizabeth, to help run the household as Chase is not willing or able to return to all that is expected of a mother of two active children. Chase and Elizabeth struggle to find a bond, and the plot thickens.

Classic Movie Matinee will be on Sunday, March 17 at 2 pm. We will be showing *Gone with the Wind*. Winner of a large number of Academy Awards, this film deserves several viewings. Come see Clark Gable at his best.

Self Esteem-Low esteem? No esteem? Or just curious what self esteem means in your life? If so we have a group for you. Every Thursday in March a self esteem group will meet from seven until nine at the Pride Center. This free group will explore the effects of self esteem, internalized homophobia, and how to obtain and maintain healthy self esteem. Questions-call Marilee at 323-7118.

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Bluegrass Fairness Annual Membership Meeting

Bluegrass Fairness reported on 2001 activities, recognized volunteers and planned for the upcoming year at the Annual Membership Meeting held January 30th at the Public Library. About 50 people from around the region gathered to hear about and give input to the local affiliate of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, working to educate the public about and advocate for the rights of GLBT people.

Significant activities were the advocacy for local LGBT rights, a survey of local companies on their policies on Domestic Partner benefits, and responding to the discriminatory volunteer policy at Central Baptist Hospital. Dottie Berry reported on the upcoming visit by Mel White to the Lexington area, April 5 - 7, which is being co-sponsored by Bluegrass Fairness and Soulforce.

The Steering Committee gave awards to three people for their extraordinary volunteer work in 2001. Scott Perry, a local resident who has held the title of Mr. International Bear, was recognized for his outstanding fundraising work. Elizabeth Miller was recognized for organizing Fairness' volunteers to participate in local charity bingo games. Joe Paul was recognized for his donation of design work for

stationery, cards and mailings, which heightened Fairness' professional image to those receiving communications. Each was given a star-shaped trophy and the opportunity to address the meeting. Annual award recipients are people who have done volunteer work above and beyond usual work and are not members of the Steering Committee.

The entire gathering was polled on what they saw as short and long-term goals for Bluegrass Fairness. Two goals were designated as priorities for the coming year. The first was the passing of HB 125, which will give protection to GLBT people in employment, housing and public accommodations. This is similar to Lexington's 1999 Fairness Ordinance making the protection available to all Kentuckians. The Kentucky Legislature is currently considering the legislation.

The group identified a second priority as a need for greater diversity in Bluegrass Fairness. The Steering Committee will make a greater effort in the coming year to reach out to groups across various ethnic, religious, sexual and social lines, especially those parts of the LGBT community which may not currently be heard. For more information about the work of Bluegrass Fairness, contact co-chairs Jim Dickinson or Theresa McGrann or any member of the local Steering Committee, or visit bluegrassfairness.org.

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One World Film Festival

On Saturday, March 2nd at 2 pm at the Central Library Theater, One World Films will show *Three Seasons*, the first American feature to be produced in Vietnam since the war. This exquisitely beautiful film was made in Ho Chi Minh City by Tony Bui, a 26-year-old American born in Vietnam. It focuses on the daily lives of working class people, each living with loneliness. Most of the acting is done by non-professional Vietnamese people. Harvey Keitel portrays a former soldier looking for a daughter he fathered during the war. The characters' paths cross in small ways, accompanied by flowers and kindnesses. *Three Seasons* won three major awards at Sundance in 1999, Audience and Cinematography Awards, and the Grand July Prize.

On Sunday March 10th, at 2 pm in the Central Library Theater, we will show *RAGE AND GLORY*, an Israeli film. This is historical fiction that tells the story of the Lechi, a group of people organized in resistance to the British occupation of Palestine during the 1940's. It invites the question, what is a freedom fighter and what is a terrorist? Director Avi Nesher skillfully portrays a balanced view of the complex emotional and political realities of that time. The screening of this film at the 2001 Portland Film Festival in Maine marked the lifting of a restriction on showing this film outside of Israel.

We are still in negotiation to show the film *Kandahar*. If we are unsuccessful, we will be supporting the screening of the film at the Ky Theater in April.



Moveable Feast Lexington is a non-profit organization devoted to providing free, nutritious meals to those with HIV/AIDS living in Fayette County.

Volunteers are always needed.

Call 252-2867 for more details.

