



GLSO NEWS

Vol. 14

Sept.
~~AUGUST~~ 1999

No. 9

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Closet Ball '99

"The Julie Vaughn Memorial Closet Ball '99 will erupt on Thurs., Sept. 16 at Club 141, 141 E. Vine St. Doors open at 8:30, with the show starting promptly at 9 pm! A donation of no less than \$4 to court sponsored charities will be required for entry. Sponsored charities of Reign 18 include Movable Feast, The AIDs Medication Fund, and the Rape Crisis Center. Please donate as much as you can to these worthy causes!

Among the artists featured at this year's event: the lovely Erica Vaughn returns to the stage after a ten year absence and the delightfully exuberant Junette Clabourin will whoa the crowd! Emcees for the evening are the notoriously naughty Natalie Gay and the master of mayhem Marlon Austin! Riot police will be alerted in advance.

Contestants vying for the title "Miss Closet Ball '99" must never have performed on stage in drag. They will be presented in their birth gender, then given exactly one hour to transform themselves into their drag fantasy persona! Men, women, everyone is encouraged to participate in the most anticipated evening in the yearly Court charity calendar.

Contact Emperor 18, Kevin Fillips at (606) 252-3014 for contest rules and entry forms or email bluegrassempire@hotmail.com!

SISTERSOUND

SisterSound is beginning her fifth concert season this fall. Rehearsals begin Sunday, Sept. 12 at 6pm at Park Methodist Church on the corner of High Street and Clay Avenue. New members are welcome to join us.

We are a diverse women's community chorus open to ALL women. No audition or musical experience is required to join- just a commitment to learning the music, and a desire to join with other women in creating harmony through music. If you don't feel you can sing, but would like to be a part of the magic, the SisterSound Auxiliary has a place for you.

This season will see many changes within SisterSound. We are currently searching for a new director, while under the direction of an interim musical director. This change in musical directors will promote change within the performances and rehearsals.

SisterSound's first performance will be on December 18 with Wishing Chair as our guest. This holiday concert will bring you festive music and good cheer.

Please contact Patti at 243-0243 or at paowens@excite.com if you would like more information about becoming a singing member, an auxiliary member, or being added to the mailing list.

OHIO LESBIAN FEST

The Ohio Lesbian Festival is celebrating its 11th year Saturday, Sept. 11. If you have never been to a women's music festival, this is a great one to attend. It lasts only one day, from 11AM to 11PM, and it is a relatively short drive to Columbus, Ohio. There will be over 50 merchants, workshops, food sales, comedienne and good music.

Performers this year include Kate Clinton, Melanie DeMore, Alix Dobkin, The Butchies and Voices of Africa. Tickets are available locally at Alfalfa restaurant for \$24, or you can purchase tickets at the gate for \$30. You don't have to spend more money than that if you carry in your own food and drink.

Most people from this area find a motel to stay overnight and drive home Sunday. I recommend Motel 6 as the most inexpensive alternative. For more information about the festival call The Lesbian Business Association at 614-267-3953.

Sponsor of the Month

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The GLSO News

Vol.14 Issue 8

Published Monthly by

*The Lexington Gay
Lesbian Service*

Organization

321 Second St.

Editors:

Mary Crone

Peter Taylor

Davina Warner

**GLSO Annual Dues
and Newsletter: \$15**
**Dues and Newsletter for
Couples: \$20**

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 become the property of the GLSO. The staff reserves the right to edit submissions and advertisements as well as the right to reject any submissions or advertisements.

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Progressive News and Activities

Rape Crisis Center

Needs Volunteers

The Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center need volunteers to answer the 24-hr. crisis line, to provide support and information to victims and their loved ones, to meet victims at local emergency rooms and police stations.

The 1999 Fall Training for volunteer will be held: Friday, Oct. 1, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, and three consecutive Saturdays, Oct. 2, 9, and 16 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. There is no fee.

Upon successful completion of all training sessions, volunteers answer the crisis line in their own homes via call forwarding. Shift choice is flexible. A six month commitment is required and applicants must be at least 21. To apply for training, call Stephanie at 253-2615 by Sept. 17th.

This is an excellent opportunity to get training in the areas of sexual violence and crisis intervention. If you are a social worker, therapist, or are in a related field, this training can be invaluable to you as well as a service to the community.

