



Lin

Connecting the Bluegrass GLBT community

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
2015

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The Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization seeks to educate, enhance, and empower the community about GLBTQQA issues.

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That's What I'm Talkin' About

By Helena Handbasket



I hear it all the time! People say, “it’s the little things that count.” We are taught that thin is in and told to buy smaller, compact cars. They tell us don’t sweat the small stuff and that true greatness consists in being great in the little things. I’ve heard that big things come in small packages (although that is not always the case). There is one quote that was by Andy Warhol that I am especially fond of. He said “You need to let the little things that would ordinarily bore you suddenly thrill you.” “Don’t be confined to the little things you do... the sky should be your limit” is another favorite saying of mine. Even Neil Armstrong as he stepped onto the moon for the first time said that it was “One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” This has starting me thinking. So, what about the big things? Is this just a campaign to make us ignore all of those big things? Sometimes big things can bring us great joy (insert your own naughty joke here).

Have you ever thought about how a small act can turn into a big thing and have a huge impact in the life of someone else? Have you ever said something or done something that you wish you hadn’t? This one really hits home for me. We can’t be our “best self” all of the time. Sometimes in our most human moments we can say something hurtful out of spite or insecurity that, if we had thought

about it first, we might not have said. In those moments, that small act can really create a huge hurt to someone else. And, more often than not, it was not an intentional hurt. Then, once the “drama” begins, because of either pride or stubbornness, we absolutely refuse to back down and we dig our high heels in the sand and defend ourselves. Is it really that hard to just swallow that pride and do the right thing? Why is it so difficult to just go back to that person and say how much you regret that you said or did what offended them? We can let something small escalate into something that suddenly becomes gigantic. And once it is a huge issue, it seldom remains just between the offender and the offended. Of course there are the people around that perpetuate the situation by sticking their noses in where they don’t belong. Yes, petty people do love to sit back and be entertained by a good drama and then giggle in their amusement by the outcome. Bless their hearts. Now you bring in the ingredient called revenge to the mix. All of a sudden, one comment leads to another and then to another and now it becomes a full on verbal bitch fight. And remember, neither one of the people involved ever wanted this to happen. It just festers up and stands out like a pimple on society for everyone to see.

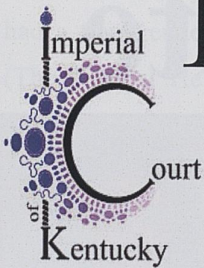
As you might be able to tell, this topic

hits home with me personally and now that I have turned 50, it is time for Mamaw to put on her big girl panties and do the right thing. I recently decided to open a door and send a text to someone that I have been in one of those “bitch fights” with for quite a while now. And, guess what? It was received with graciousness and appreciation and now we are on the way back to rediscovering a friendship that has been lost for too long—and I am thankful for where we are today and where we are headed. So, I guess the moral of the story is... pay attention to the little things. They really can make a big difference in your own life and in the lives of others. And, when you suffer from those moments of not being your “best self”... do the right thing early on. Don’t let it escalate into something huge. Move on. Don’t let the little things in life hold you back. Forgive, forget, and move on.

As we enter into a new year, I always think about what I’d like to change in my life. Some refer to it as a New Year’s resolution. This year I am going to pay more attention to how the little things might affect myself and others.

I just need a “little” nap. Uh oh! There I go again.

(Send comments or suggestions to HelenahandbasketKY@gmail.com) 🇺🇸



Imperial Court of Kentucky News

By Christina Puse

Happy New Year, everyone! As we all usher in another year, the Imperial Court of Kentucky continues fundraising to benefit the local charities of Lexington. Now that the holidays have come and passed, a big THANK YOU goes to each and every one of you who were in attendance for events in December to make them possible. Without you, the ICK would not be able to continue its efforts in raising charitable funds for our community. Before getting into January's upcoming events, here's a quick recap of those that happened during the holiday season.

The Miss Mary Christmas Pageant was held on December 3 at The Bar Complex. The legendary title landed in the hands of Countess to Reign 33, Dani Gibson! We'd like to congratulate her again on her victory!

AVOL Kids Christmas was one of the most moving and emotional events of Reign 33. AVOL had 58 children in need of Christmas gifts, and the ICK was able to raise a little over \$3000 to make sure that these youngsters opened a present on Christmas morning. Again, the ICK would like to thank the following sponsors: Mickey Salon, Crossings Lexington, quite a few individuals within Lexington's community and of course, the community itself! You all are AMAZING and the ICK thanks

you sincerely for assisting with making the holiday bright for every child in need! Another thank you goes to everyone who assisted with shopping and helping to wrap everything that was bought.

A Very Fairy Christmas took place Dec. 17 at The Bar Complex. This event benefited the GLSO Pride Festival. What a fun and fabulous show this one was! Thank you to everyone who came out to support the cause.

On Dec. 19, the ICK traveled back to The Dragon, located in Frankfort, KY. This event was entitled, "Draggin at The Dragon: Christmas Edition." This show was a blast once again. The bar may be small, but every heart in the place made the event that much bigger! Thank you to everyone who came out to support this amazing little show.


Not slowing down, the ICK has some fun events coming up for the month of January. Make sure to jot these dates down in your calendars so that you won't miss out on the fun!

