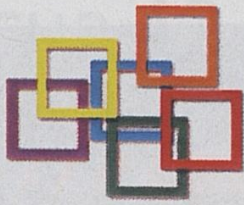


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GLSO

GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

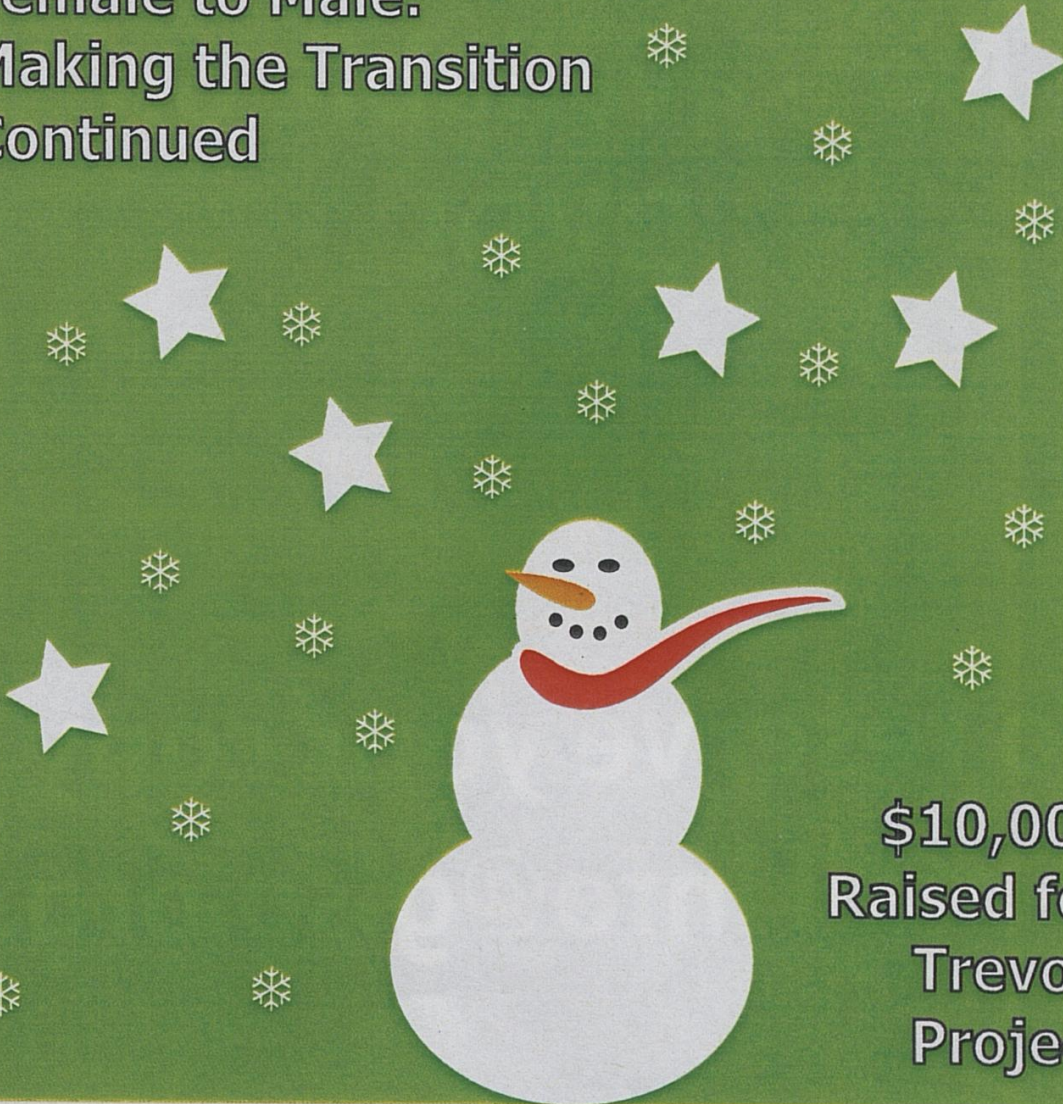
NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization

Volume 32 Number 12

Happy Holidays!