Peace With Justice Week

The 8th Annual National Gathering of Peace and Justice Activists will be held in Henderson, Kentucky on October 14-17. The 1999 theme is "Daring to Differ: Meaningful Work, Alternative Wisdom, Inclusive Love." The 1999 presenters include Deidre McCalla, lesbian song writer and singer, Carla Wallace, activist, Fairness Campaign, Louisville, and Rev. Jimmy Creech, of North Carolina

Registration includes a ticket for the theatrical production of *Tender*, a powerful and highly personal work by Pam McMichael about life and death,

class and color, and a rural Kentucky family's love for their mother. Both humorous and poignant, this play celebrates the magnitude of ordinary women and the power of living and talking about their daily lives. *Tender* is being performed at the Henderson Fine Arts Center on October 14 and Oct. 15 in conjunction with PWJW '99.

Registration is affordable, costing only \$40 for the entire four-day event. PWJW includes powerful keynote addresses, workshops, storytelling, concerts, exhibits, community meals, worship, and more. For registration brochures, call the Paff Haus Peace and Justice Center in Henderson at (270) 826-0281 or e-mail paffhaus@paffhaus.org

Take Back The Night

The Tenth Annual Take Back the Night Rally will held on Sunday, October 10 at Triangle Park in Downtown Lexington. The YWCA Spouse Abuse Center and several other agencies will be introducing The Empowerment Expo, an expansion of previous rallies.

Activities will begin at 4 pm with music from Delicious Trip Attendance and Mother Jane. Various vendors and local agencies will set up booths in Triangle Park; t-shirts, posters, and food will also be available.

The rally will begin at 6 pm. The keynote speaker will be Barbara Smith, an author and activist for human justice from Albany, New York. Ms. Smith, an African American feminist, was one of the founders of Kitchen Table Press. Local community leaders will also speak. The annual march, candlelight vigil and speak out will follow. For more information contact LeTonia Jones at 233-9927.

Community News

MEN'S CHORUS

The Lexington Men's Chorus will resume rehearsals on Thursday September 9th at the Pride Center on Waller Avenue. LMC is always looking for new singing members as well as individuals--men or women--who want to help with the Auxiliary. No audition is required. Registration will begin at 6:30 on Sept 9th and 16th with regular rehearsals running from 7-9:15 each Thursday.

1999-2000 marks the 10th Anniversary Season for LMC. Highlights include the 10th Anniversary Gala Concerts in April as well as the traditional Holiday and Pride concerts. In July 2000 the chorus will travel to San Jose California to participate in Festival 2000; a gathering of 6000 singers from 180 Gay and Lesbian choruses from around the world. If you would like more information about joining the chorus contact David at 231-0090 or Wayne at 887-1325

BirthDay Bash

Niagara Falls invites the world to her Birthday Bash on Wed. Sept 29 at Club 141. A great entertainer, Niagara promises to put on a show

that will knock your socks off! This is a Court sponsored fund raiser so you know the money is going to fulfill some basic needs in our community. Join us for a great time.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The GLSO Discussion Group meets in the Pride Center (387 Waller Avenue) every Wednesday at 7:30 PM. LBGT people share their concerns in a supportive and helpful environment. This is not therapy, but genuine support.

We generally meet upstairs but on the third Wed, of each month, we are downstairs in the MCC space. For more information, contact Jeremy at 269-6658.

SOCIAL CONCEPTS

Social Concepts offers a supportive atmosphere for Lesbian and Bi women to socialize. We plan several events each month such as dining out, movies, theater, concerts, and picnics. We encourage attending community activities, and we include some events to which you can bring family and friends. (yes, "even men")

I am pleased to announce that we are now an integral part of the Gay

and Lesbian Service Organization. We encourage all of you to subscribe to the GLSO News where our events will be listed. They are in great need of subscribers at this time.

Our Sept. Schedule: Every Tues. and Thurs. dine out at Cosmos (or wherever you decide) with Deb, 6:45 PM. Saturday Sept. 11 several of us are going to the Ohio Lesbian Music Festival, east of Columbus. See page 1 for particulars. This is one just for women. If you want to caravan, meet at Walmart in Georgetown at 10AM.

Saturday, Sept. 18, we will try Comedy Off Broadway, Lexington Green (admission \$8). Meet at Ruby Tuesdays at 7PM for dinner (entrees \$6-\$14.) Becky Petigo will headline.

Saturday September 25, Golfing at the Campbell House, tee time 2PM. Soft spikes required. Dinner at the Clubhouse afterwards, or on the ninth. Golfing \$8 per person. We have reservations for four now, If you are interested we will have to make additional reservations, let me know. Dinner at clubhouse runs \$6-8.

