



GAY and
LESBIAN
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION
Lexington, Kentucky

GLSO NEWS

January 2004

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Volume 18 Number 11

BLUEGRASS CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, January 29 7:00 pm
Public Library - Conference Room A

The Bluegrass Chapter of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance will be having its annual meeting on Thursday, January 29, at the Public Library starting at 7. Light refreshments will be served. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in the activities of the Bluegrass Chapter and is supportive of its mission to end discrimination against members of the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender community.

Andrea Hildebran, Executive Director of the KFA, will speak about the state of the General Assembly and discuss the proposed legislation to add to the Kentucky Constitution a provision that would ban same sex marriages. There is an article by Andrea on page 16. Other elected leaders will also be present and will speak briefly about this proposal as well as the on-going effort to pass a Fairness Bill.

New on the agenda of proposed legislation is a so-called Safe Schools Legislation which will expressly ban bullying behavior in our public schools on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. There will also be a discussion of the latest twists and turns involving the proposed domestic partners benefits policy for the employees of the Lexington Urban County Government.

You will also have an opportunity to elect up to three people to the Steering Committee. This is an excellent time for

...continued on page 2

GLSO News Changes

Starting as early as the next issue of GLSO News, we will be mailing the newsletter through Direct Response. The newsletter will be inside a folded and sealed slip cover, without an envelope. We will continue to make the information that is visible not identifiable to others as gay lesbian. We will save money by not buying envelopes and the actual postage will be less. We believe this will offset the cost of having the mail prep done for us.

If for any reason you do not wish to receive your newsletter this way, please let us know. You can call Bill at the office at 253-3233.

We are also in the planning stages with Bluegrass Fairness to send out some of the basic monthly news along with Fairness information to a much larger mailing list. Only about 1/4 of the newsletter will be included, but enough to let people know about the primary events and issues in our community.

Sponsor of the Month

KENTUCKY FAIRNESS



ALLIANCE

BLUEGRASS CHAPTER

see pages 4-5 & 15-16



The GLSO NEWS

Volume 19 Issue 1

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

you to meet the Steering Committee members and to express your views as to what the Steering Committee should focus on in the upcoming year. It is also a time for you to support the efforts of the Steering Committee and to help us lobby the General Assembly during its regular session.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us on Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00, lower level of the downtown public library. If you need additional information please call us at 859-806-4114.

More Fairness news on pages 4-5, & 15-17

**GLSO needs your Financial Support for
our many projects including:**

GSA for Youth ages 15-20

The GLSO Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) for Youth is approaching its third anniversary. We have had approximately 55 youth attended at least one of our meetings, and a lesser number that have been regular attendees. We are now looking for ways to reach more young people. To help pay for advertising, such as radio spots and colorful pamphlets, we are in need of increased financial support.

Why do we have this group? There are barriers to healthy development for GLBTQ youth. Studies have shown that young people who are questioning their sexual identity are more at risk for suicide, drug abuse, dropping out of school and even pregnancy. GLBT and questioning teens need access to a larger community that accepts however they choose to identify themselves. The GSA seeks to give these young people access to resources, role models, and accurate information to enable them to develop into proud healthy adults.

And it's working. We have had group members from all the local high schools including the religious based schools. The youth have built support systems for themselves in many of the local schools and keep in touch via the internet. We are not reaching enough young people, and that is why we are seeking ways to advertise the group. If you know of a place that our pamphlets would be noticed by youth, call Mary at 266-5904 or Bill at the Pride Center, 253-3233.

Community News

Activities at the Pride Center see page 6

More Community News see page 8

UK Support/Therapy Group

The UK Counseling & Testing Center is starting a weekly GLBTQ Therapy / Support group in January. The purpose of the group is for or gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students to have a safe environment to talk about issues related to their sexual/relational orientation.

The group will offer support for dealing with issues related to sexual/relational orientation, and will help members gain insight and acceptance.

The group will be led by Anne Edwards, Psy.D. and Colby Cohen-Archer, Ph.D. Students taking at least 6 credits at LCC or UK are eligible. The group will meet Mondays from 1-2 starting in January. Anyone interested in joining or wanting additional information is encouraged to call 257-8701.

Reality Bytes

Reality Bytes is a new Coffee Shop and Internet Cafe in Georgetown. They are located on Frazier Court, between 84 Lumber and Wal Mart. If you enjoy a variety of specialty coffees, come try our cappuccino, espresso, lattes or fine herb teas.

Computer buffs can purchase time to check your email or to play games. There are computer classes offered as well as repair services.

They also plan to show GLBT movies on some Sunday afternoons. Call 502 863-6090 for information.

Men's Meet to Date

There is a new activity happening at the Pride Center this month. Darnel is organizing a Men's event where men who are interested in meeting other men can come together and participate in some get acquainted activities followed by a dating match technique. There are two Meet to Date events planned, one on Tues. Jan. 12 at 6:30 and on Sat. Jan. 24 at 3 pm.

No one will be asked to go out with anyone they do not select and who does not select them. Dates can be as short as 20 minutes. For more info contact Darnel at darnel172000@yahoo.com.

Lexington Lyons Levi/Leather Club

The Lyons will be meeting for brunch at Mia's on the last Sunday of each month which in January is the 25th. The next business meeting will be on Feb. 9 at 8pm at the Pride Center. Anyone interested in learning more about the Club is welcome to attend. The Lyons are proud to be a Pride Patron of the GLSO Pride Center.