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March

2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31					1 6:30 Women's Spirituality UU Church 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	2 Private Workshop Pride Center Closed 2 pm Film "Three Seasons" Central Library 7:30 Wishing Chair Carnegie Center
3 10:30am Faith MCC 10:45 am UU Church 5:30 pm Lex. Men's Chorus 6 pm SisterSound 7 pm Pride Center Dignity Potluck 7 pm HUGS 7:30 Wishing Chair Carnegie Center	4 7 pm GSA 8 pm AA Step Study	5 8:30 pm "Come on Down" Court Game Show State Theater 9 pm Rainbow Bowling	6 7 pm Discussion Group 7 pm Charismatic Church 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	7 7 pm Self-Esteem	8 7 pm Lesbian Movie Night Chutney Popcorn 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	9 Pride Center Open 10-3 10 am Lex. Men's Chorus 10 am Writing Workshop
10 10:30am Faith MCC 10:45 am UU Church 12:15 Interwaffle Potluck 4 pm Integrity 4:30 AVOL Art Auction 5:30 pm Lex. Men's Chorus 6 pm Imperial Court of KY 6 pm SisterSound 7 pm HUGS	11 7 pm Fairness Steering Committee 7 pm C.O.L.T.s 8 pm AA Step Study	12 7 pm GSA 7 pm PFLAG 9 pm Rainbow Bowling	13 7 pm Discussion Group 7 pm Charismatic Church 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	14 7 pm GLSO Board Meeting 7 pm Self-Esteem 9:30 Miss Majestic USA Club 141	15 6:30 Women's Spirituality 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA News Deadline	16 Pride Center Open 10-3 7:00 Laura Simms Storyteller, UU Church
17 10:30am Faith MCC 10:45 am UU Church 2 pm Classic Movie Night 5:30 pm Lex. Men's Chorus 6 pm SisterSound 7 pm Dignity Mass 7 pm HUGS	18 7 pm GSA 8 pm AA Step Study	19 7 pm Men's Night Out "Hedgewig & Angry Inch" 9 pm Rainbow Bowling	20 7 pm Charismatic Church 7 pm Discussion Group 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA AD Deadline	21 7 pm Pride Month Committee, Pride Center 7 pm Self-Esteem	22 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	23 Pride Center Open 10-3 10 am Writing Practice 1 pm Girls Kick Ass
24 10:30am Faith MCC 10:45 am UU Church 1 pm Bluegrass KFA 5:30 pm Lex. Men's Chorus 6 pm Imperial Court of KY 6 pm SisterSound	25 8 pm AA Step Study	26 7 pm GSA 9 pm Rainbow Bowling	27 7 pm Charismatic Church 7 pm Discussion Group 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	28 7 pm Self-Esteem	29	30

Religious News

Faith MCC

Everyone at Metropolitan Community Church is looking forward to celebrating 9 years of MCC in Lexington. Sunday, March 10th, is Anniversary Sunday. There will be the annual potluck and celebration following worship. Sunday, March 17th is the annual St. Patrick's Day worship service. It's a time to sing traditional Irish hymns, recite Irish liturgies, and ask St. Patrick to challenge us in our walks of faith. Did you know St. Patrick once used the three-leafed clover to teach about God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit? Sunday, March 23rd, is Palm Sunday as we remember the triumphant celebration as Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. It's a time to stop and ponder the other events of Holy Week, including the Last Supper and Good Friday. Easter Sunday is March 30th. Faith MCC plans its annual worship service.

Faith MCC joins much of the Christian world in observing the Lenten season. It is a time of preparation, a time of reflection, or a time of repentance. While many have chosen, and still choose, to give something up for Lent, Lent has another side. Sure, we are to reflect, to know who we are, to pause to know who God is, to share honestly with ourselves and God, to do our own moral inventory. But it's NOT so we can feel bad but so we can grow. Lent is a time when some may give up a mealtime to have additional time for prayer and meditation. But it is not just about giving up something bad for something good. For others it is the deliberate act of taking up something that is good. What can we take on that is good for us or for someone else? What act of mercy, kindness or charity can we stretch to do that might benefit another?