Also that weekend, Sept. 25-26, we plan to camp out at Kentucky Horse Park. Bring your own camping gear and food. Members only. Are

Community news continued page 4



LIFEPRINTS

PHOTOGRAPHY

- ★ HANDCOLORING
- on site photography
- ♥ unique, creative portraiture

Cheryl A. Clark
Photographic Artist
Twenty years experience

Tina Orr
Bus. Representative
Lex Phone 263-7343

we are now an integral part of the Gay

Regular Events

GLSO Discussion Group.....Wed. 7:30, Pride Center
CUUPS (Pagens).....12:15 Sundays, UU Church
Court Cafe at Regina's.....First Sunday, N. Upper
P-FLAG.....7:30 2nd Tues. Chapel Hill Pres. Church

IYG LESBIGAY YOUTH HOTLINE

800-347-TEEN 7pm-12pm Thurs.& Fri.

Community News Continued

you up to sleeping outside? (As if we were going to sleep!) Bring any play equipment you would like such as balls, squirt guns, cards, etc. Charcoal and lighter fluid provided.

We are developing a training workshop for those of us interested in becoming mentors for newly coming out persons. I need to know if you are willing to give your time and energy to this important role. We will be trained on what to say and not say, provided with referral numbers, crisis intervention strategies. We will meet periodically to improve our services. For more information contact Ginger at 606-389-7698 or email her: gg40504@hotmail.com

Euchre Anyone?

We are looking for a couple of people that enjoy playing euchre (for the uninformed, euchre is a card game, for four people) If you would like to play, call Sharon at 245-9098.

MOONSHINE BEARS

Mark your calendars now for our first annual Mr. Kentucky Bear Contest on Saturday, Sept. 11 at Crossings. We will have some special guests along with lots of fun and surprises. The contest will begin at 10:00 pm. If you would like a contestant application or more information, please e-mail us at Mnshinebrs@aol.com. Thanks for all of your help and support!

Pastoral Search

Lexington Metropolitan Community Church (LMCC) is presently searching for an interim pastor to handle Sunday worships and pastoral care matters during the search for a permanent church pastor. This paid-

position would be from three to twelve months depending on the results of a nationwide search to find an ordained MCC Pastor.

We are most interested in someone who has had experience working as a pastoral leader in a Christian Church. The individual must be aware of the focus of LMCC and its mission in the community. To learn more about the MCC please see UFMCC web site: www.webring.org/cgi-bin/webring?ring=ufmcc. You can contact Tomas (226-0978) or Terry (255-5469) for more information.

Scout Leader Uses Gay Photo For Target Practice

This is edited material taken from news articles on the internet

The Boy Scouts of America's ban on homosexuals was ruled illegal under New Jersey's anti-discrimination law, by the state Supreme Court on August 4th. The court said the Boy Scouts organization constitutes a "place of public accommodation" because it has a broad-based membership and forms partnerships with public entities and public service organizations. James Dale, a gay eagle scout, had challenged the BSA after being kicked out in 1990.

According to the Aug. 11 Providence Journal (Rhode Island): "On the day after the New Jersey ruling, a scoutmaster showed his disdain for James Dale and the Supreme Court decision by pinning up a photograph of Dale's face at the camp's rifle range." According to two high-ranking staff members at the camp, the scoutmaster then took aim and fired, destroying the newsphoto of Dale. An unconfirmed report mak-

ing its way around the Net says that the shooter-scoutmaster then said, "We know how to handle gays."

The August 18 San Francisco Chronicle reports that Camp officials removed the scoutmaster from camp, saying that they follow strict National Rifle Association guidelines not to use the image of a person as target practice. The paper also says that "his future in scouting is to be determined."

Excuse me? A scoutmaster teaches our kids that using a gun to blow up a fag is ok. This takes place at the same time that Jewish children are being shot at by a hate-filled madman in Los Angeles. And the Scouts need time to determine this guy's future in scouting?

If the shooter were gay, we'd know his future in scouting. He'd be toast, because the Scouts feel being gay isn't "morally straight."

In fact, on August 12, right after the shooting incident, the New York Times reported that the Rhode Island Scouts reiterated their anti-gay policies: "the [Rhode Island Boy Scout] council said it saw homosexuality as inconsistent with the Scout oath to be morally straight".

Apparently, the only problem with using gays for target practice is that the shooter violated an NRA guideline. Teaching our children to use guns to express their distaste for other Americans is not even recognized as an issue

To protest, send letters to the national headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America. They're at 1325 Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, TX 75015.