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GLBT Movies Some Sundays 2-6

Kentucky Fairness: How you can help

The 2004 Ky State Legislature will be meeting in Frankfort, January through March. They will be considering legislation of importance to the GLBT community. In addition to a renewed efforts to pass a state wide Fairness law, we will need to lobby against efforts that seek to limit our civil rights. Fairness will be providing information about legislative activity including bills to watch over the next several weeks. Here are a number of ways you can have your opinion heard in Frankfort.

Express your Opinion in Writing

We encourage everyone to e-mail or write letters to their Kentucky representatives and senators. Handwritten letters are particularly effective because they receive fewer of them. There are 10 representatives and 4 senators for Fayette County.

Rep. Joe Barrows (D-56)

Rep. Carolyn Belcher (D-72)

Rep. Jesse Crenshaw (D-77)

Rep. Bob Damron (D-39)

Rep. Bill Farmer (R-88) *not to be confused with the Lex. city council member by the same name*

Rep. Charlie Hoffman (D-62)

Rep. Stan Lee (R-45)

Rep. Ruth Ann Palumbo (D-76)

Rep. Kathy Stein (D-75)

Rep. Susan Westrom (D-79)

Sen. Tom Buford (R-22)

Sen. Lindy Casebier (R-7)

Sen. Alice Forgy Kerr (R-12)

Sen. Ernesto Scorsone (D-13)

If you don't know who your legislators are, go to www.vote-smart.org. Fill in your 9-digit zip code. If you do not know that zip, there is a way to look it up on the site. The site will then list your state representative and senator, as well as your federal elected officials. For the mailing address of your representative, go to www.lrc.state.ky.us

Lobby In Frankfort

The following are the lobby days for different groups to come to Frankfort and lobby for the Fairness bill and campaign against any proposal to pass a constitutional amendment banning gay marriages. We ask that you arrive at the by 9 am. Straight allies are welcome on any and all of these days.

All of the lobby days are on Wednesdays.

Family \ Couples lobby day – January 21

Youth lobby day- February 4

Transgender lobby day-February 18

Religious Leaders- March 3

Allies lobby day-March 17

Make a Phone Call

Another way to register your support or disapproval of a bill that is before the KY Legislature, is to call the message phone line in Frankfort. 800-372-7181.

A live human being will answer the call, ask for your name, address, and phone number. You can leave messages for both your representative and your senator at this number. However, they cannot look up your legislators for you. You must already know who you are leaving a message for. Follow the instructions in the previous column to find their names at www.vote-smart.org.

Bluegrass Fairness



Promoting equality for all people
regardless of their sexual orientation
or gender identity
in sixteen central Kentucky counties.

BLUEGRASS CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 7:00 pm

PUBLIC LIBRARY - CONFERENCE ROOM A

see page 1

Civil Rights Attorney
BETH ROBINSON
To Speak in Lex Feb 13
see page 15

Please support our work in the Kentucky Legislature
Lobby in Frankfort

Write a Letter Make a Phone Call

P.O. Box 22032
Lexington, Kentucky 40522
859-806-4114

www.bluegrassfairness.org
www.kentuckyfairness.org
info@bluegrassfairness.org



PRIDE CENTER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

389 Waller Ave. 859-253-3233 Mon-Sat 10 - 3



Monthly Coffeehouse

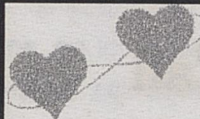
Local singer-songwriter Lori O'Connor is hosting a monthly coffeehouse/open-mic at the Pride Center. On Saturday, January 17 at 7 pm come to the Center for some socializing and fun entertainment. Gay or gay-friendly poets and musicians are invited to share their works in a supportive and comfortable atmosphere. Those interested in reading or performing contact Lori at lorioconnor@yahoo.com or 619-1717. This is a **Free** event.

LESBIAN VIDEO NIGHT

On Friday night, Jan 16, at 7 pm we will be showing FOX FIRE starring Angelina Jolie and Jenny Schimizu. Angelina plays a teen lesbian drifter who becomes attached to a group of high school girls including Schimizu and empowers them to become more in possession of their lives.

Schimizu, who in real life is a lesbian model, and Jolie had an affair during the making of this movie in the early 90's, earning Jolie the reputation of being bisexual.

Come join us for this fun movie and bring a snack to share.



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Regular Events

Discussion Group ... Every Wed 7

Open Mic Coffee House...3rd Sat.

Xena- The Second Season

Every Third Sat 1 - 4

Lesbian Video Night

Second Friday at 7pm

Gaymes Night

4th Saturday night at 7

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

YANG: YOUNG ADULT NIGHT GROUP

Yang is a group for people in their 20's. YANG stands for Young Adult Night Group. They are planning one weeknight discussion and one weekend activity per month. The e-mail address for the group is LexYANG@aol.com and the web site can be found at <http://connect.to/LexYANG> (there is no "www" in the address).

Gaymes Night

Gaymes night continues at the Pride Center on Friday, January 23 at 7 pm. Bring your favorite game or play one of ours. Bring a snack to share.



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A drag pageant like you've not seen in many years, contestants for Miss Big Bone Lick compete for the coveted Jeweled Bone in categories such as Cave Wear and Creative Bone Licking! Yes, Creative Bone Licking!