**Female to Male:
Making the Transition
Continued**



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Special Holiday Edition

FEATURE STORY

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

GSA
 Every Tuesday, 7 p.m.
 Pride Center

OutLoud Radio Show
 Every Friday, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 88.1 FM

PFLAG Fundraiser
 December 3-5
 Joseph-Beth Booksellers
 20% of all book and 10% of all cafe purchases go to support Lexington PFLAG

Imperial Court of Kentucky Presents: AVOL Kid's Christmas
 Wednesday, December 8, 8:30 p.m.
 Crossings Lexington

A Very Fairy Christmas
 Friday, December 10, 8:30 p.m.
 Pulse Nightlife

Lexington Pride Festival Meeting
 Sunday, November 7, 6 p.m.
 Pride Center

GLSO Board Meeting
 Sunday, December 12, 1 p.m.
 Pride Center

Imperial Court of Kentucky Meeting
 Sunday, December 12, 6 p.m.
 Pride Center

Issue 12 2010

GLSO

EDITOR

Jesse Howard

The GLSO News is published monthly by and for the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization members and community.

The mission of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization is to provide support and services to the GLBTQQIA community.

The vision of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization is to empower the GLBTQQIA community through voice.

The Lexington GLSO is founded upon the core values of fun, inclusive, respect, integrity, dignity, service and competence.

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www.glso.org

2011 GLSO News sponsorship packages are now available!

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The GLSO is currently looking for new contributors and editorial staff. If interested, e-mail editor@glso.org.

Kick the holidays off with the GLSO!

A Very Fairly Christmas

Raffles

Drag

Friday, December 10

Pulse Nightlife

Doors open @ 8:30 p.m., Show at 9:30 p.m.

Shots

More...

All proceeds go to fund the 2011 Lexington Pride Festival.

GLSO is looking for new board members?

**Are you interested in joining the board of directors for one of
Central and Eastern Kentucky's fastest growing
GLBTQQIA organizations?**

E-mail dennis@glso.org to find out how you can get on board!

Holiday Season Reflection: Finding Yourself

Angela Climenti, Founder of Degarrin

Having a lifestyle that is different than the one you grew up with can make it hard to relate to your family. And even if your immediate family is open to who you are and the way you live, other relatives may not be so accepting. Perhaps you have even cut ties with your family - or had them [those ties] cut for you. Being considered "different" can be challenging anytime of the year, but it is rarely more apparent than during the holiday season.

The media and retail industries do their best to portray the holiday season as one of joy and togetherness. While this may be true, it is also an unfortunate fact that the holidays often bring about stressful situations and stir up unresolved issues. As someone who grew up in a Catholic family, but is now pagan, I know firsthand how trying the holidays can be with relatives who don't understand the choices I've made or the life I lead. Many of my closest friends are gay or bi-sexual, and quite a few of them follow a pagan path as well; watching them deal with their biological families over the years has been both inspiring and disheartening. We all know that you cannot choose the family you are born into or make others accept who you are. But that doesn't mean you are alone or without family. It is those people in your life that love and support you that become your "chosen family." For those of us used to redefining the stereotypes of who we are and the way we live, why try to fit into society's preconceived notion of family? Who better than us to break the mold and make our families fit our lifestyles instead of the other way around?

At this time of year, when family is generally foremost in our minds, your chosen family becomes even more important. Don't plan to spend the holidays with your relatives? Have a get-together with your chosen family instead. It doesn't matter whether

your gathering has two or twenty people, the point is that you will be able to partake of the holidays and enjoy quality time with the people to whom you are the closest. And isn't that what the holidays are really supposed to be about?

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington

Mary Crone, Contributor

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington has Sunday services at 11 a.m. The Church is located at 3564 Clays Mill Rd.

The U.U. Church has a liberal religious tradition with room for many beliefs. Our congregation includes people who identify as Christian, Humanist, Buddhist, Pagan, Atheist, Agnostic, and more.

The U.U. General Assembly encourages every congregation to be inclusive of all LGBTQQIA persons at every level of congregational life, welcoming to same-gender couples, and recognizing and affirming of their relationships.

The congregations in and around Lexington actively support LGBTQQIA rights. Members can be depended upon to attend legislative lobbying days, chaperone GSA events, show up at rallies and vigils, and in other ways support the work for equality and justice.

We welcome all people to attend services, join a special interest group, or consider using our facility for holy unions or other events. You can call the office at 223-1448.

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GLSO Discussion Group Winding Down

Jane Minder, GLSO

After nearly 15 years the Wednesday Night Discussion Group will suspend meeting indefinitely after the first of the year. It seems especially fitting to end this long run after the Christmas holidays since it was started at this time of year because one person in the community wanted to give back and knew how hard the holidays are for GLBT individuals who were estranged from family. Jeremy Farmer probably didn't know when he started that his group would last so long but he saw the need and filled it.

Hundreds of people have found support and acceptance at "Group". Everyone got the same message every week "as soon as you walked through the door you were accepted just the way you were and no one here was going to try to change you."