On Friday, January 9, the ICK will be over at Crossings Lexington to present a "Chili Cook-Off!" This get-together will consist of individuals bringing in their favorite pots of chili to see who makes the best! The winner of this contest will receive a gift from the current Monarchs, Emperor and Empress 33, Tim Logsdon and Christina Puse. Watch



for further updates on this event. Love hard rock and a good time? Well, stop over at Crossings Lexington on Wednesday, January 14 for the "Rock and Roll Show!" Your favorite ICK performers will be there jamming out to some great rock hits and having a great time with the community! All the fun begins at 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 25, our Prince and Princess Royale to Reign 33 will be presenting an event to assist in continuing the ICK's efforts in raising funds for Lexington's local charities. Please watch Facebook for further information on this event as the details become available! You won't want to miss out on this very exciting show!

With winter whipping all around us, Reign 33 hopes that you are all staying warm and enjoying the great times being spent indoors! If you haven't done so, please join the ICK on Facebook and visit www.imperialcourtkentucky.org for further information about the organization. 

TransKyAdvocate



By Tuesday G Meadows

Closing out of 2014 *We Exist* - Arcade Fire

As so many are doing right now, I have been reflecting on 2014. It has truly been a “wow” year for the transgender community. There have been a number of high profile events, from Janet Mock on Piers Morgan, CNN’s documentary about Kristin Beck (“Lady Valor”), Fallon Fox’s victories in the MMA, Geena Rocero’s Ted Talk, and so many others that have brought the trans community into the forefront this year. Along with the explosion of trans issues in the media, there have been a few more personal memories from 2014 that I believe will influence me in 2015 and beyond.

The Transgender Tipping Point

My personal highlight has been hearing Laverne Cox when she came to Lexington to speak at the University of Kentucky this spring. After her beautiful speech about her experience, I asked her, “When will the transgender ‘Rosa Parks’ moment happen?” She discussed the Stonewall riots from 1969, even though I was

wondering about a modern day sea change. Little did I know that in June, Ms. Cox would appear on the cover of Time Magazine with the headline “Transgender Tipping Point.” Indeed, Ms. Cox has been there for a number of firsts. She has been the first openly transgender person on the cover of Time, first nominated for an Emmy, one of Time’s most influential people of the year, and Glamour Magazine’s “Woman of the Year.” It seems like the transgender community’s moment is here and Laverne Cox is the shining example.

The Net

There have been a number of new online discussion groups, blogs, and Facebook pages about the transgender experience in 2014. The Transgender Violence Tracking Portal launched in May 2014 as a way to gather data about violence—from discrimination to murder—against transgender people. The TransGen Times was launched late this year by Rachel Rose Luckey to establish a central hub for news for

and about transgender people. These forums help create a larger community and monitor the ongoing struggles and needs of transgender people.

Youth Movement

More and more people are acknowledging the early experiences of transgender and non-gender conforming children. Another amazing experience I had this year was interviewing Ella, a 7 year old rural Kentucky girl whose mother has been a brave advocate for her transition. In fact, Ella thought her transition was no big deal. Nationally, there was a book called I am Jazz for trans kids and its author, Jazz Jennings, was named one of the 25 Most Influential Teens by Time Magazine. There was even an article about trans kids in Woman’s Day.

Entertainment

Transgender characters have been everywhere this year—movies, television, music, and music videos. I counted 40 films this year that

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

had a transgender character in them (The Normal Heart is probably the best-known). Transparent and True Trans on internet television, Laura Jane Grace and Against Me's album Transgender Dysphoria Blues, and Arcade Fire's music video We Exist. Although many non-trans people have been cast in these roles (sometimes drawing my ire), hopefully more awareness will bring forth more transgender actors in Hollywood and beyond.

The Future

As much as has been accomplished this year, there still needs to be work done to end discrimination toward


trans people. There is still much work to be done on ENDA and fairness laws (even if bigots deride them as "bathroom bills.") We need to continue to come together as a transgender and broader LGBTQIA community and ensure that everyone is on the bus toward progress and equality, and not compromising or throwing anyone under it to make gains for only some. Most importantly, we need to look for solutions to violence against transgender people.

Thank You

On a personal note, thank you to all my friends and family who have been by my side through this transitional year. I want to thank the GLSO and

TransKentucky for their acceptance. Thanks to Zoey and Rayne for letting me read my essay at the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Much appreciation to my new friends that I met during Out: The Play; I cannot express how much your encouragement and love meant to me, a non-actor, during the production. I have made so many new friends this year.

2014 was a year of progress; may it continue in 2015 until we can all be seen and treated as equals in every way.

You can write me at tmeadows828@gmail.com or follow me on twitter at TuesdayM@trishgigi. Now Tuesday is gone with the wind. 