Saturday
January 17, 2004
Club 141, Lexington
8:00 Pageant and Show
\$5 Donation

Interested in competing, contact Empress JD
Vaughn at empress22kyjd@aol.com

Look for more information about this event and
other upcoming fundraisers by visiting the Imperial
Court of Kentucky online at:

<http://kentucky.impcourt.org>



Community News

Miss Big Bone Lick

The Imperial Court of Ky and the Imperial Court of Cincinnati present Miss Big Bone Lick, a drag pageant unlike any you have ever seen. Contestants compete for the coveted Jeweled Bone in categories such as Cave Wear and Creative Bone Licking.

This fun event will be held on Saturday, Jan 17 at Club 141 in Lexington. Show starts at 8 pm and a \$5 donation is asked at the door. If you are interested in competing, contact Impress JD Vaughn at empress22kyjd@aol.com.

Look for more information about this event and other upcoming fundraisers by visiting <http://kentucky.impcourt.org>

40+ Women's Group

All lesbian and bi-sexual women over 40 are invited to attend our regular meetings and social events. We will meet at the Pride Center on Sunday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m., then pick a restaurant and go out to eat. We will eat and plan our Jan/Feb activities. We will likely be attending the Coffee House at the Pride Center on Jan 17 at 7 pm. Call Ginger at 253-0061 or email ggclr@hotmail.com for more information.

JB's Place

Looking for a gathering place in the Danville area? Janet has fixed up a space on her property for lesbians 30 years old and up. She has named it JB's Place in honor of her partner who passed on recently.

A social group will be held on Saturdays at 7. JB's Place is at 3159 U.S. Highway 127 South, Danville, Kentucky. If you would like more information, contact Janet at 859-238-7307.

SisterSound

After a wonderful Christmas Concert, SisterSound will be beginning to rehearsals for their May concert on the first Sunday in January. The rehearsals are on Sundays at 6 pm at the Lansdowne Cumberland Presbyterian Church. If you are interested, come join us any Sunday. For more info Patti (806-0243) or Toine (276-0753), sister-sound@hotmail.com.

Art Exhibit Planned

Bob Morgan is in the planning stages for an art exhibition that will happen June of 2004. The title is *Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves / 100 Years of Sailors, Hustlers, Drag Queens and Wild Childs in the Lexington Underground Art Scene*.

In addition to his own work, he is drawing from the collections of Sweet Evening Breeze, Henry Faulkner, John Warner, John Ashley, Joanne and Jimmy Gordon.

The show will center on works of art-painting, drawing and photography that were inspired by these muses'. If you have any material that should be considered please contact Bob Morgan at Gallerie Soleil, 363 west short, phone 233-0890.

Lex. Dress and Gender Alliance

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

LexDGA is a peer discussion group for anyone who transcends gender norms or is questioning their gender identity. This includes but is not limited to transsexuals, intersexuals, effeminate men, masculine women, drag kings, drag queens, gender queers and gender questioning individuals. We will meet the first Saturday of October at 8 pm. email for location.

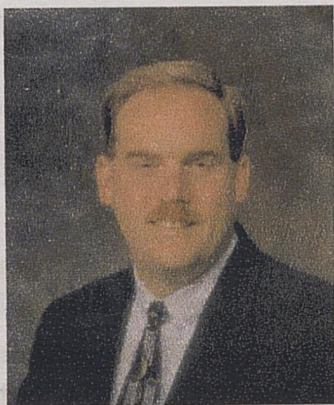
Family and supportive allies who would enjoy discussing trans issues are also welcomed. This is not a therapy group. For info email kellindel@hotmail.com.

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Becoming Allies...In our work on GLBT issues, we have been aided by many straight allies and allied organizations. GLBT people need to participate in the larger progressive movement by joining other groups, working for the issue important to our allies, and being willing to speak up against other forms of discrimination. Here are some events and organizations we can support. **The Jan 18 event is supported by Hate Free Lexington.**

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Sunday January 18

NCCJ Bluegrass Region and the UK Student Government Association present "*Two Towns of Jasper, Hate Free Zone Initiative.*" In honor of Martin Luther King's birthday, NCCJ and its partners will launch its initiative to educate and empower youth and citizen leaders about hate-biased crimes.

This initiative will include a photo exhibit called "Strange Fruit", a viewing of the video, *Two Towns of Jasper*, and a panel discussion by hatecrime victims. **Hate Free Lexington**, formed when Fred Phelps came to town, is one of the supporters of this program. It will be shown at the UK William T. Young Library on Sunday the 18, from 4 to 6:30. There is no charge and there is free parking behind the Young Library on sundays.

The photo exhibit called "Strange Fruit" will feature a variety of poster-size photos of victims of hate crimes. The exhibit, to be shown prior to the film, will include African American victims of lynching, and recent victims of hate crimes such as Matthew Shepherd and Brandon Tina. Each photo will be accompanied by an explanation of the event leading up to the hate crime.

"The Two Towns of Jasper" is a documentary film created by Marco Williams and Whitney Dow. The film deals with the racially-motivated murder of James Byrd, who was dragged to his death in 1998 in Jasper, Texas.

The documentary was shot by two teams of filmmakers, one black, the other white, each focusing separate attention on the community's reactions to the murder from black and white viewpoints.

This video allows viewers to follow individual citizens of Jasper as they come to terms with the horrible murder and its explicitly racist motivation, and to compare points of view on key issues such as history, change, and justice.