Watch for *Trick*, a gay themed movie coming to the Ky Theater soon

Mam', Sir, Or Whatever You Are

By ReINETTE F. Jones

Before I cut my hair, I was always recognized as a woman. After I cut my hair, strangers have often assumed that I am a boy or a man. Sometimes the misidentification simply is not worth the effort of clarification. At other times the ensuing correction has resulted in a range of reactions, from sincere appreciation to one instance of a u-gly conversation (an ugly exchange of words). In spite of all that, I still have a 1/8 inch haircut, and I have developed a sense of humor about four particular incidents.

The first occurred four years ago when Kat and I were looking for a house to rent. We inquired about an ad and the owner told us the newly built home was a couple's dream. We believed her. So, at 8:00 on a cold February night, Kat and I drove down US460 toward beautiful North Middletown, KY.

While I was driving, Kat figured out how to turn on the bright lights. It took another 10 miles to figure out how to turn them off. With that done, we noticed a sign with the words 'Mt. Sterling'. Our destination was a few miles behind us; we had driven through North Middletown at some point between finding the bright lights and having no lights.

By the time we got to where we had intended to go, the air was a little tense inside the car and all sense of direction had become a power struggle. The consideration of asking for directions in a small town late at night caused another fight. We drove down every side street at least five times before a fellow flagged us

down. The man looked at me, then to Kat, then back to me. In a slow easy drawl he asked, "Who you looking for Mam'.....Sir.....or Whatever you are? You seem to be lost."

He said it so sincerely that it sounded like a greeting. There is nothing like honest down home people. Well, we got directions to a tiny house that set up on a hill in somebody's backyard. There was a street light in the corner of the yard and the one door to the house was unlocked, just like the owner had promised. I went inside to look around while Kat managed to open all four screenless windows from the outside. She discovered that the windows were slightly open because they would not shut or lock. The house would not become our dream, but the stranger's words had given us enough to laugh about to keep the journey from becoming a total nightmare.

Our next stop was Lexington, where we found a much larger home. It took us a few months to get settled. I even took a vacation day to test the silence factor. I had planned to sleep late and do as little as possible, but somebody's finger had gotten stuck on the doorbell, and the trill was shredding my last nerve. I put on my blue, high collar lace trimmed robe and ran for the door. Somebody was going to get a piece of my mind!

I looked out the window and there were two men in black suits. My instinct told me it was the law and they were at the wrong house. But when I opened the door, I saw that the men had backpacks, Bibles, and bicycle helmets. I kindly told them I was not interested and don't touch the damn door bell again. They nodded their heads and moved their lips, but no words came out of their

mouths. I shut the door. Suddenly they were knocking on the screen door and yelling. "Sir, Sir, Sir! May we please talk to you? We can help. Sir, Sir!"

My last nerve detonated, and I yelled through the window for both of them to get off the #@\$* porch or I was taking off the robe and coming out the door. I turned the doorknob and one of the men backed up to the edge of the porch and fell out into the yard. The other man fidgeted with his hands in his pockets for a few seconds. It seemed he was just as serious about what was under the robe, as he was about his mission. But realizing that his mate was quickly peddling his way out of the neighborhood, the second man joined in the race. I have not seen either of them since that morning.

And I wish that I could say the same about the next incident. I was visiting a certain state university library and needed directions to the bathroom. I sought assistance at the circulation desk. The woman on duty looked at my hair, stared at my breast, glanced at my crouch, and asked, "You boy or girl?" I told her it was Monday, which would she prefer. She pointed to her right and said, "That way!" I laughed as I walked toward the bathrooms.

Several weeks later she and I were introduced at a librarians' meeting. With much stuttering, the woman apologized for her previous insult and told me that she realized I was a girl. I laughed and told her that I was not a girl, I am a woman. She replied by putting her hands over her heart and saying in a sad hushed voice, "I have a husband and three children." Then she left the room. I don't know if she was sad or mad or had a nutty

continued on the next page

Are you OUT and PROUD? Contribute \$3.00 or more to GLSO's **Queer as a Three Dollar Bill Campaign** before Sept. 22, and we'll print your name in the October GLSO News as an **Out and Proud** member of our community. If you already contributed you may want to check with Mary (266-5904) to be sure your name is on the list. Thanks.

.....continued from page 5

moment. All subsequent near meetings have sent her running in the opposite direction. There is a jar of colorful beads and a shiny truck (a toy) for the person who can explain what the heck happened.