If you think there is a need for something like this group or have other ideas for serving the GLBT community, and are willing to make it happen, please contact GLSO at info@glso.org.

"Group" will meet three more times on December 15, 22 & 29 so if you need a little support drop by the Pride Center at 389 Waller Ave at 7pm. We'll be there.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Female to Male: Making the Transition Continued

Jesse Howard, Editor

During this edition of the GLSO Newsletter, we compelled our interview with local artist Jack Cofer about his transformation from female to male.

Editor: What issues, if any, do you encounter on a daily basis that you must overcome?

JC: At first I want to say that the issues become less and less the more I progress in my transition - but that's false. The issues become different. In the beginning when I was simply binding, I just appeared to most folks like a flat chested lesbian (especially when accompanied by my female partner) and on the phone people assumed I was female because of my voice. I had already adopted my male name, so folks were constantly asking if it was short for "Jacquie" and when I would say "No, it's actually Jackson," it was like begging the question and in an instant I would be wrapped up in a line of questioning whether I liked it or not. And I do like talking about it but it's hard to be an educator 100% of the time...like when you're buying groceries. Since hormone therapy and the inevitable "passing" as male, new problems have included 1) public bathroom use: there isn't always a stall door or one that locks in multiple stall men's rooms. 2) being limited to my binding in public at all times: before I had facial hair I at least had the option to not bind if I wanted to go swimming in a public pool or even if it was simply 90 degrees outside and I was uncomfortable. 3) readjusting to mannerisms and speaking habits: I used to be able to tell a guy if he smelled good or looked good,

etc but now I have to limit that to super close male friends or gay men so as to limit the risk of getting my ass kicked. Also, you may not always think of it but in general, woman can make a lot of comments about other women or women as a whole and no be misconstrued as being a male chauvinist. I am a lot more aware of what I'm saying now more than ever (which is a good thing) 4) Everyone assuming I'm a straight male when with my partner: I'm still fighting the good fight and it's hard to be out as queer when the signs are not obvious. My "Nobody knows I'm a Transsexual" t-shirt is in the mail right now. And for the sake of this article we'll stop the list here

Editor: What advice do you have for a young adult who is struggling to gender-identify?

JC: First of all, I believe everyone should question gender - especially their own. For all the vastness in the universe and the depth of the human heart there is no way there is only 2. You can argue procreation all you want but in an age where anyone can do that no matter their circumstances, now more than ever we need to be breaking abstract bonds with societal constructs and look inward. Be you and do not be afraid. Those who do not understand are the ones who are afraid. If you have questions about anything, the best thing to do is to reach out. Find a book, find a person, find a resource. We're out here, and we're not going to leave you behind.

Want to read more articles like this from the GLSO? We want your feedback and article suggestions. E-mail editor@glso.org.

Lexington Events Raise More Than \$10,000 for Crisis Hotline

Josh Kegley, Lexington Herald Leader

More than \$10,000 was raised for a national suicide crisis hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youths at two charity events Friday.

Donations were taken at a candlelight vigil in Phoenix Park, followed by a charity toast at Soundbar, a bar and dance club on South Limestone Street.

The vigil, held in honor of teens and young adults who have committed suicide because of bullying, raised about \$140. That was matched by the Gay and Lesbian Service Organization, totalling \$280, GLSO events director Orvis Kean said.

Around \$10,000 was raised at the toast, according to Isaac Kurs, co-owner of

Soundbar.

The toast drew several notable guests including Fayette Circuit Court Judge Ernesto Scorsone, Urban County Councilwoman Diane Lawless and Mayor-elect Jim Gray, Kurs said.

The money was given Tuesday to The Trevor Project, the national hotline for youths in crisis.

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Listening is probably the most important factor when doing business with anyone, whether it be Real Estate or any other form of sales oriented services.

I like to use the term of "emotional intelligence" when describing what I bring to my clients.

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Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

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Kentucky Bourbon Bears: Central Kentucky's Newest Bear Community

kentuckybourbonbears.com

The Kentucky Bourbon Bears is a NEW social organization whose purpose is to provide a brotherhood, a place of acceptance and a network for gay and bi-sexual men who identify themselves as "Bears", bear admirers and friends of bears through planned social gatherings and philanthropic activities to benefit the gay and lesbian communities.

The Kentucky Bourbon Bears goals will include:

- Local community involvement.
- Creating social activities for the Lexington gays.
- Fundraising for local charities.
- Offering uplifting support for club members.

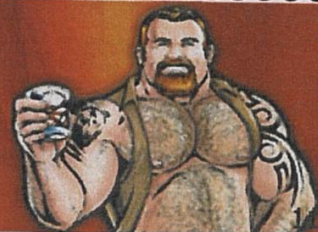
The club will plan local outings such as chartered Bourbon Tastings, trips to Museums, participation in gay pride, camping trips etc. as well as trips to adjacent states and bear clubs/runs. The club will host an annual Mr. Kentucky Bourbon Bear contest, start-up satellite Chapters of the Kentucky Bourbon Bears, as well as host fundraisers for local gay and non-gay charities. The main goal is to create a drama free, accepting brotherhood that opens its membership to all men of Kentucky and, through our diversity and differences, create a strong organization that is able to give back to the community in which its members live.

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and help an organization
in need?**

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KENTUCKY Bourbon Bears



Job

By Karen Taylor

In church, we have just completed a study on the book/man of Job. Whether or not you have read the story, I imagine you know the story. Job was a man of wealth, power, and integrity, but most importantly, he was a man of God. A man who honored God in everything he did. Then one day as Satan was wandering around the Earth looking for someone to reek havoc on God asked him if he had considered His servant Job.

Satan at this point began stating how Job would most certainly love and honor God because look at him; he has everything, no worries, no reason to "curse" God. Therefore, God gives him permission to come against Job with anything but taking his life. So Satan went to work, Job's children were all killed, his livestock all murdered, and his house was destroyed. Yet, he did not curse God. Basically, his attitude was God gives and God takes away. As a matter of fact, he even states, "are we to take only the good from God and not the bad".

Since Satan didn't get what he wanted he went back to God and basically said, look, no one would continue to honor you if their health failed them. So God gave him permission to take his health, but he still could not take his life. That is when Job developed boils all over his skin. He was miserable. Then in walk his "friends".

At first, his three friends did the right thing and simply sat with Job supporting him in his misery. Unfortunately, they couldn't keep still and for days or maybe weeks, however long it was, they began berating him with false accusations. Accusations of hidden sins that needed to be confessed. They all gave him such a hard time with trying to get him to confess to sins that, in their mind, must have brought this on. Of course, Job wouldn't do that because there were no sins that needed confessing.

Through it all Job never cursed God. His

integrity remained in tacked. In the end, God honored Job by doubling restoring all he had. At this point you might be asking why God would do that to Job. I know I asked that questions. The bottom line is I don't know. Who can know the ways of God? He sees the end picture I only see today. This was also the conclusion Job came to. Who am I to question God? The one thing we can always depend on as Christians is that if we honor God and give Him all our cares and concerns, He will make good out of all things. Not that all things are good – but God can make good out of all things.

Job the man, honored God through all his heart aches and pain and God honored him in return by restoring in double portion all he had lose from his children to his place of respect in the community. Living in a sinful world we can expect difficulties but it's what we do with them or how we handle them that makes the difference. Do we truly believe that God has us in His hand? Do we truly believe that God cares for us and wants the best for us? Can we allow God the privilege to take and do whatever He deems necessary to mold us into the person He can use? Difficult questions yet Job didn't hesitate.

This study has spoken to me in a huge way. There is much work that needs to be done in my heart to be like Job, trusting and honoring God in all things. Father, help us to truly believe in the depths of our hearts that You love us and care about us, that You have our lives/situations/health in your hands. Help us to honor You in all things. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Calling All Young Gay Professionals

Jesse Howard, Editor

Are you a young gay professional? Are you looking to make a name for yourself out there? We know it can sometimes be hard to be out in the workplace, if you can be out at all. The GLSO is looking to start a new Young Gay Professionals Networking Group in Lexington. If you are interested in joining, e-mail info@glso.org.

Are you interested in becoming a mentor to young gay professionals? Want to help others like you succeed? We want you too! E-mail info@glso.org if you are interested in becoming a mentor or speaker.

Editor's Note: Young is defined by your professional career only, not by age.

New Jersey Senator Introduces College Anti-bullying Law

Source: The Associated Press

(Trenton, NJ) New Jersey Sen. Frank Lautenberg has introduced legislation to require colleges to adopt a code of conduct that prohibits bullying and harassment.

The Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act is named for the 18-year-old Rutgers University freshman who committed suicide in September after his gay sexual encounter in his dorm room was broadcast online.

The measure introduced Thursday by Lautenberg, a Democrat, would require colleges that receive federal money to adopt policies that prohibit harassment based on a student's sexual orientation,

race, gender and other factors.

It also would provide funding for schools to establish or expand programs to prevent harassment of students.

U.S. Rep. Rush Holt, a fellow New Jersey Democrat, introduced identical legislation in the House of Representatives.

Harvard Pres: ROTC Return If Gays Can Serve Openly

Source: The Associated Press

(Cambridge, Mass.) Harvard University's president says the school will resume a long-banned Reserve Officer Training Corps program when federal law allows gays to serve openly in the military.

President Drew Gilpin Faust has spoken before about bringing the ROTC back pending repeal of the 1993 law known as "don't ask, don't tell." She emphasized her position Wednesday in introducing Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen before he spoke at the Ivy League school.

Faust says Harvard is prepared to "fully" recognize the ROTC when all students have "the privilege and honor of military service" without having to lie.

Her comments first were reported by The Harvard Crimson student newspaper. They come as talk of a repeal increases in Washington.

Harvard banned the ROTC in 1969 amid Vietnam War dissent. Its ROTC students train at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

GLSO Resource Directory

A community resource page for gay and/or gay-friendly organizations throughout Kentucky. To add your listing, scroll to the bottom of this page.

Anonymous & Confidential HIV Testing

AIDS Volunteers, Inc. (AVOL)	859-225-3000
Health Dept., Fayette	859-288-2437
Health Dept., Jessamine	859-885-4149
Health Dept., Woodford	859-873-4541
UK Adolescent Medicine	859-323-5643
Volunteers of America (VOA)	859-254-3469
STD Testing & Treatment	859-288-2437

Community Groups

24-Hour Crisis Line	800-928-8000
24-Hour Teen Crisis Line.....	800-999-9999
Alcoholics Anonymous	859-967-9960
AA/Alcoholic Teens, office	859-277-1877
Bluegrass COLTS	859-225-9169
Council for Peace & Justice	859-225-6999
Discussion Group	859-253-3233
Fairness of Louisville	502-893-0788
Gay Straight Alliance for Teens ...	859-266-5904
GLSO Pride Center.....	859-253-3233
Imperial Court of Kentucky	859-619-7521
International Gay Bowling	859-276-3058
Lexington Fairness	859-951-4450
Lexington Human Rights	859-252-4931
Lexington Insight Group	859-230-2428
Lex. Lyons Leather/Levi Club	859-468-6371
Lexington Pride Festival	859-253-3233
MACT	859-358-8335
PFLAG Lexington	859-338-4393
PFLAG Louisville	502-329-0229
SisterSound	859-806-0243
Social Services (Lexington only)	211
Speakers' Bureau	859-266-5904
TransKentucky	859-963-6606
United Way	859-313-5465

HIV/AIDS Information and Services

AVOL	859-225-3000
Health Dept., Fayette	859-288-2437
Toll-Free	877-606-2437
Cumberland Region (SE Ky.)	606-864-3776
Toll-Free	888-425-7282
HIV/AIDS Legal Project	502-584-1254
Lexington STOP Program	859-254-3469
Louisville Region	502-574-0161
Moveable Feast.....	859-252-2867
NKY Region.....	859-341-4264

Religious Groups

Integrity(Episcopal)	859-533-9851
Interweave (Unitarian)	859-266-5904
Lex Friends (Quakers).....	859-254-3319
Mercy Ministry Church	859-358-3357
MCC Paducah	270-443-3339

Student Groups

Berea College ACE	859-958-3633
Centre College (BGLA)	859-238-5332
Morehead State Univ. ..	606-783-2294
OUTSource (UK)	859-323-3312
UK GSA	859-559-7464

On the Web

AIDS Volunteers (AVOL)	avolky.org
Imperial Court Kentucky	imperialcourtkentucky.org
Integrity (St. Marthas)	integrity.stmarthas.blogspot.com
Kentucky Bourbon Bears	kentuckybourbonbears.com
Kentucky Pagan Forum	go.to/kypaganforum
Lexington Fairness	lexfair.org
Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club	lexlyons.org
Lexington Pride Festival	lexpridefest.org
Lexington Fayette County Health Dept	lexingtonhealthdepartment.org
Mercy Ministry	mercyministrychurch2006.net
PFLAG Lexington	pflaglex.blogspot.com
Rainbow League	rainbowleague.net
United Sister Circle Alliance	unitedsisters.org
Volunteers of America (VOA)	voaky.org

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December 18

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Friday, Dec. 17th @ 7pm

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Casting: (3) women, (4) men

Ages: 18+

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Performance dates will span Feb. 28 - March 31, 2011

For more info please contact Wes Nelson at

emperor28ky@live.com