The audience will then be introduced to a panel of local people who have been victims of Hate Crimes. Our goal for this panel is to share the diverse and 'real' people that are affected by Hate Crimes. A question and answer session will conclude the panel discussion.

Program Supporters include the UK Student Government Association, Diversity Films, Hate-Free Lexington, and the Lexington Fayette County Human Rights Commission

Monday, January 19

There are many activities planned for the annual MLK Day starting with a march at 10am through downtown Lexington. Gather at 9:30 at the Lexington Civic Center; the Council for Peace & Justice and the Unitarian Universalist Church invites GLBT people to join them.

Ronald V. Dellums will be the keynote speaker at the program following the march. Dellums who served nearly three decades in the U.S. House of Representatives, was the first African American elected from a white majority congressional district.

Since his retirement from Congress, Dellums has ...continued on page 17

GLSO RAINBOW SPONSOR

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January 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Meeting at the Pride Center may be abbreviated to "PC" Call for Place may be abbreviated to Call				1 Pride Center Closed	2	3 Pride Center Open 10 -3 8 pm LDGA meeting 7:30 pm MACT -see page 3
4 9:15 & 11 am UU Church World 10:30 Mass @ St. Mychal the Martyr 6 pm SisterSound Rehearsal Landsdown Presby Church 7 pm Dignity Call for place	5 7pm GSA youth ages 15 -20 (Call for place) 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	6 7 pm Sistahs in The Life - Pride Center	7 pm Discussion Group 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	8 Finanace Committee Meeting 7p.m.	9 7 pm Lesbian Movie Night, Pride Center 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	10 Pride Center Open 10-3pm
11 9:15 & 11 am UU Church 10:30 Sunday Mass, St. Mychal 6 SisterSound Rehearsal, Landsdown Presby Church 6 pm Imperial Court PC 7:30 Soulforce 2pm. 40+ Group Pride Center 6pm. Court Meeting	12 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place) Meet To Date 6:30pm.	13 7 pm GSA (Call for place)	14 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	15 GLSO News Deadline	16 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	17 Pride Center Open 10-3pm 1-4pm XENA - Second Season -Pride Center 7 pm Open Mic Night at Pride Center
18 9:15 & 11 am UU Church 10:30 Mass, St. Mychal the Martyr 4pm "Two Towns of Jasper, Hate Free Zone Initiative." UK Young Library 7pm MACT	19 7 pm GLSO Board Meeting, Pride Center 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	20 7pm GSA for youth ages 15 - 20 call for place	21 pm Discussion Group 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	22	23 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	24 Pride Center Open 10-3pm Meet To Date 3pm. at P.Center
25 9:15 & 11 am UU Church Worship Services 10:30 Sunday Mass, St. Mychal the Martyr 6 pm Imperial Court PC	26 7 pm GSA (Call for place) 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	27 7:30pm. - Fairness	28 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	29 7 pm Bluegrass Fairness Annual Meeting, Downtown Public Library, lower level, open to all	30	31 Pride Center Open 10-3pm

Coming Out A Moral Duty for Gays in America By Jamie McDaniel

I recently read a short, albeit controversial, religious book - one in which the author declined the opportunity to mention God or even make reference to a higher power. This narrative gave the account of a beautiful young orphan girl who got involved with a group of women sexual partners providing services for one man. And this man happened to be a prominent political leader.

The young woman was befriended by another man who had a flair for fashion and a mastery of cosmetics. With his help, she received a makeover fit for a queen.

Eventually, the night came for her to sleep with this high-ranking official. She showed up at his bedroom and he became absolutely infatuated with her - so much so that he married her and advanced her into a place of political leadership.

But the now-married woman kept a closely guarded secret - a fact she could work to conceal, but one that was very much tied up with her identity.

She had a male cousin who also shared her secret. And when a wave of oppression against their community swept across the country, he pleaded with her to come out to her politically powerful husband, stating she had a duty to not keep silent in a time such as this.

She initially hedged. But ultimately she came to a decision. Despite the possibility of serious repercussion, her secret would be a secret no more.

You should read this book. Many of you probably own it already. It is the book of Esther and it is found in the Hebrew Scriptures. Esther was a closeted Jew who risked much when she "came out" to

King Ahasuerus. But in turn this brave woman saved her people from bitter persecution.

In the course of human events, there are times when our stand can make the most difference. Martin Luther King, Jr. explored that theme in the last speech he would ever give. He imagined God asking him, "Martin, which age would you like to live in?"

King then proceeded to take his listeners on a mental flight through history. At great points in time he would elaborate on the wonders of that age and the notable people who occupied it. Then he would pause and say to the audience, "But I would not stop there."

"Strangely enough," King continued, "I would turn to the Almighty and say, 'If you will allow me to live just a few years in the second half of the twentieth century, I will be happy.'"

The crowd in Memphis, alive with energy, erupted into applause. Certainly none were contemplating that, by the end of the next day, the great civil rights leader would no longer be with them.

The course of history has now reached the first half of the twenty-first century. And if you have not looked up, a great movement is underway for gay Americans to be fully embraced by a society that has largely kept us second-class.

For much of our history, GLBT Americans have been asked to keep silent about our orientation or gender identity in exchange for acceptance in the larger community. Our society has asked us to lie in order to keep a job, maintain family harmony, or membership in a church.