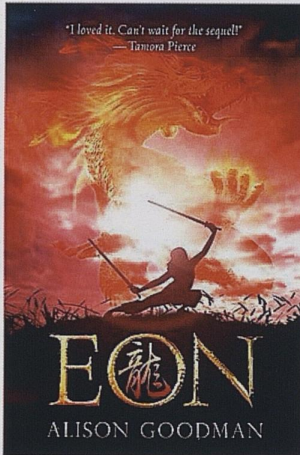
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Around The Library:

Eon: Dragoneye Reborn, by Alison Goodman



By Adam Wheeler

Come check out one of our newest additions to the Young Adult Fiction section! Follow the story of the young swordsman Eon as he contends to become a

Dragoneye, warriors serving the twelve dragons who rule the Chinese zodiac. However, Eon's true identity as the girl Eona must be kept secret. Imperial law forbids women to become Dragoneyes and enforces punishment by death for any who try. Eon attempts to navigate the treacherous atmosphere of the royal court with assistance from newfound friends Lady Dela, a transwoman who was embraced in her home culture but merely tolerated in the Empire, and Ryko, the Shadow Man that serves as Lady Dela's personal guard. To make matters worse, rampant political unrest and looming

cataclysms threaten to crumble the Empire.

Alison Goodman's writing is action-packed, dramatic, and suspenseful. Readers will enjoy a story that questions concepts of sex and gender while embarking on a fantasy adventure through Imperial China. Will Eon rise to the rank of Dragoneye and become a hero to the Empire, or will his adventures end in disaster? Find out for yourself!



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The Little Engine That Could

New Year's Resolutions to Live With



The time has come for making resolutions... another year, another good ol' college try. Countless years I start out really well with all the usual resolutions... lose weight, eat healthier, drink less alcohol, save more money, and start exercising. Well, like 54% of Americans, those resolutions are long gone within a few months. So, for a while my resolution was to be more resolute in not breaking promises to myself... so a resolution to not have a resolution. Being a woman who loves challenges, I've hired a personal trainer to kick my tail into shape. I shouldn't have to hire someone to do that, but being challenged for time on most days, I eat poorly, if at all. I work hard and certainly don't feel like sweating even more when I get home. I crave ice cream a lot... and I admittedly eat like a 12-year-old boy. The intensity and commitment to pay to get results seemed to be the avenue that fit my hectic and very busy lifestyle.

I'll be 40-something this year... time for a change. So, I thought I'd take you with me on a journey. I'll report the progress from time to time and it'll keep me dedicated and honest. Below are some of the tips my trainer gave me. Tips to help someone who wants to lose weight and build muscle, but someone who loves food as well.

1.) EAT MORE – Yes, you read that right. Eat more. I rarely eat so my body's metabolism is on strike. My body feels like

I'm trying to starve it, so it holds onto fat like grim death. So, eating more really does work, depending on what you are eating. I am on a 6 small meal a day diet, consisting of 228 grams of protein, 194 grams of carbs, and 51 grams of fats. The carbs are good carbs, like brown rice and sweet potatoes. The diet consists of 6 small meals with 4 or 5 ounces of lean meats 5 times a day. Lean meats include salmon, chicken, turkey, and once a day a 90/10 cut of beef. Sirloin is best for this. The key is to weigh your food until you get an eye and a feel for it.

2.) PROTEIN, PROTEIN, PROTEIN – I'm eating 6 eggs a day, mostly egg whites. Plain Greek yogurt with blueberries and 2 tsp of almond butter or protein shake takes care of my morning jump-start meal. I'm hungry within an hour or so, proof that my metabolism is jump starting and using calories.

3.) CARDIO – I've had several surgeries on my foot, so running and extreme sports are out of the question. My answer is a recumbent bike. Sitting with some music and an overview of my day and I've put in 30 minutes of a good cardio workout. I've never really been an exercise fanatic. There really is a lazy side to me despite how much we work.

4.) DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING OVERNIGHT – I didn't get in this shape overnight, I certainly won't look like my trainer overnight, either. She's a great

coach and busts my ass but still brings me back to reality. Within 2 weeks I've lost 12 pounds. I will likely hit a lull before I start losing more and more. The muscle building comes along diligently and slowly as well. Days add up to weeks and weeks add up to months. Eventually a real difference will be noticed and then you're addicted. At least that's what I hear. I tend to believe her.

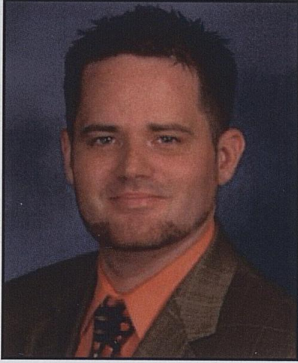
5.) GET MORE SLEEP – Lack of sleep contributes to stress. Stress contributes to weight gain and the inability to lose weight. I like sleep. This should be an easy one.

6.) ALCOHOL – This is a hard one for me. I go out less and less as I get older, but when I do go out... it's a night to remember. My trainer allows me to cheat once every week or two. This is when some vodka comes into play. Vodka has fewer empty calories and sugars than anything else. I mix it with water or carbonated water instead of juices and sodas. It makes me feel better anyway. I need to work on this one, obviously.

I've started a food journal that my trainer looks over. I haven't cheated on it yet, except once, when I had a very emotional day in which onion rings and a milk shake were the only answer. I felt guilty, and texted her an hour later. The answer to stress was more exercise, she said. She wants before pictures. I haven't been brave enough to take those yet.



