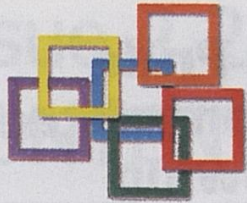


Feb 2011



GLSO

GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization

Volume 33 Number 2

Let Your Voice
Be Heard

Justice Dept. Outlines
Anti-Gay Marriage
Case



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Calling All Young Gay Professionals

Jesse Howard, Contributor

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.

All the Single Ladies... and Men

We are looking for volunteers who would like to be auctionees in our second annual Bachelor & Bachelorette Auction this April.

Auctionees are "sold" to the highest bidder and will be expected to have dinner with their bidder. A gift certificate to a local restaurant will be provided to help cover the cost of the meal.

If you're interested in be auctioned, please send a headshot and short bio to info@glso.org

Lexington Pride Festival Committee is in Full Swing

Orvis Kean, Contributor

Planning for the 2011 Lexington Pride Festival, themed "Raising Pride," is well underway. New committee members joined the planning group during the last meeting and have brought some new and fresh ideas to the group. We are still looking for volunteers to help plan the festival, and those interested in volunteering the day of the festival.

Beginning in February, we will be meeting twice a month on the first and third Saturdays at Noon. The February meetings will be on the 5th and 19th.

If you have any questions or would like to join the committee, please contact orvis@glso.org.

We look forward to seeing you!

Free for All

The Bar, Feb. 2, 8:30 p.m.

Come support the GLSO at our February 2nd show at the Bar Complex. \$5 at the door will benefit the GLSO. Entertainers will be doing a variety of performances. The show promises to be a lot of fun so come out and support the GLSO and some local entertainers!



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

GSA Meeting
Every Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Pride Center

GLSO Discussion Group
Every Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Pride Center

Lexington Pride Festival Meeting
Saturday, February 5 & 19, Noon
Pride Center

PFLAG Board Meeting
Sunday, February 6, 1 p.m.
Pride Center

Miss Gay Valentine
Wednesday, February 9, 8:30 p.m.
Crossings Lexington

Fur Ball
Friday, February 11, 9 p.m.
Crossings Lexington

GLSO Board Meeting
Sunday, February 13, 1 p.m.
Pride Center

Imperial Court of Kentucky Meeting
Sunday, February 13, 6 p.m.
Pride Center

EDITOR

Don Lowe

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, inclusion, respect, integrity, dignity, service and competence.

GLSO Pride Center
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EDITORIAL NOTES

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

Early Detection is the Key

Mark Johnson, Contributor

Cervical Cancer can affect any woman who is or has been sexually active with a man or woman. It is found in women who have the Human Papilloma Virus, better known as HPV. Cervical Cancer is more likely to occur in women who smoke, have HIV or AIDS, or haven't had regular Pap test. A pap test detects HPV and cell changes in the cervix that can develop into cancer. The risk of cervical cancer drops dramatically with regular Pap tests.

Many gay women are at an increased risk for cervical cancer because studies show that they are not screened as often. There are also misconceptions by both lesbians and health care professionals that lesbians are not as likely to contract cervical cancer. It is recommended that all women ages 21 and up get a pap smear annually to prevent cervical cancer. Early detection and finding cancer before it is spread gives you the best chance to get successful treatment.

If you would like to schedule a pap test please contact the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department at 859-288-2483. For more information please contact Jessica Jackson-Sisters Fighting Breast and Cervical Cancer Coalition at 859-288-2332.