To be sure, there are many challenges facing gay people who want to live openly. But I submit to you that it is not an option for the moral individual to remain in the closet forever.

...continued on next page

Civil Rights Attorney **BETH ROBINSON** To Speak in Lex Feb 13

In the landmark decision by the Vermont Supreme Court in December, 1999, gay, lesbian, and bisexual Vermonters were given the right to state-recognized civil unions and the benefits and responsibilities that go along with it. Attorney Beth Robinson served as co-council in the Baker v State of Vermont case and presented the oral arguments to the Vermont Supreme Court which led them to render its decision. Afterwards, she led the lobbying effort that led to the passage of the civil union law - the first ever in the United States.

Ms. Robinson co-founded the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force, and led the PAC, Vermont Fund for Families, which helped elect supportive legislators during the Nov. 2002 elections to reverse the conservative backlash to the civil union law.


Recently the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that gays and lesbians could not be denied the right to marry in that state and instructed its legislature to draft a law allowing GLB marriage. In response

Massachusetts and a number of other states including Kentucky have proposed amendments to their states constitutions defining marriage as being between one man and one woman. Likewise, there has been a call for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to do the same. Our own Senator Bunning is leading this effort.

In celebration of National Freedom to Marry Day (February 12) and Valentine's Day (February 14th), Bluegrass Fairness is proud to bring Beth Robinson to Lexington for a major speaking engagement. Plans are still being solidified, but we hope to reach as many people as possible during a three day period including talks at Centre College and the UK, an educational seminar on the 14th, and the main event on February 13th at UK's Memorial Hall.

Mark your calendars now to attend this very special event, help Fairness to spread the word that marriage is for all citizens, and help to counteract the proposed damaging amendments to our Constitution.

Donations to help defray the cost of this event should be directed to Bluegrass Fairness. If you are interested in sponsoring the event through purchase of an ad in the program, please contact Jim Dickinson.



Coming Out...*continued from page 14*

We simply cannot be apathetic to the journey of young gays and lesbians growing up in a country that denies them equality and in churches that tell them they are sick and sinful.

Sexual orientation is an aspect of one's being that can be concealed. Like Queen Esther, who initially concealed her Jewish identity, we too can decline to live openly. But when we make that choice, we forfeit much.

I am mindful that there are legitimate reasons for not coming out in the present moment. But these are few in number.

One example might be a gay teenager, without any financial means, whose parents have given a strong impression that they would throw him or her out of the house if the teenager's sexual orientation was anything other than heterosexual.

Once we have stability in our lives, however, we are called to stand in our truth. As we start the New Year, I ask you to resolve to take another step out of that closet which has held so many of us. For your own freedom, and for those who follow you, tell the truth about who you are with pride.

The real face of Discrimination in Marriage

by Andrea Hildebran

The rhetoric is getting raucous in the debate over equality in marriage laws. Mostly, gay people are being portrayed as swooping in to somehow attack marriage as an institution and generally wreak havoc on society. The real story is so much more mundane. Let's look at how marriage equality would affect two actual households in Jefferson County.

Mike and Chris have lived together for 16 years. Mike works at the University of Louisville, and Chris is an IT consultant. After seven years together, they decided to join their lives through a commitment ceremony. It did not give them any legal rights or protections, but it took place under a big oak tree in their backyard and was followed by dinner and dancing with 200 of their family and friends.

Five years later, friends gave them a surprise anniversary party at the Macaroni Grill. They own a home together on a quiet cul-de-sac in the county. Their son is a first grader who likes Tae Kwon Do and looks forward to annual trips to Disneyworld.

But when Chris was laid off in the economic downturn, Mike wasn't able to include Chris or their son on his workplace health insurance. If Mike gets hurt in a car accident, Chris could be barred from his bedside or from making decisions about his care. When they get ready to retire, their Social Security benefits won't be there for each other, or even for their son if one of them were to die.

They spend thousands of dollars trying to put a handful of legal protections in place through private legal documents, but there is no guarantee that these will work when they are needed most.

Chris pays over \$600/month for individ-

ual health insurance where it would only cost \$200 for Mike to add him under a family plan.

Across the street live Lori and her husband, Dale, with their two children. The three kids celebrate birthdays together with other kids in the block. The two couples meet regularly for dinners and neighborhood events.

What's going to happen to Lori and Dale, registered Republicans, if their neighbors get married? Nothing. Will anyone really think of them as less married if Chris and Mike have a marriage license? Will Lori and Dale have a harder time staying committed to their own family? Will they be more likely to get divorced because Chris and Mike live across the street with a marriage license? Why would they?

When you try to find the actual people who would be harmed by extending marriage to include gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, you come up short. People like Chris and Mike Would society be changed if people like Chris and Mike could protect their families by entering into a legal marriage? Absolutely. There wouldn't be inequality on the cul-de-sac. Their son would be protected within his family just as Lori and Dale's children are across the street. The birthday parties would go on. And, hopefully, everyone's anniversaries would continue to be celebrated every five or 10 years.

In his recent Forum commentary, William Bennett asserts that "man linked to woman is both natural and ideal." Let's be clear. Heterosexuality is natural and ideal for heterosexuals. What is natural is to love, to have the desire for companionship and continuity in our lives, to want to protect our loved ones and to need to have our relationships honored by the institutions around us. Legal marriage is the contract our government creates

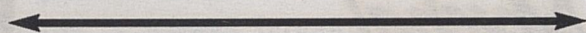
...continued on next page

to acknowledge and sustain family relationships in a consistent, meaningful way. Where gay people have formed families, they and their children deserve the same respect and treatment under the law as other families.