One neat idea for Lent is planting seeds indoors. Even now, those seeds will sprout. But what they will be cannot yet be seen. So, don't forget to write down a little note as to what will grow where. These plants are fragile yet strong enough to move the dirt aside so they can reach the sun. In no time, they will have two or three leaves. Soon, they will take on their own identity, their own role in the garden and they will eventually produce fruit.

In our spirits, God has sown many seeds. In Lent, in this time of reflection, we are able to see some of those seeds begin to sprout. We may not readily know what they shall become. What effects our acts of charity or kindness may have, we may not yet know. But what we do know is that God is doing a new thing. Something is growing in our lives. Some new spring time possibility is about to come into leaf. Resurrection and new life is just around the corner. Lent need not be a dull, negative, depressing, give up season. Lent is the beginning... a time of sprouting.... a time of inner growth.

Faith MCC, located at 145 Burt Road, in Zandale, holds Sunday morning worship services at 10:30 a.m. MCC is also your local outlet to support AVOL with a \$15 donation for a Christmas ornament. For more MCC information, call (859) LEX-FMCC. The church e-mail address is LMC-CREVMEL@AOL.com.

Dignity

Dignity Lexington is meeting at the Pride Center on the first and third Sundays of the month at 7:00 p.m. Dignity is active in our community in a variety of ways. We participate with others in the AIDS ministry, Moveable Feast, sponsored by the Episcopal Church. On the third Sunday, we

conduct a worship service, which is open to all. There is a shared discussion of the scripture readings followed by a Fellowship hour.

Dignity is not officially accepted by the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church, but its membership does reflect the views of much of the Catholic community that there should be ministry to and for the gay and lesbian communities. Local bishops do not play a supervisory role in this ministry. Additional information is available at 859-268-1351.

Integrity

Integrity continues to meet at St. Michael's Episcopal Church on Bellefonte Dr. We welcome everyone to join us on the second Sunday of each month at 4 pm. We have increased our membership and would love to include other interested folks. Call Rev. David Boyd or Rev. Sandy Stone for info at 277-7511 or JBIntegrity@aol.com

Charismatic Christians

Looking for a Christ-centered charismatic church where people of all genders, sexual orientations and color are welcomed? Then you'll want to join us for worship and study every Wednesday evening at 7 pm. We are from a variety of backgrounds and are creating an upbeat form of worship together. For information and directions,



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call Beverly or Corina at 264-7006 or email cwbm121893@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Interweave

Interweave, the GLBT and friends support group at the Unitarian Universalist Church, meets the second Sunday for a potluck lunch after the service (12:15 or so). You do not have to be a church member to attend. Call Mary Crone for information 266-5904. She can also give you information about the Woman's Spirituality Group that meets every other Friday night.

HUGS of the Bible

HUGS is an acronym which stands for Hearings, Understanding, and Growth through studying the Bible. We are a spiritually diverse group intent on welcoming all people of faith. HUGS will be meeting each Sunday at 7 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Dr. Sherry Rotosky who is facilitating our group. Sharon can be reached at (859)257-7880 E-mail rostosk@pop.uky.edu

Our current study for HUGS is based on Rembert Truluck's website (www.truluck.com) and book (Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse), incorporating a diverse look at faith from a scriptural standpoint.

Mel White

Mel White, author of *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay & Christian in America* and Executive Director of Soulforce (www.soulforce.org), will be in Lexington making presentations, meeting with local Ministers and speaking during the first weekend of April. He will be addressing the issue of "Spiritual Violence" and its impact on gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders within our religious institutions.

Kentucky Queer History: An Introduction

by Jeff Jones

Lexington has a rich and fascinating 'secret' queer history. Like all histories, it is only secret because it has largely gone undocumented and has relied on people as an oral history. Considering that black Kentucky history did not make it into the history books until the 1960s, it is no surprise that no current history of Kentucky mentions queer Kentuckians. The sodomy law repeal, lesbian feminists, colorful queer individuals, lurid lesbian murderers, gay men and AIDS...all missing from standard depictions of Kentucky life.