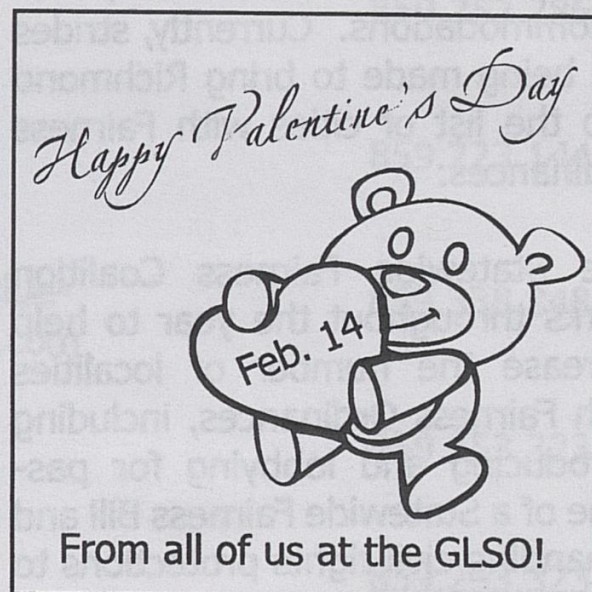
Lexington Lesbian Coffee House

Brandi Mahon, Contributor

After moving to Lexington to be with my partner, Sheri, I was looking for a way to meet other women out in the community. Last June, I created the Lexington Lesbian Coffee House as a social group to fulfill that need.

We now have over 160 members and host different events out in the public a few times a month. On February 12th, we are holding our Club-Skirt Valentine's Dance. The venue will be private but all lesbians or lesbian-friendly women are welcome to attend. Tickets to the dance are now on sale at our website.

LLCH is also looking to recruit new members. Membership is free and open to all women. For more information, please visit our website at meetup.com/Lexington-Lesbian-Coffee-House/



Let Your Voice Be Heard

Craig Cammack, Contributor

Each year, we come together to rally around the legislative efforts of the LGBT community. This year is no different. For the past several years, we have been forced to fight against anti-LGBT fairness legislation. However, we now come upon an era where we introduce pro-fairness bills and push for their passage.

The next big step for our community is ensuring the expansion of civil rights protections to all Kentuckians. As of today, only those living in Covington, Lexington and Louisville are protected with local Fairness Ordinances, ensuring discrimination protections. However, if you step outside those communities, you may still be denied employment, service at hotels and restaurants and public accommodations. Currently, strides are being made to bring Richmond into the list of cities with Fairness Ordinances.

The Statewide Fairness Coalition works throughout the year to help increase the number of localities with Fairness Ordinances, including introducing and lobbying for passage of a Statewide Fairness Bill and expanding civil rights protections to

the LGBT community. With this fight, the coalition has recently commissioned a survey on Kentuckians' perceptions and support of the LGBT community. Look soon for the results of this survey!

Also, please join the coalition for the annual Statewide Fairness Lobby Day and Rally on Wednesday, February 23. This is your opportunity to learn how to lobby state legislators and participate in a rally supporting pro-fairness legislation.

Statewide Fairness Lobby Day and Rally information:

Wednesday, February 23rd
at Capitol Building, Frankfort, KY

9 a.m. – Lobby Training
Capitol Annex, Room 125

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Lobby and
Speak with Legislators

1 p.m. – Rally in the Capitol
Rotunda

We hope you will join us in having your voice heard for fairness and equality for all in Kentucky!

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Gay and Lesbian Services Organization and Pride Center	859.253.3233
Lexington Pride Festival	859.253.3233

Eventful February Ahead for the ICK

Helena Handbasket, Contributor

If you are looking for something fun to do in the month of February, then look no further than the Imperial Court of Kentucky. We have 4 exciting events planned and hope to see all of you there.

Saturday, Feb 5th, can you say ROAD-TRIP? The Old Street Saloon in Monroe, OH (just past Cincinnati near Ikea) has graciously asked the court to bring our fabulous entertainers and an entourage to do an ICK show that night. The girls are already getting excited about this. It will be a night of drag queens galore (some of ours and some of theirs). The drinks at Old Street are, can we say, plentiful, which is why they refer to them as "big girl drinks" and are very reasonable. The show starts at 11pm and will be over in enough time for you to drive home, if you choose to (always have a designated driver). However, several of us will be spending the night in a local hotel. For more info or for hotel information, contact me on Facebook. This place is a lot of fun and they sure know how to treat their Kentucky cousins. Come on... go with us.