MEET THE G

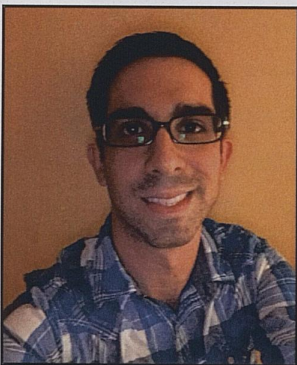
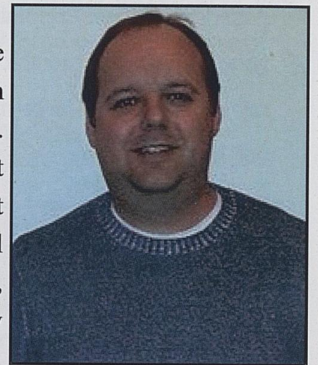


Christopher R. Bauer, President

Christopher moved to Lexington from Miami, Florida, in August 2013 with his husband, fellow GLSO Board Member Roberto L. Abreu. He graduated from the University of Miami School of Law, and is a corporate attorney. In Florida, Christopher was a facilitator for a county-wide LGBT youth group (“True Expressions”), and lobbied at the state capitol for school anti-bullying laws. While in law school, he headed up the LGBT student group, OUTLaw, in its efforts to put an end to Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, and worked with the ACLU to campaign against Florida’s anti-same-sex marriage amendment. Christopher served as the 2014 Pride Logistics Chair, and continues in that position for 2015. Christopher joined the GLSO Board in June 2014, and since then has served as the LinQ Editor-in-Chief. Christopher was elected GLSO Board President in December 2014.

Paul Brown, Secretary

Paul is a Spanish teacher at Henry Clay High School, where he sponsors the Gay-Straight Alliance. He is passionate about education. A long-time LGBT advocate, Paul began his activism with Lexington Fairness, of which he was Chair from 2006-2008, when they became an independent organization. At the GLSO, Paul served as the 2012 and 2013 Pride Chair. He has given training to different classes on LGBTQ issues, and has won two community service awards from the Imperial Court of Kentucky. Paul has two cats and defends Mariah Carey vociferously despite her recent vocal debacles. Paul joined the GLSO Board in October 2011, and has served as the Board Secretary, and most recently, GLSO Board President for 2013-2014. Paul was elected GLSO Board Secretary in December 2014 to serve out the remaining year of a vacancy in that position.

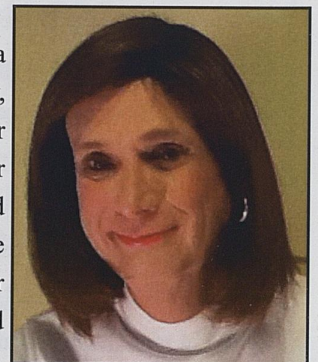


Roberto L. Abreu, At Large

Roberto moved to Lexington from Miami, Florida, in August 2013 with his husband, GLSO Board President Christopher R. Bauer, to pursue a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at UK. In Florida, while working on his Master’s Degree, he worked as a high school science teacher, and with LGBT youth at SunServe. Currently, he is a psychology practicum student at the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women. Roberto is a member of the Psychosocial Research Initiative on Sexual Minorities (PRISM) research team at UK. His research interests include sexual minority youth, with an emphasis on Latina/o LGBT youth and community acceptance. Roberto served as the 2014 Pride Volunteers Chair, and is currently the 2014 Pride Vice-Chair. Roberto joined the GLSO Board in June 2014, and is the facilitator of *Entre Nosotros* Latino Discussion Group.

Tuesday G Meadows, At Large

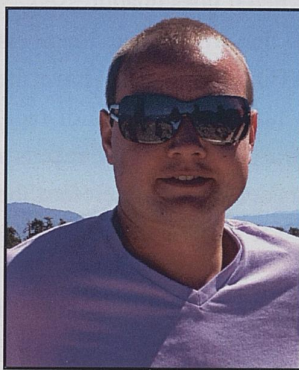
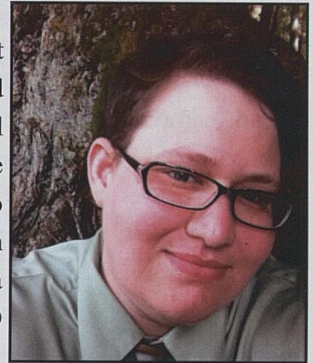
Tuesday is a lifelong resident of Kentucky, graduating from Lafayette High School and UK with a degree in business administration. Tuesday is a wife, married to Linda, a parent, to daughter Amy, and grandparent to granddaughters Alex and Rosie. Tuesday is a retired Kroger store manager and an avid runner, logging 21 marathons and 33 half-marathons. She is a tireless advocate for the LGBTQ community, and is a writer who, among other LinQ features and submissions, started her own monthly LinQ column on transgender issues in August 2014. Tuesday is a member of the steering committee for the GLSO’s Seasoned Independent People social group, an At-Large member of the 2015 Pride Committee, and a volunteer for several other local organizations. Tuesday joined the GLSO Board in November 2014.



GLSO BOARD

Theodore Meacham, Vice-President

Theo is thrilled to become the Vice-President of the GLSO Board, and is honored to serve as the first transgender member of the Executive Committee. Born and raised in Eastern Kentucky, Theo graduated from Mary Baldwin College and spent 10 years working up and down the eastern seaboard as a professional theatre artist. He serves as co-director of Company Q, Lexington's own queer youth theatre housed at the GLSO, and as a member of the Executive Committee of Pride Youth Theatre Alliance. In 2015, Theo and CompanyQ will be hosting the 2015 international Pride Youth Theatre Alliance Conference here in Lexington. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Ann, and his dogs and cats. He is a die-hard Green Bay Packers fan and spends as much time outside as possible. Theo joined the GLSO Board in August 2014, and was elected GLSO Board Vice-President in December 2014.