Less than 40 years ago, we had laws prohibiting the issuance of marriage licenses to interracial couples. We know now that that was wrong, and we changed the law. There was a time when the law kept married women from owning property on their own. We changed that law because it was wrong, too.

When these reforms were being debated earlier this century, some of the very same objections were raised: that 'loosening' the rules would open the floodgates to anything and everything under the sun. But interracial marriage did not undermine marriage as an institution. Neither did equality for women. Letting same-sex couples enter into legal marriages won't either.

We could let people like Bennett try to frighten us about a supposed "attack" on marriage. But what Chris and Mike want in their lives would only make their lives and our whole community safer and more stable. Lori and Dale know this. If you met the four of them and spent some time with their three kids, you would, too.



Fairness is alerting their supporters of a proposed Constitutional amendment to the Kentucky Constitution that would define marriage as between a man and a woman only. This proposed amendment would not only preclude the possibility of same-sex marriages in the state, but it would also serve to officially make gay and lesbian people second-class citizens. Call the legislative message line to express your objections - 800-372-7181. See page 4 for details of how to make this call.

MLK Day ... continued from page 10

turned his attention to AIDS as the major worldhealth issues we now face. His initiative, the AIDS Marshall Plan, calls for a global collaboration between public and private sectors. He has been appointed chairman of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. There will be a film about Dellums at the KY Theater in the early afternoon.

Men Of All Colors Together

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

AIDS Memorial Quilt

Matthew Hallock, Professor of Drama at Centre College, is looking for volunteers to help in planning to display 12 panels of the AIDS Quilt next February. Contact him at hallock@centre.edu.

Mark Gailey for US Congress, 6th District

February 17th and November 2



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Spiritual Resources

St Mychal The Martyr

A New Church for Lexington!

St Mychal the Martyr has services each Sunday at 10:30 at 1350 Eastland Dr. with Rev. Kenneth Waibel performing mass. St Mychal is a member of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America, a national denomination that is gay supportive. The OCCA performs blessings of gay unions, and ordains women to the orders of Deacon, Priest, and Bishop.

The Church is one of about three dozen offshoots from the Roman Catholic Church, and is open to married, divorced and single individuals, welcoming all persons regardless of the blessings or problems of their lives.

INTEGRITY

Integrity, a group for GLBT Episcopalians and friends, invites you to join us on Sunday, October 12 from 4-5:30 pm at St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 2025 Bellefonte St. For additional information call Rev. Sandy Stone at 277-7511 or email stmintegrity@yahoo.com

Unitarian Universalist Church

The UU Church of Lexington welcomes visitors at any time. Worship Services are at 9:15 and 11 am every Sunday. There is child care and religious education for young people K-12 during the second service. We are located at 3654 Clays Mill Rd.

The Women's Spirituality Group will meet on January 16. call Mary Crone 266-5904 for info and directions.

There are a variety of opportunities to become involved in social justice work,, study groups (Course in Miracles, Anti-racism, etc), Humanist discussion group, Buddhist meditation, and more.

Soulforce

Soulforce Lexington follows the principles of non-violence practiced and taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. to confront "spiritual violence" against GLBT people. Members come from a variety of religious backgrounds and are united in their belief that GLBT people and our allies have to directly confront the religious organizations and individuals that are using the Bible to preach against us. For information call Jamie at 859-230-5625 and check out our web page at www.SoulforceLexington.org.

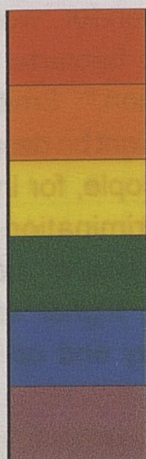


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Gay Spirituality: Icon 5 By Rev. Ken Waibel

As we continue to investigate the elements of gay spirituality that may be common to all GLBT persons we come to one experience that seems to ring true for all. Although this "icon" may only be present for a short period of time in some GLBT's experience, there are those who would like to press this as a permanent stamp upon all the gay community. Religious zealots will use this very natural reaction to "exile" and separation as a tool to break the spirit of the GLBT person (or group). The common experience we are talking about is Shame.

By definition shame is a painful sense of guilt or dishonor. The experience of shame is always brought on by outside forces (persons), which attempt to inflict a certain set of morals or ethical platitudes upon someone else. If the person doesn't "comply" with the group he or she is made to feel "less than perfect" and somehow has "disappointed the majority". The emotional response of shame results from exterior forces deciding for another what is right (and therefore acceptable) and what is wrong (or unacceptable).

So many stories of GLBT persons "coming out" to family and friends seem to

begin with "I am gay" and end with "I am sorry." Sorry for what? Being who I am? Somehow causing difficulty or tension in your life because of who I am? Sorry for being alive? It is a sad reality that many GLBT want to apologize for being the glorious and wonderful creation that they are. Such a desire for "apology" is an unhealthy result of shame.

The other, more positive, side of this experience offers another level of growth for the GLBT person once she or he is able to get past the initial reaction. Soon after the "I am sorry" response hopefully comes the "Wait a minute, why am I sorry? What have I done to be sorry for anything?" Now to be honest most of us have reasons to be "sorry": certain things that we have done that we are not proud of. That is a common human experience - called guilt. Guilt should never digress into shame.