Wednesday, February 9th, is the night of our annual "Miss Gay Valentine" pageant. We are very proud of our pageants and expect nothing less than a great time that night. I have already heard rumors that a few girls are already preparing to WOW us that night so you won't want to miss it. The show will be at Crossings and the door opens at 8:30pm with the pageant starting at 9:30pm. Come out and see if you can pick the winner. Oooo, a challenge.

Monday, February 14th, spend the evening with Emperor 29 of all Kentucky, Clayton Burchell, as he hosts a show called "Single and Bitter". Who says Valentine's Day is just for couples? Of course, couples are more than welcome but this event is dedicated that night to all of the single ladies (male and female) who feel left out on Valentine's Day. This is for you baby. This night is guaranteed to be a good time with great talent and lots of laughs. There will be people from the Court looking to find the person who best uses the color pink in their wardrobe that night. Be creative and be there. Door opens at 8:30pm and the show will begin at 9:30pm.

Lastly, on Wednesday, February 23rd, there will be an event held at Crossings whose name and theme have not yet been determined. This is because we are having a contest among the girls on the line. They have been asked to submit a theme idea for a show. These ideas will then be presented to the board and they will choose the best theme from those submissions. The winner will then be the host or co-host to the event. Watch for posters for this event or check out the website, www.ImperialCourtKentucky.org and Facebook for the winning show theme. This show will be at our regular show times... door opens 8:30pm and show starts at 9:30pm. This could be interesting so put it on your calendar.

In last month's newsletter, I listed dates for our Project Drag Runway competition. Due to location and scheduling difficulties, we are postponing the event. As soon as we get it re-scheduled we will announce the dates and location.

Last month, I also made an appeal for you to reach into your pockets and support the Court this year, as the recession has taken its toll on our fundraising efforts. I am proud to say that you really came through and we had an improvement in January with many of you coming to the "It's Just Sex" show and the "Country Divas" show. Thank you for that and let's keep it going for February. We are still looking for sponsors for the Mardi Gras ball and the Falsie Awards. If you would be interested in more info about being a sponsor for one of our major events, contact myself or one of the board members and we will get the information to you. It is a great way to help your community and also get your name out there.

Until next month... Hugs, Kisses, and DIVA Wishes from H.M.I.M. Empress 29, Helena Handbasket.

My Name is Harvey Milk... and I Want to Recruit You!

Wes Nelson, Contributor

"We can read books and find joy and excitement and wisdom and wonder in them. We can do much by looking at the warmth of the past. But to look out into space and see beyond, that is the meaning of life. It is this look towards tomorrow that I share with all. As for the future, well, with the stars now open, there is no limit to what I can do and where I can go." – Harvey Milk

These beautiful and haunting words will soon come to life on stage in The Imperial Court of Kentucky's upcoming touring theatrical production of "Dear Harvey," by Patricia Loughrey with music by Thomas

Hodges. Beginning in February 28, 2011, audiences across central Kentucky will experience the story of Harvey Milk as told through the words of those he touched, loved, educated, and inspired throughout his all too short life. Mounting a full scale theatrical production is no small feat, but the work is already well under way as The Imperial Court of Kentucky (ICK) works towards a fundraiser for the Harvey Milk Foundation that promises to be both philanthropically and artistically satisfying.

Motivated by last year's call to support the Matthew Shepard Foundation, The ICK sought to think outside of the normal realm of fundraising. Recognizing that this foundation was born in the wake of a truly tragic and compelling story, they immediately saw the opportunity to not only raise funds, but also the chance to educate and entertain local audiences. At that point they took on the daunting task of producing not only their very first theatrical production, but a production that would tour through the area and play to local college campuses. Through the incredible hard work and determination of this new troupe, made up of Court members and local acting talent, The Imperial Court of Kentucky mounted a touring production of "The Laramie Project" that played for six performances, and made it possible to donate \$8,000 to The Matthew Shepard Foundation.

Based on the overwhelming success of "The Laramie Project," the ICK has decided to once again take a turn at producing another theatrical production. "Dear Harvey" lends itself perfectly to this year's mission of supporting The Harvey Milk Foundation. This remarkable play,

("Milk" is continued on page 12)

Casting Call

Terry Mullins, Contributor

ActOut will hold auditions for its spring 2011 world premiere production of "The Happy Hour" by Stephen Currens.

The play chronicles the earliest days of the AIDS epidemic in an inner-city community and a young man's attempt to flee the impending crisis.

The production will be directed by J. Michael McCullough and performed April 21-23, April 28-30, and May 5-7 at the Downtown Arts Center in Lexington.

Audition to be held at GLSO:
February 17, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
February 19, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

More info at ActOutLex@gmail.com
or by calling 859.576.5262.

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Kentucky Bourbon Bears Elections

Chuck Embs, Contributor

After a successful first year, The Kentucky Bourbon Bears held officer elections for 2011 on January 15th.

KBB 2011 Officers:

President - Scott Perry

Vice Pres. - John David Elam

Treasurer - Jim Ferguson

Secretary - Chuck Embs

Webmaster - Johnathan Helm

Historian - Aaron Huddleston

The new year of activities and fundraisers will kick off the second weekend in February. On Friday, February 11th at Crossings, come experience the FUR BALL. It's a night of big hair

and big fun that benefits the Central Kentucky Humane Societies. Several club members will be in the show like you've never seen them before (and they claim never again... we'll see).

On Saturday, February 12, Crossings will be hosting the Kentucky Bourbon Bears' One Year Anniversary Party and Membership Drive. Come hang out with the bears for raffles and drink specials. If you're interested in joining our club this would be the time to do it. It's \$20.00 a year and \$30.00 for a couple. The Kentucky Bourbon Bears have a big year of activities planned and we'd love for you to be a part of it.

For more information about KBB, visit kentuckybourbonbears.com

"Milk"

Wes Nelson, Contributor

(continued from page 9)

originally commissioned by the Divisionary Theatre in San Diego, CA, recently saw a successful run at the NYC Fringe Festival. Six actors play multiple roles throughout the show, giving each of them the chance to step into the role of Harvey Milk at different points. Highlighting the International Court System's strong ties to GLBT history, our very own Queen Mother of the America's, Nicole the Great, is a character in the piece, discussing her memories of Harvey and her thoughts on his legacy.

To make this touring production possible, planning began six months prior to opening night. Currently the ICK has booked performances at the University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University, and Buster's Billiards & Backroom. As the ICK embarks on the long road to opening night, court members and the community members alike are filled with artistic energy and excitement. Preliminary work has begun on set designs, costume designs, and generating buzz about the upcoming production. Seeing that last year's production was not only a philanthropic success, but also a creative success, the ICK has been able to peak the interests of extremely talented regional actors. "Dear Harvey" will feature the talents of Terrence Tichener, Bo Macguire, Jenny Fitzpatrick, Sarah Tackett, Kimberley Proctor, and Jacob Karnes. Bitten by the theatre bug, other local non-profit organizations such as AVOL (AIDS Volunteers of Lexington) and Lexington Fairness have offered their assistance in promoting the production as well as providing their own facilities to be utilized as rehearsal space. The net proceeds from the touring production of "Dear Harvey" will benefit The Harvey Milk Foundation.

It takes a great deal of dedication, commitment, and passion to produce a touring theatrical production without having the reputation and funding of a well established professional theatre to stand up as the producer of the project. Artistic works such as this are almost never easy, and it is at those tough moments that those involved must find something to hold onto, something that inspires them to keep working. Every artistic piece must have a heart. There is no doubt that Harvey Milk is the heart of "Dear Harvey," and his message and memory are sure to captivate the people of Kentucky in 2011!

"I do not win all the time. Many days I lose, but I try harder the next day, and in the past I think I have won more than I have lost. I will try to be better than in the days to come. My walk with the stars will help guide me, and I am happy."

— Harvey Milk

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 and visit GLSO.org to learn more about us and what we do.

Gay Parenting is More Common Down South According to Census

Annie Rooney, 365gay.com

Recent data from the Census Bureau found that Jacksonville hosts one of the biggest gay parent populations in the country and child rearing by gay parents is more common there than anywhere else in the country.