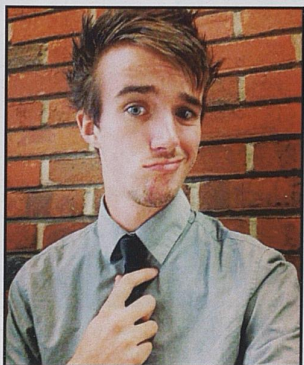
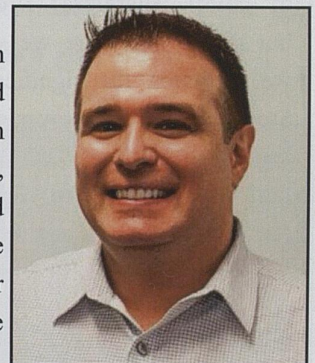


Jacob Boyd, Treasurer

Jacob is a lifelong resident of Kentucky, born and raised in Franklin. After graduating high school, Jacob moved to Lexington to attend UK, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in accounting. While attending UK, Jacob worked for American Eagle, originally in the mall, and then at Hamburg. After completing his degree, Jacob was hired by Ashland, Inc., in their tax department, which is where he has worked for the last two and a half years. He has two dachshunds that are spoiled rotten and hopes to expand soon by adopting a Great Dane. Jacob served as 2013 and 2014 Pride Treasurer, and continues that position for 2015. Jacob joined the GLSO Board December 2013 and was elected to a two-year term as GLSO Treasurer.

Donovan Jefferson, At Large

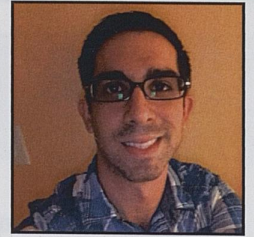
Donovan is a graduate of Bluegrass Community and Technical College with a degree in business management and information technology. He is a small business owner and manager of Eastern Tech Solution. Donovan started out as the GLSO's IT consultant in February 2011. He has designed and administered all of the GLSO's websites, networking, and e-mail hosting. He has also provided his services to many other GLBTQ-affiliated organizations in the greater Lexington area. Donovan has officially served on the Pride Committee for Pride 2012 and Pride 2013, and unofficially served as the IT/Website Chair for Pride 2014 for many months until a replacement could be found. Donovan joined the GLSO Board in November 2013.



Todd Ryser-Oatman, At Large

Todd moved to Lexington from Sunnyvale, California, in July 2013 to pursue a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at UK. In California, Todd facilitated an LGBT group for teenagers dealing with issues ranging from coming out to discrimination in school policies. He also worked at a domestic violence organization, where one of his primary tasks was to raise awareness about how domestic violence impacts the LGBT community and how to advocate for survivors more effectively. His undergraduate senior honors thesis was about how to lessen prejudice against lesbians and gay men. Todd is a member of the Psychosocial Research Initiative on Sexual Minorities (PRISM) research team at UK. Todd is the 2015 Pride Fundraising Chair and a facilitator for the GLSO's Heart-to-Heart group. Todd joined the GLSO Board in October 2014.

From Selma to Stonewall... Ferguson to Lexington



By Roberto L. Abreu

Over the last weeks, our nation has witnessed the brutal killings of black men at the hands of policemen. As a result of the hard-to-believe decisions by grand juries not to indict, exposing how the “justice” system repeatedly fails to protect people of color in this country, protests have taken place in multiple cities throughout the United States, including in our very own Lexington.

As I scroll down my news feed on Facebook and engage in conversations with members of the LGBTQ... community, I cannot ignore the fact that many members of our community have remained silent about the recent events that affect our black brothers and sisters. Let’s not forget that there are many members of our LGBTQ... community who are men and women of color! Therefore, I cannot help but think, “Why are we silent? Have we forgotten the significance of the Stonewall and the power of protesting injustice and oppression? How do black LGBTQ... members of our community feel when they do not feel supported by their LGBTQ... friends?” After

all, LGBTQ... individuals know all too well the devastating consequences of oppression and the importance of speaking up against injustice.

With this said, I would like to provide some guidelines for acknowledging the extra layer of oppressions that LGBTQ... people of color experience, and ways in which ALL members of the LGBTQ... community can be allies to people of color.

1- Active listening (listen for understanding and not for a way to defend your lack of understanding).

2- Don’t apologize for your white privilege, use it to speak with (not for) people of color about issues that affect them.

3- Understand how people of color have helped to pave the way for the LGBTQ... community.

4- Look around you and see who is missing in the room! Then, invite those individuals to be part of the conversation in order for ALL members of the LGBTQ... community, including people of color, to have a voice.

5- Know that for LGBTQ... people

of color, experiences regarding race are more complex than simply just black/white.

6- Just because people of color do not discuss the impact of racism in their lives on a daily basis, it doesn’t mean that their everyday realities as people of color are not shaped by the continuous institution and perpetuation of racism, especially when it goes unaddressed.