Queer history, however, abounds in central Kentucky. In the spring of 2001 to complete my doctorate in cultural geography, I conducted 107 interviews with local people ranging from an elderly priest who was cruising restrooms here in the 1930s to the ex-lesbian director of CrossOver Ministries. The amount of information out there was staggering and complex. Since the Gilded Cage opened in 1963 as the city's first known queer bar, there have been no less than twenty-eight bars serving a mostly queer clientele. In 1971 the city's first known non-commercial queer organization, UK's Gay Liberation Front, started. Over the next thirty years, over 140 predominately queer organizations have existed in Lexington and the surrounding counties! Future articles will share this rich history.

Before beginning these stories, however, I would like to introduce some ideas about the historiography of queer history. Historiography is a fancy academic word for how history is written. Which histories and whose histories are preserved is often defined by who is powerful or notorious. Minorities, women, and the vast poor classes of the past often are missing from the

history books.

The historiography of queer America incorporates several beliefs and assumptions. Some historians even go so far as calling these assumptions myths. One such belief is that queer identities somehow came into being around 1969 at New York's Stonewall Inn and then diffused out around the country. Queer people with queer identities, however, existed in Lexington at least as far back as the 1930s and probably before then. Although what it means to be queer may have changed over the years, people held distinctive identities around their sexual orientation here by the very early 20th century if not before. Another myth is that until recently, beyond the big coastal urban areas queer life was unorganized, hidden, and brutal. Gay men, however, were hosting private drag parties in 1930s' Lexington and a rich lesbian feminist sub-culture was in full-bloom here only years after Stonewall.

Perhaps the biggest belief underlying not only queer history but the entire representation of queer life is that there is a "queer/gay/lesbian/GLBT community". I call this the politics of community whereby the diversity of organizations, social groups, and individuals of a particular identity (black, queer, Hispanic, etc.) become lumped together into this rhetorical, single community. Pro-gay advocates use this term to give an image of unity and strength in numbers. It can also be used to discipline moral standards by distancing the actions of one rogue queer person from some vague majority called the 'gay community'. Anti-gay forces use this term also to subtly convey that the actions by any queer person anywhere somehow link to all gay people in this amorphous 'gay community.' A gay child molester in Arkansas thus somehow makes me suspect as a gay per-

..Continued on next page

son too. While people readily accept the idea of a 'gay community' in the media, politics, and history, it is extremely rare to hear of a 'heterosexual community' or a 'white community' where vast diversity is accepted as the norm.

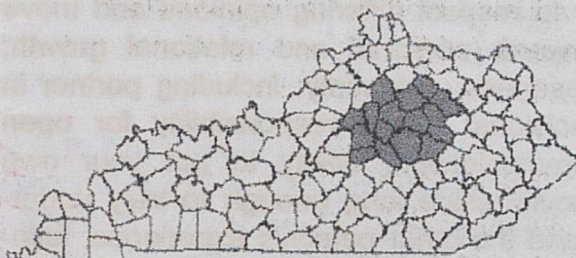
When asked about whether there is a single queer community in Lexington, my interviewees for the most part say no. Instead, there is a multitude of queer social groups that sometimes overlap. These groups are differentiated by race, gender, class, "outness", interests, and a host of other factors. Some communities do not call themselves queer but may consist of same-sex couples. Then there are the gray borderlands made up of individuals who are married to members of the opposite sex but who have secret same-sex relationships too. So, just what makes a person queer?

I believe an important component of queer communities is a shared sense of what I call communality. Although my interviewees point to multiple local communities, they also express a shared sense of kinship with other queer people regardless of whether they know them. In other words, the drag queen living in the Northside trailer park, the formerly lesbian separatist in Chevy Chase, the suburban attorney, the exotic dancer, the closeted factory worker, the leatherman, the priest, and all the others from widely different backgrounds and socioeconomic situations say they feel a kinship with each other. They all view themselves as queer and care about the treatment of other queer people. This caring and mutual identity with otherwise complete strangers is communality.

Queer history has often been written to reflect this communality and the myth of a single queer community. It gives a message of unity and belonging. My work, however, tries to go beyond this to look at the individual communities. In time we may

look back and view all these individual communities as threads in a single tapestry, but for now there are clearly different queer communities all sharing Lexington with non-queers. The upcoming articles will show a rich and varied Lexington where there is no single queer community, no single history, and no single way of being queer.

Kentucky Fairness Alliance Bluegrass Chapter



Fairness works with legislators and other decision-makers to ensure equal treatment of LGBT people in the Bluegrass and around the state. Contact us to help in the fight and to stay informed on important issues.

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1073 A.D. Pope Gregory VII orders Sappho's works, the world's oldest poetry of love between women, destroyed in public bonfires in Rome and Constantinople.

October 5, 1513 Spanish conquistador Vasco Nunez de Balboa discovers a community of cross-dressing males in present-day Panama and, according to eyewitnesses, feeds at least 40 of them to his dogs.

Your Relationship Vision

by Jessica Bollinger

1. Think carefully about your relationship with your partner. Consider some of the following areas: Verbal and non-verbal expressions of love and care; expressions of appreciation; ways of handling frustrations or hurts that bring you closer together instead of driving you apart; ability to own your mistakes; ability to acknowledge when you may have hurt the other person (even if you didn't mean to) without defensiveness; general levels of defensiveness; ability to respect differing opinions and move forward; personal and relational growth; closeness; autonomy; including partner in decisions; taking responsibility for open communication; ability to put your own 'movie' aside long enough to truly understand the other person's experience; faithfulness/loyalty; romance and fun; sexuality and sensuality; honoring and prizing each other; support; listening skills; shared activities; and other areas.

What is great? What needs improvement? Honestly, what are the things YOU do (or fail to do) that contribute to any tensions / difficulties or dissatisfaction in the relationship? Write those things down. If you are with a life partner, invite him or her to do the same process. Co-creating a shared vision can be even more effective. But even if they don't want to do it, you continue doing your own vision!

2) Write down a series of short sentences that express elements of your vision of a fulfilling, and deeply satisfying relationship. What would that relationship look like? Write each sentence in the present tense (whether or not it actually is part of your relationship now) AND write it in the positive. Example: Instead of writing, "Stop all criticism" you might write: "We express our opinion respectfully after we listen and communicate understanding." Instead of "We don't argue" you might put something like: "We settle our differences calmly and respectfully."

Other examples of vision statements: "We feel safe with each other." "We communicate openly and constructively." "We enjoy a satisfying sexual life with one another." "We worship together." "We have daily 'alone' time." "We have financial security."

3) Share your statements with your partner. Put a check mark next to the items you and your partner have in common (even if you use somewhat different words to express it). If one of you has an item the other didn't think of, but agrees with, put a check mark next to that one too. Then, each of you put a star next to the 3 checked items that are most important to you. Ignore the items you don't agree on at this point.

4) Together write a common vision, using the checked items and putting the starred items at the top. Type it up in a nice font on your computer and put it on the refrigerator or someplace you will see it each day.

5) Then each day, read it and do one action that will help you realize something on that list. Example: "We settle our differences peacefully." One action step for a day might be to commit to listening without interrupting and checking your understanding of the other person's point of view before offering your own viewpoint. Keep in mind the motto: "Seek first to understand before being understood." You might do the same thing the next day—some people like to commit to one action for at least a week. Then try a new action. You can always repeat actions!

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those of us who profess to favor freedom yet depreciate agitation are men who want the crops without plowing the ground. They want rain without thunder. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters . . . The struggle may be a moral one Or a physical one, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without Demand. It never has and never will.

--- FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Reclaiming our History A Few Dates of Interest collected by Thomas Collins

This list of interesting gay related events will begin here with others scattered in different spots in the newsletter.

2600 B.C.E. In Fifth Dynasty Egypt, the tomb of two men who worked as manicurists and hairdressers for King Niuserre features a bas-relief of the two men embracing, a rare pose in Egyptian art even in depictions of male-female couples.

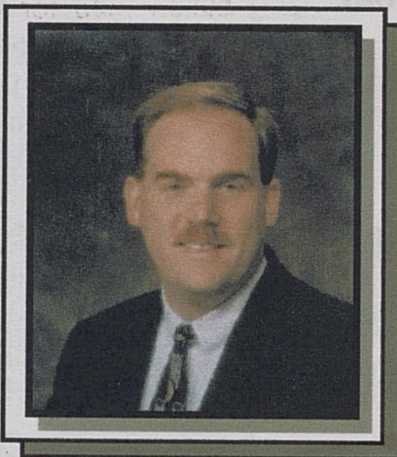
c. 700 B.C.E. In China, the "Shi Jing" ("Classic of Songs/Poetry"), the oldest surviving Chinese anthology, contains verse expressing admiration and affection for strong, handsome men. This and other sources suggest that Chinese traditions of Homoeroticism go back at least as far as the Zhou (Chou) Dynasty (1122-256 B.C.E.).

c. 40 B.C.E. The Greek geographer and historian Strabo writes of communities of Celtic women living in Gaul (in present-day France) and the sacred sexual rituals they perform with one another.