The survey found that gay couples in the South are more likely to raise children than gay couples on the West Coast, New York and New England. The amount of gay couples raising children is 32 percent in Jacksonville and 34 percent in San Antonio.

"We're starting to see that the gay community is very diverse," said Bob Witeck, chief executive of Witeck-Combs Communications, which helped market the census to gay people. "We're not all rich white guys," he told *The New York Times*.

Gary Gates, a demographer at the University of California, Los Angeles, worked with the Census and found that black or Latino gay couples are twice as likely as white gay couples to raise children. Gates theorizes that a possible majority of gay couples have children from a previous heterosexual relationship but continue to raise the children in his or her gay relationship.

An estimated 581,000 gay couples in the United States were recorded in 2009 by the Census Bureau.

Justice Dept. Outlines Anti-Gay Marriage Case

The Associated Press, Boston

The U.S. Department of Justice has filed its opening legal brief for its appeal of a decision by a judge in Massachusetts who concluded that a portion of a federal law banning recognition of same-sex marriage is unconstitutional.

The appeal follows two rulings in July by U.S. District Judge Joseph Tauro, who said the federal Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional because it interferes with a state's right to define marriage and denies married gay couples an array of federal benefits given to heterosexual married couples.

The Justice Department argued in a brief filed on Thursday that the law was Congress' "reasonable response" to a debate among the states on same-sex marriage. In its brief, the Justice Department said the federal government has the right to define marriage differently than individual states.

The appeal is expected to be heard by the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston.

A Gay Jersey Shore Situation

Advocate.com Editors

Producers of a new reality show are looking for the next Snooki or Situation — only gay.

Auditions are being held February 5 at Club In or Out in Hammonton, N.J., for the new show inspired by *Jersey Shore*.

GLSO Phone Directory

A community resource page for gay and/or gay-friendly organizations across Kentucky.

HIV/STD Testing, Services & Info.

AIDS Volunteers Inc (AVOL)	859.225.3000
Cumberland Region, SE Ky.	606.864.3776
	888.425.7282
Health Dept., Fayette	859.288.2437
	877.606.2437
Health Dept., Jessamine	859.885.4149
Health Dept., Woodford	859.873.4541
HIV/AIDS Legal Project	502.584.1254
Louisville Region	502.574.0161
Moveable Feast	859.252.2867
Northern Ky. Region	859.341.4264
UK Adolescent Medicine	859.323.5643

Community and Social Groups

24-Hour Crisis Line	800.928.8000
24-Hour Teen Crisis Line	800.999.9999
Alcoholics Anonymous	859.967.9960
AA/Alcoholic Teens	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, 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
Lexington Pride Festival	859.253.3233
MACT	859.358.8335
PFLAG Lexington	859.338.7393
PFLAG Louisville	502.329.0229

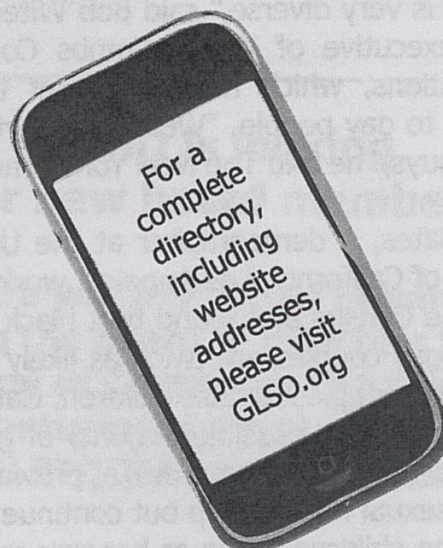
SisterSound	859.806.0243
Social Services, Lexington	211
Speaker's Bureau	859.266.5904
TransKentucky	859.963.6606
United Way	859.313.5465

Religious Groups

Integrity, Ky. Diocese	859.369.9691
Integrity, St. Martha's	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 University	606.783.2294
UK Gay Straight Alliance	859.559.7464
UK OutSource	859.323.3312



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Imperial
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pageant

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Pageant ♥ 9:30pm

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