7- Know that while white members of the LGBTQ... community have the privilege to tune out the topic of race, for LGBTQ... people of color, race is a part of their identity, and therefore the topic of race is part of their everyday life.

Please know that these are just a few of the ways in which LGBTQ... individuals can serve as allies to people of color. As LGBTQ... people of color and white allies, I welcome your input and other ways in which the LGBTQ... community can be allies to people of color. rabreu@lexpridefest.org



Protesters gathering outside Fayette Mall Food Court.
Photography Courtesy of Kentucky.com (Lexington Herald-Leader)



Protesters staging a “die-in” at Fayette Mall.
Photography Courtesy of Kentucky.com (Lexington Herald-Leader)



By Chad Hundley
2015 Lexington Pride Festival Chair

The old year has passed and the new one is here! With the wall calendars having to be changed to the 2015 ones, it makes me realize that Pride is quickly approaching now! As of January 1, the countdown hits right under 180 days until the 2015 Lexington Pride Festival. Yes, it will be here before we know it.

Soon our Pride Sponsors will start being announced and publicized. The new ROYGBP rainbow tiered sponsorship levels are sure to bring maximum exposure to the businesses and organizations who choose to support Lexington's LGBTQIAA... community and Pride Festival. We as the community want to make sure that we support the businesses that support us, and they will be given window decals to put up in their businesses to show that they are a Proud Sponsor of the 2015 Festival. Be on the lookout for these decals in the windows so you can be sure to thank them for being a sponsor for your Pride Festival!

The vendor applications will also be released on January 1st on the

website at www.lexpridefest.org. If you or someone you know wishes to become part of the festival as a vendor, you will want to make sure to complete and submit your applications as soon as you can, because we expect to sell out early again this year! Spaces are limited and only reserved with complete approval from the vendor liaisons. We expect a larger crowd this year, with some new and improved ideas in the works as well!

We will start announcing the entertainment in the next two months and many potential entertainers have already been contacted. The fundraising efforts are been in full swing, with the help of the Imperial Court of Kentucky with our annual A Very Fairy Christmas on Dec 17. More Dine to Donates are being scheduled, and a plan to bring back Pride's Valentine's themed show "Lots of Hearts and Body Parts" is underway!

Even though our committee is hard at work on everything, we still need many more individuals willing to volunteer some time to

sit on our sub-committees to help our chairs out. If you ever said that you wanted to volunteer and help out, now is the time to do so! Volunteering for the Pride planning committee is so fulfilling, and think of how exciting it will be to know that you helped to put on this grand event! So come OUT and join us at our next planning committee on Thursday, January 22, at the GLSO Pride Center promptly at 6:30 p.m. You can also email me anytime at chad@lexpridefest.org. Let's get 2015 off to a great start!



Upcoming Pride Sub-Committee Meetings

Sponsorships
Every Monday, 7:30 P.M. @ GLSO

Fundraising
January 11, 4:00 P.M. @ GLSO

Logistics/Vendor Liaison/Volunteers
January 12, 6:30 P.M. @ GLSO

Advertising/Marketing/Merchandising
January 18, 3:00 P.M. @ Coffea

CHECK PRIDE CALENDAR FOR ALL PRIDE MEETINGS/EVENTS:
www.lexpridefest.org



Left: Jamming at "Sing OUT Loud" Fundraiser; Top: Chad Hundley & Tuesday G Meadows Tabling at "Growing Older - Growing Bolder" conference; Bottom: Rainbow Bowling League Members.

Financial strategies. One-on-one advice.



David DeBrot
Financial Advisor

1795 Alysheba Way #4104
Lexington, KY 40509
859-263-0516



Stephen Robertson
Financial Advisor

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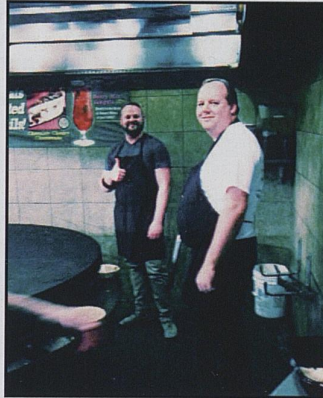
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC



Gay Disability Support Group

If you are LGBT and have a disability, we would like to hear from you! Members of the LGBT community who are disabled face many different obstacles, and the GLSO would like to help. There has been interest in starting an LGBT Disability Group, and we would like to be in touch with you about this support group. Please contact the GLSO Pride Center at 859-253-3233 or email chad@glso.org for more information!



GLSO Board members take over the grill at BD's Mongolian Grill Dine to Donate.

(Top Left: Jacob Boyd & Theo Meacham, with Office Manager Chad Hundtely supervising from the counter; Top Right: Roberto L. Abreu & Christopher R. Bauer; Left: Paul Holland & Paul Brown)



PFLAG Central Kentucky

PFLAG Central Kentucky meetings are held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2025 Bellefonte Drive in Lexington). Typically, we have a program the first half, followed by our support group.

We will start the year on Tuesday, January 13 with a speaker from Kentucky Voices for Health which has specific funding to reach out to LGBT Kentuckians, and provide information regarding healthcare options and coverage through the Affordable Care Act.

Come join us for this discussion, followed by our confidential support group meeting.

We welcome members of the LGBTQ community, their families, friends and allies. PFLAG meetings are a safe, confidential setting where all are accepted and respected.