314 A.D. Drawing on teachings of the early Church fathers, the Council of Ancyra is the first to condemn sodomy along with a host of other sex-related sins.

720 A.D. One of the first books written in Japan, the "Nihon Shoki" (Japanese Chronicles), includes an account of two male lovers who enraged the gods by sacrilegiously being buried in the same tomb. This is probably the earliest surviving mention of same-sex love in Japan. Also see 806 A.D.

806 A.D. Kukai (posthumously called Kobo Daishi) returns to Japan from China, bringing with him, according to Japanese tradition, the "Chinese custom" of male-male love along with Shingon (true word) Buddhism.



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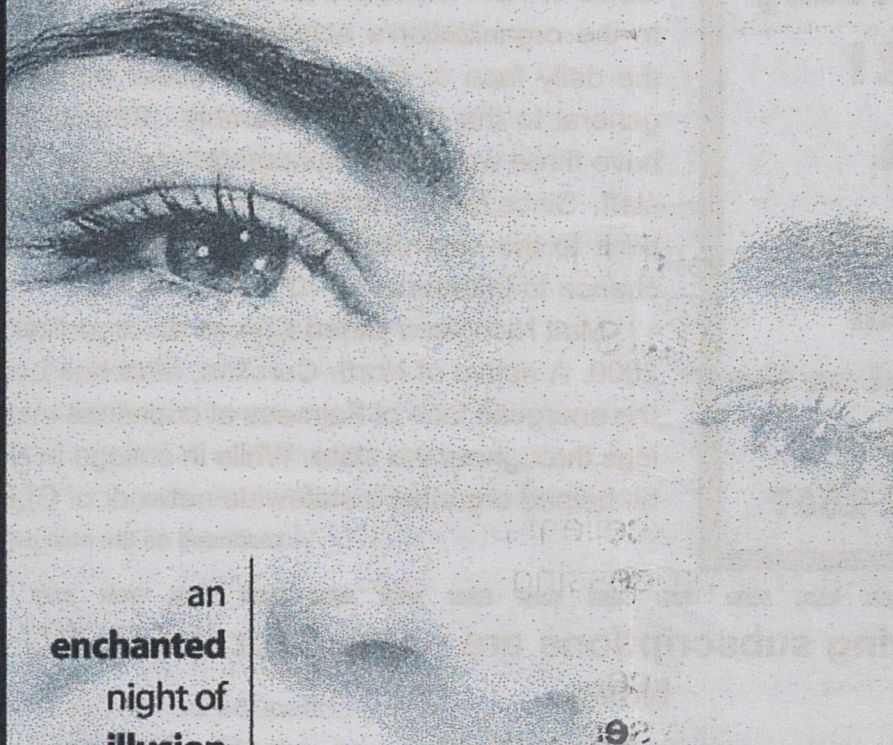
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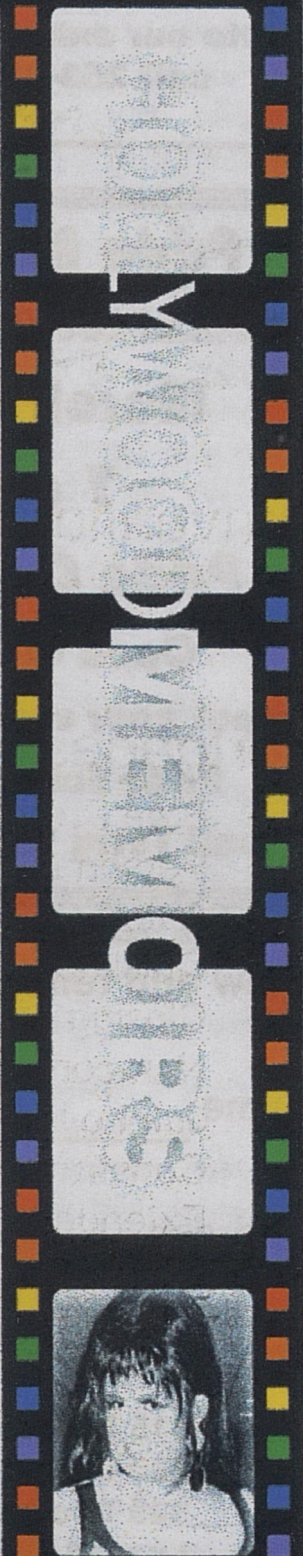