Once we have named our faults - and orientation is not a fault, nor a sin - we can move on, conquering those attitudes or actions that are problems and celebrating those parts of ourselves that are gift and good. The experience of shame, on its positive side, may challenge the person to introspection and better define for self what parts are not OK and what parts are OK.

Transgender Hate Crimes Increase

Edited from an article by

Patrick Letellier, PlanetOut.com News

The year 2003 has been the most deadly on record for transgender people, with more victims of anti-transgender killings reported this year than in any other year for which we have records. Thirty-eight transgender people have been reported killed, twice the number reported just two years ago. Last year, 27 such killings were reported.

The increase is attributed to a number of factors, including increased reporting and record keeping, increased media interest, and, in some parts of the country, better relationships between law enforcement and the transgender community.

"Then there's the intense hatred," said Jennifer Rakowski, a board member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects, an alliance of 26 organizations that tracks hate violence in the U.S..

Rakowski believes that some people who assault transgender people do not see their victims as fully human. "The killers view them as 'it' as opposed to seeing them as people. That leads to their expectation of societal permission to go through with the killing."

Other experts attribute the increased violence to the growing visibility of transgender people in the United States and around the world. "As trans and LGBT rights become a bigger issue in society, these killings are part of that backlash to it," Smith said.

Smith believes transgender people are often the main targets of a backlash in part because they are the most visible, sometimes clearly challenging stereotypical notions of "appropriate" male and female attire or gender expression.

"It's especially true for M-to-F's (male-to-female transgender people)," Smith

said. Many of the 38 people killed in 2003 are low-income, transgender women of color, who, in large part because of anti-transgender discrimination," Smith said, "end up in situations that might be dangerous."

Many transgender people, for instance, face employment discrimination. As a result, some move to poorer neighborhoods where there are higher levels of crime, and, as such, may end up the targets of hate violence.

"It's brutal and it's gut-wrenching," said Shawna Virago, a transgender activist at Community United Against Violence, an agency that provides support to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender victims of hate and domestic violence.

Virago said that domestic violence is also a factor in many anti-transgender killings that is rarely discussed. "That also has to do with transphobia: the belief that trans people don't have legitimate relationships," she said. "Because we are only often seen as sex workers, the domestic violence piece is far too often left out.

Whatever the reasons, the GLBT community needs to be aware of the violence directed against those of us who cross the line of gender presentation or behavior. Transgender folks have often been in the front lines of the GLBT movement including at the Stonewall Bar in 1969. We need to support programs and legislation that will provide greater safety for them and for all of us.

Volunteers Sought

Jonathan Hull is a coordinator of the Great Leaps Tutoring Service for the Fayette CO. Schools. He is seeking volunteers to work with children in Lexington elementary and middle schools. No previous experience is required. You will be asked to listen to children read and to note their progress. Give Jonathan a call at 227-0728. He is gay friendly.

VISIT THE IN-LAWS

WORDFIND

by
Reinette F. Jones

t	i	a	w	e	d	e	f	e	r	e	a	l	a	l	h	s	a	w	g
u	h	o	h	c	u	o	v	s	c	p	i	b	c	d	e	g	l	e	e
o	n	r	i	n	s	e	p	a	r	a	t	e	r	o	o	m	s	t	h
e	a	a	s	l	l	u	p	o	h	r	k	a	e	g	o	n	a	a	e
m	l	t	p	l	r	y	n	l	i	e	i	u	o	o	o	k	n	n	n
i	p	e	e	n	e	s	l	p	a	n	b	n	d	r	s	d	i	y	n
t	e	y	r	s	t	a	p	s	i	t	e	y	e	e	s	d	t	r	a
y	m	h	o	r	a	y	l	e	s	s	e	w	l	h	n	g	y	e	g
f	a	m	i	l	y	c	l	o	w	n	g	o	a	l	o	n	e	u	g
u	g	n	l	w	o	e	t	i	n	j	o	k	e	s	a	i	u	q	e
g	g	r	e	t	r	e	a	t	o	n	e	e	v	i	g	r	o	f	d
s	n	i	s	u	o	c	y	z	a	r	c	a	t	w	i	t	t	e	r

Find the following words within the puzzle.

Words are spelled backward, forward, up, down, and diagonal.

ado	eke	mo <u>se</u> y	site
a-go-go	<u>f</u> amily clown	nagged	sk <u>a</u> t
all hail	forgive	nite owl	snore
apron strings	fug	oh my	spurn
atone	funned	o <u>r</u> ate	spats
atwitter	game plan	parents	time out
awed	G <u>e</u> henna	pace	trippy
beau	glee	pulls	uh- <u>g</u> h
behave	go alone	query	vouch
cook	gone	rally	wait
crazy cousins	handshake	rayless <u>l</u>	wash
defer	in-jokes	retreat	whisper
dine	late	ring	woke
drain	lema <u>n</u>	rise	y <u>e</u> ll
ego	<u>m</u> oody	sanity	

Can you find the answer in the puzzle?

Where you do not want to sleep while at the in-laws. There are 15 underlined letters in the word list, arrange the letters to find the answer.

GLSO News Deadline

JAN. 15

Send news, essays and ads to

lexingtonglso@yahoo.com

Put "newsletter" in the subject line

GLSO Pride Center

389 Waller Ave.

Open 10 to 3 Mon.- Sat.

Drop by for a visit!

The Pride Art Gallery is actively seeking artists interested in showing their work at the Pride Center. To discuss the possibilities, please call Thomas (859 225-0094) or the Pride Center (859 253-3233.) If you don't have enough work for a complete show we can pair you up with another artist. All artisans welcome. Twenty percent of the proceeds will go to the Pride Center.

GLSO is in real need of financial support at this time.

*We have recently sent out a fundraising letter and many of you have responded generously. Thanks you. Operating the Pride Center costs about **\$1,250 a month** including rent and utilities. Publishing this newsletter costs about **\$35 0 a month**. In addition to these monthly expenses, we plan to start advertising the GSA Youth Group more widely (see page 2). We need newsletter subscribers and donations to keep the Pride Center open and to continue all our projects. Please give what you can afford to keep our community services operating.*

Pride Library The Gay Straight Alliance for Youth

Discussion Group Young Adult Group Speakers Bureau

Pink Pages Pride Month Act Out Dress and Gender Alliance

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

_____ \$15 Membership and Newsletter

_____ \$20 Couple membership and newsletter

_____ \$25 Two year membership and newsletter

_____ I would like the newsletter at this reduced rate

_____ Additional contribution



Mail to GLSO News PO Box 1172 Lexington, KY 40588

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Start Making Plans For Valentine's Day Sat., Feb. 14th



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GLSO Directory

GLSO Board

GLSO Pride Center253-3233
 GLSO Board (Thomas)225-0094
 GLSO Discussion Group (Bill)253-3233
 GLSO News (Mary)266-5904
 Subscriptions (Bill)253-3233
 GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary)266-5904
 Youth Gay Straight Alliance (Mary)266-5904
 GLSO on Linelexingtonglso@yahoo.com
 www.bluegrasspride.org
 Pride Gallery225-0094

Student Groups

EKU(Sue)
 UK Lavender Society c_violet_skies@yahoo.com
 Morehead State University (Ned) 606-783-2294
 UK Lambda (Sara & Dave) .info@uklambda.com
 Berea College ACE League (Dale) .859-985-3633
 Centre College (BGLAD-Mykol)238-5332

Anonymous HIV Testing

Jessamine County885-4149
 Lexington-Fayette County288-2437
 Madison County859-723-7312
 Woodford County873-4541
 U.K. Adolescent Medicine323-5643

HIV/AIDS Info/Services

AIDS Volunteers, Inc225-3000
 Lexington Health Department (Julie)288-2362
 HIV/AIDS Legal Project502-584-1254
 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

Community

Alcoholics Anonymous (Brian)619-5294
 Office276-2917
 AL-Anon (Office)277-1877
 Bluegrass Belles502-346-5298
 C.O.L.T.S. (Morris)225-9169
 Bluegrass Fairness859-806-4114
 Council for Peace and Justice
 (Richard)277-6101
 Fairness of Louisville502-893-0788
 First Link (was Ask-Us)313-5465
 International Gay Bowling (Steve)276-3058
 Imperial Court of KY
 bluegrassempire@hotmail.com
 KY Leather Productions (Larry)253-0185

Kyians For The Commonwealth254-3585
 jlynjenks@msn.com
 Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club
 (Paul)312-9346
 Lexington Dress & Gender Alliance433-8388
 Lexington Human Rights Commission 252-4931
 Lexington Men's Chorus (Kenneth)255-1974
 Louisville Youth Group502-894-9787
 Men of all Colors Together (Jon)351-4453
 mactky@aol.com
 Moonshine Bears of KY. (Hal)859 294-7944
 www.mooshinebears.com
 People for Unity and Fairness803-1130
 CUFCKT@aol.com
 Pride Alliance of Central KY(Gary) 859-236-4547
 (Shane)859-854-0596
 Pridealliance@yahoo.com
 PFLAG (Ed)859 200 9512
 Pegasus Travel253-1644
 Rainbow Bowling League (Steve)276-3058
 Sistersound (Patti)268-0113
 paowens@excite.com
 Sistahs in the Life (Joan)252-2657
 24 hr. Crisis Line1-800-928-8000
 24 hr. Teen Crisis Line1-800-999-9999

Religious Groups

Dignity (Don)299-4458
 Interweave (Unitarian-Mary)266-5904
 Integrity (Episcopal-Rev. Stone)277-7511
 MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev.Cathy)888-340-6223
 MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee)502-587-6225
 MCC-Paducah (Rev. Lillian)270-443-3339
 Norse Pagan Community (Rev. Pat)268-1640
 KY Pagan Forumhttp://go.to/kypaganforum/
 RainbowWind (Pagan-Sarah)273-2455
 Soulforce (Jamie)859-230-5625
 www.SoulforceLexington.org
 St. Augustine's Chapel
 (Episcopal-Rev. Chris)254-3726
 St. Mykol (Independant Catholic) (Rev. Ken)389-9418
 Open Door (Christian-Rev. Pam)396-7636
 Wiccan/Pagan Group..... (Iggie) 492-9904

NEWS DEADLINES

and corrections to directory:

Articles and Ads: Jan. 15

Put Newsletter in subject line

marycrone@aol.com

lexingtonglso@yahoo.com