Are you:

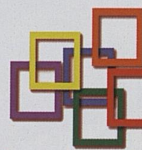
Recently out of the closet? Or struggling with doing so? Feel like you can't cope with who you are? Struggling with acceptance at work? Or family? Had a bad break-up? Or lonely and just need to talk to someone? You are not alone!

Confidentiality, acceptance and respect are the words we govern ourselves by. Each week is unique depending on who shows up and what the needs are that night.

Join us for:

**HEART
TO HEART**

GLSO Discussion Group
Wednesdays
from 7-9pm



Gay and Lesbian Services Organization
389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100
Lexington, Kentucky 40504

(859) 253-3233
www.GLSO.org

SisterSound, the Lexington Women's Chorus,
Presents

Oh, The Places We'll Go! **Part 1**

Saturday, January 17, 2015, 7pm

Tates Creek Presbyterian Church
3900 Rapid Run Drive
(Man O' War Blvd east of Tates Creek Road)

Tickets are
\$10 in advance
\$12 at the door
\$5 ages 4-12
Free 0-3

Available from
SisterSound members
at the door,
or call 859-263-0702





By Bobbie Thompson
-aka Alana's Spouse-

Happy New Year!

A new year always makes me think of new possibilities. To me, it's like a clean slate and an opportunity to make desired changes in your life. And sometimes changes are necessary even if they're not desired.

I think back over the years about the numerous changes, or new beginnings, in my life. For the first twenty-two years of my adult life I was a wife and mother. But divorce turned me into a single parent. Before I knew it the kids were grown and out on their own. After decades of sharing a house with a spouse and kids, I found myself living "single" for several years. Then my children got married and started families of their own, and I started the life of a grandmother.

The changes in my life haven't always been easy ones. It was difficult changing from a "family" to a "single parent." After twenty-two years of marriage, going through a divorce was the most horrible experience I'd had to that point in my life. Although getting

a divorce was the right thing to do, being the "right" thing didn't mean it was an "easy" thing to do.

However, becoming a grandmother has been a welcomed change in my life... grandchildren make me happy.

Another change in my life has been becoming the spouse of a transfemale. That's a change I never would have dreamed in a million years I would have made. But I had to keep an open mind for this change to take place in my life. Look at all the wonderful things I would have missed out on as Alana's spouse if I hadn't remained open-minded and at least considered the possibilities.

My life is lived in a state of constant change. Actually, I've learned the only constant in life is change. No one has really ever paid much attention to the changes I've undergone. I view life's changes as simply steps in personal evolution. Without question the changes I've made have been accepted by family and friends. After all, no

matter what changes I've made, I'm always me.

I've learned that, technically, that's the way it is for transgender persons as well. Like me, no matter what changes a transgender person may make, they are always the same person they have always been. And many times the changes a transgender person makes aren't always easy for them even when it's the right thing for them to do. However, I've been told by several of my transgender friends that when they do make the decision to show the world their true selves, it makes them a happier person.

So as 2015 begins, my wish for you is that you keep an open mind and consider all the possibilities in front of you. Embrace those changes you've wanted to make... and know that even through the difficult changes, they just might be the best possible thing that could happen.



LINQ IS LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS
If you would like to be a regular LinQ contributor or submit an article or artwork for publication in LinQ, please contact the editor at:
editor@glso.org

Tips on Choosing - and Using - a Tax Preparer

When you first started out in your adult life, things were probably pretty simple: no house, no spouse, no kids, few investments. So, when it came time to do your taxes, you might have gotten along just fine by using Form 1040EZ - which, as the name suggests, is pretty darn easy to use. Fast forward a few years, however, and here you are today: family, mortgage, 401(k), IRA, stocks, bonds, debts, charitable contributions. Now, when you sit down to do your taxes, they're looking a lot more like your high school trigonometry. If that's the case, it might be time for you to get some help.

However, anyone can claim to be a "tax preparer." How can you find the one that's right for you? Here are a few tips:

Check credentials. While your brother-in-law, your barber and your daughter's friend who is really good in math all may be able to do your taxes, none of them are going to be as familiar with tax laws as a CPA, a tax attorney or an "enrolled agent" (an individual licensed by the U.S. Treasury Department to represent taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service). So,

before you hand over your tax returns to someone, ask about his or her credentials and experience. If your taxes are too complicated for you to handle, you need a professional.

Get references. Ask your friends, relatives and co-workers who they use for their taxes, and if they're satisfied with this person.

Avoid preparers who promise "big refunds." No reputable tax preparer can guarantee you a big refund - or any refund - before looking at your taxes. Stay away from these people. Also, avoid tax preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the amount of the refund. While refunds are nice, you don't want one that might invite serious questions, or an audit, from the IRS.

Get Organized

Once you have chosen a professional to do your taxes, what can you expect? Can you just toss a shoebox full of receipts, investment statements and pay stubs at your preparer and then wait for your return?

It's not that easy. Even if you use a tax preparer, you're going to have to do some work, too. Try to be as organized as possible with your

documentation. For example, you may want one envelope devoted solely to investment information, one to earnings, one to charitable gifts, one to other deductions, and so on. The more organized you are, the easier it will be for your tax professional to complete your return in the most favorable manner possible.