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HOLLYWOOD MEMOIRS

Tuesday March 19
9P @ Club 141

benefit for moveable feast



**GLSO is looking for a DVD
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**Pride Month
Committee Meeting
March 21
7 pm
Pride Center
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Kentucky Fairness Alliance

In 1994, the first paid lobbyist on GLBT issues arrived in Frankfort. Since Kentucky Fairness Alliance hired Pam McMichael, the KFA staff has been an able, effective, and eloquent voice for queer Kentuckians. Today, KFA is a maturing and truly statewide organization that serves as an award-winning model for grass-roots organizing in rural states. While the thousands of KFA members and volunteers are vital to the organization's achievements, the staff is the daily face of Fairness and queer people in general to the General Assembly. Kentuckians have three wonderful representatives in our KFA staff. Since two of the three staff are recent additions to the organization, this article gives us a chance to introduce our KFA staff:

Matt Nicholson joined KFA as an organizer in 2000. A native of North Carolina, Matt has been the energetic face of Fairness at countless meetings throughout the state. While in college in NC, he helped organize a statewide network of GLBT

....continued on the next page

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youth and also worked at the feminist music distributor, Ladyslipper Music. Social justice work is his passion.

On a personal note, he and his partner Aaron live in Louisville. Matt is vegetarian and a fan of good vegan cooking. Matt says that his KFA work gives him a growing appreciation of steady, often quiet progress; the movement of a politician from a "hell no" on civil rights issues to one of "maybe" or even "yes". Matt has served as the Interim Director for KFA while a national search for a new director took place.

Rachel Hurst joined the KFA team last fall as the organizer for western Kentucky. A native of Indiana, Rachel has a degree in English education and psychology from Ball State University. She moved to Kentucky to complete her graduate work in Human Services and served as a Residence Director at Murray State University. Prior to working for KFA, Rachel was a counselor and case manager at the Purchase area's domestic violence shelter. She has come to deeply love her adopted hometown of Paducah. While living in Paducah Rachel became president of Paducah Pride, a GLBT organization sponsoring social and educational events in the Purchase region. Rachel lives in Paducah with her cat, Halle, but she often travels to Henderson to be with her girlfriend Katherine.

Andrea Hildebran is KFA's newest edition. Starting in March, Andrea will be KFA's new Executive Director. She will be KFA's third Executive Director, following in the footsteps of Maria Price and Claudia Knott. A native of Vermont, Andrea completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Montreal, Canada. Her Masters thesis in history at the Université du Québec à Montréal focused on nationalist politics involving two 1970s lesbian organizations in Montreal.

Andrea is fluent in French as well as her native English, and she also speaks Spanish. She began her career as a producer and station manager for several Montreal radio stations before taking a job as the public education director for Boston's GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders). Most recently Andrea has worked in Houston, TX, as a field organizer for Progressive Voters in Action.

Beyond her impressive accomplishments, Andrea brings a proven success record in voter outreach, public education, and fundraising to Kentucky. When not busy making the world a better place for gayfolk, Andrea enjoys yoga, choral singing, running, cross-country skiing, cycling, and the company of her cat Amelia.

Andrea Hildebran, Matt Nicholson, and Rachel Hurst are our wonderful KFA team. They are often the voices for our rights and issues in Frankfort and around the state. Let us all welcome these three great people and lend them support wherever we can.

December 5, 1642 In the first documented example of legal prosecution in North America for same-sex relations between women, a Massachusetts Bay servant is sentenced to be whipped for "unseemly practices" with another woman.

1822 Spains new criminal code includes no mention of sodomy.

1860 Walt Whitman publishes the third edition of his *Leaves of Grass*. Announcing his new resolve to be "the poet of comrades," the book now includes the sex-positive "Children of Adam" and the homoerotic "Calamus" poems.

GLSO Directory

GLSO Board

GLSO Pride Center253-3233
 GLSO Board (Terry)252-2867
 GLSO Discussion Group (Jane) ...276-0673
 GLSO News (Mary)266-5904
 Subscriptions (Ginger)253-3233
 Ad Design (Dan)494-1932
 GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary)266-5904
 Pink Pages (Jordan)269-2094
 Youth Gay Straight Alliance (Mary) .266-5904
 GLSO on Linelexingtonglso@yahoo.com
 www.bluegrasspride.org

Student Groups

Morehead State University (Ned) 606-783-2294
 UK Lambda (James)254-6021
 Berea College ACE League (Rich) .859-985-4106
 Centre College (BGLAD-Mykol)238-5332

Anonymous HIV Testing

Jessamine County885-4149
 Lexington-Fayette County288-2437
 Madison County859-723-7312
 Woodford County873-4541

HIV/AIDS Info/Services

AIDS Volunteers, Inc225-3000
 Lexington Health Department (Julie) .288-2362
 HIV/AIDS Legal Project502-584-1254
 HIVEducation Youth Group278-7494
 HIV Support (Somerset) .679-7478 or 678-5814
 Cumberland Region (SEKY-Pat) .606-864-3776
 or 888-425-7282
 Barren River Region800-559-4448
 Louisville Region (Geri)502-574-0161
 Northern Kentucky Region859-341-4264
 Purchase Region800-522-8289
 Moveable Feast252-2867
 VOA (Mark)254-3469

Community

Alcoholics Anonymous (Brian)245-7471
 Office276-2917
 AL-Anon (Office)277-1877
 Bluegrass Belles (Marjorie)278-2608
 (Ann)502-672-8673
 Bluegrass C.O.L.T.S. (Morris)225-9169
 Bluegrass Fairness296-7812
 Council for Peace and Justice
 (Richard)277-6101
 DOJ Pride (Robin)231-8526
 Fairness of Louisville502-893-0788
 First Link313-5465

GLSEN-KY (Gina)606-676-9412
 G/L Defense Fund502-589-2896
 International Gay Bowling (Steve) ...276-3058
 Imperial Court of KY
 bluegrassempire@hotmail.com
 KY Leather Productions (Larry)253-0185
 Kentuckians for the Commonwealth
 jlynjenks@msn.com
 Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club
 (George)885-7777
 (Greggers)792-6117
 Lake Cumberland Gay Alliance
 roger@hyperaction.net
 Lexington Human Rights Commission 252-4931
 Lexington Men's Chorus (Milton) ...253-4816
 Louisville Youth Group502-894-9787
 Moonshine Bears of KY (Bobby) ...494-2625
 Pride Alliance of Central KY
 (Gary)859-236-4547
 (Shane)859-854-0596 or
 pridealliance@yahoo.com
 P-FLAG (Jim)266-3934
 (Dottie)489-4791
 Pegasus Travel253-1644
 Rainbow Bowling League (Steve) ...276-3058
 Richmond Q Club (Larry)859-623-7720
 Sistersound (Patti)243-0243
 Sistahs in the Life (Joan)252-2657
 (Missy)335-1441

Religious Groups

Dignity (Catholic-Richard)268-1351
 Interweave (Unitarian-Davina)271-6174
 Integrity (Episcopal-Rev. Stone) ...277-7511
 MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev. Cathy) .800-484-8489
 MCC-Lexington (Rev. Mel)539-3622
 MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee)502-775-6636
 MCC-Paducah (Rev. Donna) ...270-441-2307
 Norse Pagan Community (Rev. Pat) .268-1640
 KY Pagan Forum ..http://go.to/kypaganforum/
 RainbowWind (Pagan-Sarah)273-2455
 Soulforce (Angie)489-0223
 soulforcelexington@yahoo.com
 St. Augustine's Chapel
 (Episcopal-Rev. Chris) .254-3726
 Open Door (Christian-Rev. Pam)396-7636

DEADLINES:

Articles and Ad Space: March 15
Ads we know are coming: March 20
Mary: marycrone@aol.com
John: ursaloco2@aol.com