The last incident of mistaken identity occurred in Charlotte, NC, last month during a WNBA game. There was at least a killion lesbians in the coliseum. There were twice as many straight families with children, all of whom seem to be screaming for the same sugar-filled treats. Kat and I behaved much better, we stood in the middle of the floor with our sweaty hands gripping wrinkled bills. We were staring at the signs trying to decide which menu item had the most calories. Sugar, salt, and or grease, we wanted it all; it was Kat's

birthday and we were allowed the luxury. La-la land was in sight when suddenly a man ran into me and restored reality.

Without looking back, the man said, "I'm sorry Sir." And he and his family continued to walk and gaze at the signs. Without thinking, I yelled, "SIR?!" The entire family turned around to comprehend how I had been transformed into a female. The man started to apologize and his wife came toward me with a look of concern and her arms wide-open. The situation had graded itself; because I was not a man, I had somehow become vulnerable and it was ok for the wife to act by giving me a hug.

The crowded hallway was not the place for a lecture on sexism. I told the woman that I was not hurt and a (very inviting) hug was not

necessary. The couple's teen children and some of the spectators were doubled over silently laughing at the parents' blunders. I turned to Kat (as did the couple) and she was trying to talk without laughing. It wasn't working.

The man moved toward Kat to assure her and others that the situation was an accident. About mid-step the couple realized that Kat and I were a lesbian couple. For the second time, I came very close to receiving a hug for a revelation. The couple started to talk at the same time, trying to explain their sincere intentions. Their chatter made absolutely no sense and I started to laugh. They stopped talking and laughed also. We left it at that and parted company. It was the beginning of a great evening. Intercultural Lesbians!

IF YOUR MAILING LABEL IS A STRANGE COLOR. PLEASE RENEW... or, if you have never been a subscriber, think how nice it would be to receive your newsletter in your mail box at the first of every month. subscribing helps us a lot by insuring lower bulk mail rates. We need 15 new subscribers in Lexington to be able to mail at the lowest rates. The newsletter comes in a non revealing envelope, with only a box number as a return address. so not even your mailman will know for sure!

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_____ **I am donating \$3 or more, please add my/our name(s) to the Out and Proud Sponsorship page in October. Mail to GLSO News, PO Box 11471, Lex., Ky., 40575**

CLOSET BALL 99

put your face **HERE!**



Thursday, Sept. 16

CLUB 141

Doors Open at 8 PM

Show Time at 9:00 PM

With special guest,
JANELLE CLAIBORNE

\$4 donation

bluegrassempire@hotmail.com

ERICA VAUGHN!!!

SEPTEMBER 1999

USE DIRECTORY ON LAST PAGE TO CONFIRM LISTINGS
MOVEABLE FEAST EVERY DAY. CALL 252-2867

5 SUNDAY	6 MONDAY	7 TUESDAY	1 WEDNESDAY	2 THURSDAY	3 FRIDAY	4 SATURDAY
10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 12:30 am CUUPS (UU Church) 6:00 pm Dignity	8:00 pm AA Step Study		6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:30 pm GLSO Discussion Group (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA		7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
12 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 12:30 am CUUPS (UU Church) 6:00 pm Sistersound rehearsal (Park Methodist Church)	13 7:00 pm GLSO Board Mtg (Pride Center) 8:00 pm AA Step Study	14	8 11:00 am Social Concepts (Lilh Fair) 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:30 pm GLSO Discussion Group (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	9 6:30 pm Men's Chorus rehearsal (Pride Center)	10 6:30 pm Women's Spirituality Group (UU Church) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	11 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 10:00 Mr. Kentucky Bear Contest (Crossings)
19 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 12:30 am CUUPS (UU Church) 6:00 pm Sistersound rehearsal (Park Methodist Church)	20 8:00 pm AA Step Study	21 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">GLSO NEWS DEADLINE SUBMIT ADDITIONS AND/OR CORRECTIONS FOR NEXT CALENDAR 273-9649</div>	15 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:00 pm Fairness Steering Committee (Pride Center) 7:30 pm GLSO Discussion Group (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	16 6:30 pm Men's Chorus rehearsal (Pride Center) 9:00 pm Closet Ball (Club 141)	17 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	18 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:00 pm Social Concepts Comedy Off Broadway (see article) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
26 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 12:30 am CUUPS (UU Church) 6:00 pm Sistersound rehearsal (Park Methodist Church)	27 8:00 pm AA Step Study	28	22 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:30 pm GLSO Discussion Group (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	23 6:30 pm Men's Chorus rehearsal (Pride Center)	24 6:30 pm Women's Spirituality Group (UU Church) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	25 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 2:00 pm Social Concepts Golf (Campbell House) 7:00 pm Social Concepts Camping (Kentucky Horse Park) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
			29 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:30 pm GLSO Discussion Group (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA TBA Birthday Bash (Club 141)	30 6:30 pm Men's Chorus rehearsal (Pride Center)		

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Unitarian Views

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington has a new minister, the Reverend Cynthia Cain. She is a native of New Jersey and most recently was the minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Riverside, California

While in California Rev. Cain worked in the community to encourage interfaith collaboration, including Study Circles (discussion groups dealing with issues of racism), an Interfaith Thanksgiving service, and a Children's Sabbath. After the death of Tyisha Miller in Riverside (the African American woman killed by police while unconscious in her car), Cynthia was instrumental in bringing many community groups together to respond to this incident, her church participated in the large protest march that was held and she also welcomed the Rev. Jessie Jackson to lead a service at her church during that time.

Rev. Cain worked with the Riverside congregation to become a Welcoming Congregation, that is a UU congregation that has gone through some consciousness raising

discussion about Lesbians and gays issues and votes to officially become "Welcoming" to members of the LGBT community. The Lexington Unitarian Church is also a Welcoming Congregation. Rev. Cain has expressed her intent to continue to bring LGBT issues to the pulpit and to work with our community.

Cynthia has been a practicing Buddhist for about a year and recently took "Mindfulness Training" as articulated by Thich Nhat Hahn in the school of engaged Buddhism. (Yes, many Unitarians have multiple religious interests and affiliations.) Her teacher was Caitriona Reed, who studied with Thich Nhat Hahn and Joanna Macy both of whom bring a social justice element to Buddhism. Ms Reed is a male to female transsexual and Rev. Cain says that finding her as a teacher also was helpful to her in learning and understanding transgender issues. (That is one tidbit you will not read in the Herald Leader!)

To meet Cynthia, please come to one of our Sunday Services at 10:45, 3564 Clays Mill Rd. On Sept. 5, "How We Are With One Another" a

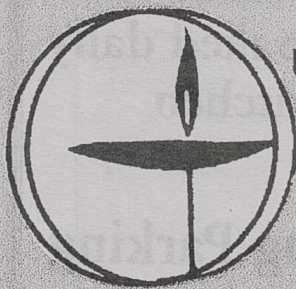
participatory worship, led by Cynthia along with members of the Covenanting Committee. Not sure what a covenant is or whether you need one? Come be surprised, enlightened, and inspired!

On Sept. 12 we will have our traditional Mingling of the Waters service to which the congregation brings water from their travels over the summer. On Sept 19, Rev. Cain will lead a service on the concept of forgiveness in honor of the Jewish High Holy Day, Yom Kippur.

Also of interest at the Unitarian Church: The Humanist Forum will meet on Sept. 15, 7:30 to 9 pm in the Conference Room (last room in hallway on way to the office). Chuck Sohner will lead a discussion on Humanism and Theories of Law. These meetings are open to people of all faiths (and of none).

The Women's Spirituality Group will meet on Fridays, Sept. 10 and 24 in the Fellowship House (farm house beside church), potluck at 6:30 and program at 7:15. On the 10th we will plan programs for the fall and, if it's not too hot, we will have a bonfire and Equinox Ritual on the 24th.

We are proud to welcome our new Minister, the Reverend Cynthia Cain. Join us in celebration.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

3564 CLAYS MILL RD.

223-2448

SERVICES 10:45 SUNDAY

Other Aspects

by Ben Smith

During the past few weeks I have read many different aspects in the Letters to The Editor of the Lexington Herald Leader. Some of those letters were not only filled with ignorance, but also filled with hatred towards the gay lifestyle. I have written my own letters and my own opinions to the Herald Leader, some of which have been shared, and some of which have been shunned. Sometimes I feel as if they don't want to hear from the "other side." (This article will use the term gay to stand for all LBGT people.)

Most of the ignorance I have read is in the way that many people have referred to homosexuality as a "choice", when, in fact, those of us who are gay know for a fact that we were born this way. We had no "choice" in the matter. I would like to ask my fellow gay citizens: How many of us remember our childhood? How many of us recall feeling different from other little boys and girls? How many of us found out that our "difference" was merely the fact that we shared a same sex attraction? And even though it was not a sexual attraction during our youth; it was, nevertheless, an obvious same gender attraction.

Some people believe that we are an abomination in the eyes of the Lord God. I want to ask: How can God create us in this way only to have us tormented, punished, and discriminated against? Why would God give birth to us in knowing we would go through a life of hell, then tell us we are doomed in the afterlife to burn in Hell? I don't believe God feels that way about homosexuality at all. Goodness is goodness, and

evil is evil no matter whether you are heterosexual or homosexual.

The Bible is a book that was written by earthly human men. It has been interpreted by human men, even rewritten by human men. Personally, I believe that at some point a bigot was permitted to place his own philosophy into the Bible, therefore allowing the words of a man, not of God, to be passed down the line, generation after generation. Until now, in 1999, when no one really knows what the original Bible actually said.

There are those who believe that God and the Bible are fables which were created by a group of men and women who needed to bring fear into the hearts of violent people. If you give the masses an all powerful and all seeing God to believe in, the violence and destruction become minimal. But this God is one you can never see, never hear, never feel. A God that is bases upon faith.

Whatever you choose to believe, I personally do not believe religion should be invoked upon young children. I wonder how many gay children grew up and married someone of the opposite sex simply to appease their parents and their parents' religious beliefs? The effects of such an unnatural choice can be very damaging! Either the gay person goes on living a life of pure misery, trapped in a relationship that was an untrue declaration of their personal feelings towards their spouse, or the heterosexual feels victimized when the homosexual comes out of the closet and ends the relationship. It can be an emotionally damaging situation for both, especially when children are part of the

equation. All because religion had been invoked and a gay child not permitted to flourish.

When it all boils down to is that being gay is not, as some heterosexuals wish to believe, a bedroom issue. We are gay 24 hours a day, seven days a wee, in and out of bed! Some of us are fortunate enough to find inner peace and tranquillity through our own perceptions of God. Some of us are very fortunate when we find our soul mate, while others grow old alone. How many of us have that aunt or uncle that no one speaks about? The one who grew old and die alone, completely cut off by his/her family?

No matter what your religious beliefs, the Bible does not condone violence, and God does not condone hatred. Love is goodness and hatred is evil. God represents love, just as Satan represents evil. If you hate homosexuals, look at the representation of who you are worshipping.

The new Lexington Fairness Ordinance is a wonderful step towards a brighter future for all mankind! It is certainly long overdue!

Curse of the Queer Wolf

Things I read late at night in video books... "Curse of the Queer Wolf," 1987. A man is bit ten on the butt by a gay were wolf and transforms into the title character. By the director of "A Polish Vampire in Burbank". Anyone seen this "interesting" film? Should we order it for a showing at the Library? Seriously, Diversity Films is looking for inexpensive films to show downtown, some for coming out month and some in the months following. Suggestions? Call me, Mary Crone 266-5904.

A Journal of Sexual Healing

Part 3 of...until therapy ends

by Kelly O'Ferrell

"I'd rather sit and watch TV than do this work. Then just argue about it."
Tam, my partner, in serious jest.

Tam and I were hanging out with a friend who was telling us about an excellent looking woman she'd met.

"You'd really like her, Kelly," she said. And the more she described her, I realized she was right, especially when I heard the part about the salt and pepper hair.

"Yep," Tam said, "that's Kelly's kind of woman all right." Then our friend told us a funny story about how she'd found out the woman had a partner.

"I always like to know something like that," I said. "Then I'm not so attracted to her."

"That's called turning yourself off sexually," Tam said. "I read about it in my book." And she proceeded to tell us about how we do that a lot in relationships - turn ourselves off on purpose. I knew, again, that I was glad I'd let her catch me six years ago.

Tam and I have both become aware of many new aspects of sex and passion because of the intentional work we have been committed to doing these past few months.

During a therapy session, I knew that it was time to move past my original desires: wanting to make decisions about sex as an adult and wanting to feel differently about sex by letting go of my mother's experiences and creating my own.

So I stated new desires to my therapist: to turn back into my relationship with Tammy with the new knowledge that I can honor the long forgotten spirit in me by doing only

what I want to do sexually, and to continue to explore my own feelings about my vagina.

Tam and I are committed to doing two exercises each week - one from her book involving us as a sexual couple and one from my book involving us (individually) as sexual beings alone. This may sound too controlled for some people, but we think it's important to be intentional about our relationship with one another.

I had to commit with my therapist to do the one exercise a week involving me as a sexual being alone because I was reluctant to even look at those pictures I had taken of my vagina. I was so excited- so empowered - about taking them, but then was afraid to really look at them.

Whenever I did, all I saw was what was "wrong". I've tried to find *Femalia* by Joani Blank ("amazing photographs of different women's genitals") but haven't had any luck and *Playboy* is considered soft porn (who knew?). So, I haven't been able to see any other vaginas - except the other one in my house. It's important for me to look at pictures of them so I can dispel this feeling that I'm doing something "dirty" by looking at a part of a woman's body.

Tam and I set a date to do the first exercise from her book. As the evening progressed, we noticed that we were hesitant. So we started by turning off the TV and just reading about the first exercise.

"Take turns touching and being touched. Nude in your bedroom with the door locked and the light on (and the phone off the hook), let your partner touch you all over - except on the breasts and genitals...Try to communicate nonverbally...Close your eyes. ...Let the experience go on for a min-

imum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 45. Do not look at the clock."

We flipped to see who would be the toucher first - nothing like six year old romance! Fodder for laughter whenever we "remember when".

Let me just say I was glad when my 15 minutes were up! Which really surprised me. Even after 6 years with this woman, amazed that we still love being with one another, I still felt like she'd rather be anywhere doing anything than wasting her time so focused on and touching me. My teeth were clenched and I was only aware that she'd started with my toes and was following a natural progression up my body that had an ending.

We talked a lot after we'd both been touched. She shared a lot of her thoughts and feelings from the past few months of therapy that I really enjoyed hearing. She started out with, "we're a lot more alike than you know."

As we were walking afterwards, we both agreed that one of the best parts of the experience was that, even though neither of us had wanted to do the exercise because of the newness, we were happy that we had kept our commitment.

Then came the next exercise on the next date: using our photos, we drew our vaginas as best we could and then wrote a short not to/about it.

I stopped as I saw the words: "when I see my hand, I know it is mine and it's uses. When I see you, I wonder what sore this is on my body - some open wound. A place for a band aid."

I couldn't believe the words I had just written and the immense sadness I felt. It was as far as I could write. Tam and I shared our drawings and words with one another.

....continued on next page

It's one thing to know that I've dissociated from my vagina for years (as do all the women in my family), but it was quite another to read and feel those "associated" words.

I heard the word "hopeless" come to my mind. How will I ever feel any differently about my own vagina? Where will I start? And, very quietly, I heard "no situation is really hopeless". I guess, on some level, I just trusted that it would happen. All I had to do was just keep showing up.

And then, the next week we did the first exercise again (and will continue to do it until we're both ready to move on). I'm glad we did the same one again because I was able to have a different experience - both in touching Tam and in being touched.

I was able to believe that Tam wanted to be there. I was more aware of her touch and felt sexually aroused instead of tense. That's

when I remembered how much fun we can have when we take our time. I trusted that if she needed to stop before I was ready, then she would tell me. I made it 26 minutes (she told me).

When I was touching her, I noticed the lines of her body and traced them as if I were memorizing the contours for a drawing. She really is beautiful.

And then it was time to do the next "self" exercise. It's nice doing these "self" exercises together but not necessary. I am committed to this work with or without Tam. Some things are important to me regardless of my relationship.

We did more "art therapy" by drawing how we felt about our vaginas and then we shared them. We looked up the word "trauma" and I saw the word "wound".

Then I remembered a friend's words months ago when I was still

becoming willing to turn back to therapy for help.

"What good will therapy do, anyway," I had asked.

"It will allow you to heal."

Now I was beginning to understand through my experience that I have a deep wound to heal - not on me, but in me.

I bought a magnolia bloom today. It's a result of my answer to a friend's question: "How would you like to feel about your vagina?"

"I sense a beautiful, full magnolia bloom. Its' petals are large and soft as silk and it smells beautiful."

And thus begins my "self" healing - a beautiful magnolia bloom hanging over my mirror that I can see every day and begin to associate with my vagina.

I am enjoying this new bend in the road - turning back toward Tam while staying on course with myself.

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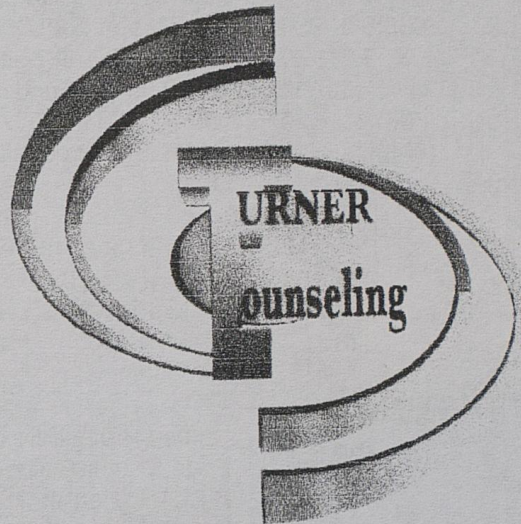
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