However, don't assume that what you're giving to your preparer is sufficient. If you have sold shares of stock, make sure you've got the cost-basis of those shares available. If this information is not printed on your statements, call your investment professional to get it.

Here's one final tip: See your tax preparer as soon as possible. Once the tax season gets into late March, you'll find few people anywhere as harassed and harried as tax preparers - so give them the time they need to help you.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.





January Calendar & Telephone Directory

All meetings are hosted at the GLSO Pride Center unless noted with *

Thursday, January 1, 2015
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Saturday, January 3, 2015
7:30 p.m. TransKentucky Meeting

Sunday, January 4, 2015
6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, January 5, 2015
6:00 p.m. Pride Fest Sponsorship
Sub-Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Entre Nosotros (Between Us)
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting hosted by AVOL*

Wednesday, January 7, 2015
7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, January 8, 2015
6:30 p.m. GLSO Board Meeting

Saturday, January 10, 2015
9:00 p.m. Kentucky Bourbon
Bears Board Meeting*

Sunday, January 11, 2015
4:00 p.m. Pride Fest Fundraising
Sub-Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. Imperial Court Meeting

6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, January 12, 2015
6:00 p.m. Pride Fest Sponsorship
Sub-Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. Pride Fest Logistics/Vendor
Liaison/Volunteers
Sub-Committees Meeting
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting hosted by AVOL*

Tuesday, January 13, 2015
6:30 p.m. PFLAG Meeting*
7:00 p.m. HIV/AIDS Support
Group hosted by AVOL*

Wednesday, January 14, 2015
7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, January 15, 2015
6:30 p.m. GLSO Board Work Session

Friday, January 16, 2015
7:00 p.m. Senior's Bistro (Potluck)

Sunday, January 18, 2015
3:00 p.m. Pride Fest Marketing/Advertising/
Merchandising Sub-Committees
Meeting*
6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, January 19, 2015
6:00 p.m. Pride Fest Sponsorship
Sub-Committee Meeting
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting hosted by AVOL*

Tuesday, January 20, 2015
Editorial Deadline for LINQ Newspaper

Wednesday, January 21, 2015
7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, January 22, 2015
6:30 p.m. 2015 LexPride Planning
Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2015
6:00 p.m. Imperial Court Meeting
6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, January 26, 2015
6:00 p.m. Pride Fest Sponsorship
Sub-Committee Meeting
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting hosted by AVOL*

Wednesday, January 28, 2015
7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Community and Social Groups

24-Hour Crisis Line	1-800-929-8000
24-Hour Teen Crisis Line	1-800-999-9999
Alcoholics Anonymous	859-967-9960
AA/Alcoholic Teens	859-277-1877
Council for Peace and Justice	859-488-1448
Discussion Group	859-253-3233
Fairness of Louisville	502-893-0788
Gay-Straight Alliance, Teens	859-266-5904
GLSO Pride Center	859-253-3233
Imperial Court of Kentucky	859-619-7521
International Gay Bowling	859-539-3058
Lexington Fair Housing Council	1-866-438-8617
Lexington Fairness	859-951-8565
Lexington Human Rights	859-252-4931
Lexington Pride Festival	859-253-3233
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1-800-273-8255
PFLAG Central Kentucky, Inc.	859-338-4393
PFLAG Louisville	502-223-1323
SisterSound	859-806-0243
Social Services, Lexington	211

Community and Social Groups

Speaker's Bureau	859-266-5904
TransKentucky	cassiemt@yahoo.com
Transgender Youth Family Allies	1-888-462-8932
Trevor Lifeline 24/7	1-866-488-7386
United Way	859-313-5465

College Student Groups

Berea College ACE	859-958-3633
BCTC Gay-Straight Alliance	859-246-6365
Centre College BGLA	859-238-5332
EKU Alphabet Center	859-622-5041
EKU Pride Alliance	859-622-1027
Morehead State University	606-783-2071
TUnity (Transy)	859-445-3822
UK Gay-Straight Alliance	859-257-8701
UK OutSource	859-323-3312

**Don't see your group's events or
contact information?
Email it to editor@glso.org and we
will add you to our calendar!**

HIV/STD Testing, Services & Information

AIDS Volunteers of Lexington (AVOL)	859-225-3000
Health Department, Fayette County	859-288-2437
Health Department, Woodford County	859-873-4541
HIV/AIDS Legal Project	502-584-1254
Moveable Feast	859-252-2867
Northern Ky Region	859-341-4264
UK Adolescent Medicine	859-323-5643

Religious Groups

Ahava Center for Spiritual Living	859-373-8910
Bluegrass United Church of Christ	859-233-0208
Embrace Fellowship	859-358-0580
Faith Lutheran Church	859-266-7621
First Presbyterian Church	859-252-1919
Hunter Presbyterian Church	859-277-5126
Lex Friends, Quakers	859-254-3319
Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church	859-255-1075
St. Martha's Episcopal Church	859-271-7641
Unitarian Universalist Church	859-223-1448
Woodland Christian Church	859-266-3416

\$ Dining Out to Raise Cash \$

Come Eat Chicken that supports us
and support the 2015 Lexington Pride Festival!

Monday, January 26, 2015

5 p.m. - Midnight



**544 S. Upper St.
Lexington, KY**



a fundraiser for:

