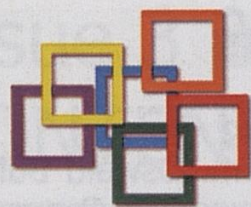


March 2011



# GLSO

GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

# NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization

Volume 33 Number 3

**Amber  
to headline  
Pride 2011**



**GSA  
Celebrates  
10th  
Anniversary**

**Sponsored by:  
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## **Miss Gay America Pageant coming to Lexington....**

RJ Deacon, Contributor

An exclusive interview with Coti Collins "Miss Gay America 2011" (Photo on Page 9)

A new Miss Gay America Pageant preliminary will be coming to Lexington! "Miss Bluegrass America Regional"; is an official preliminary to Miss Gay America and will be scheduled in August. The current reigning Miss Gay America is Coti Collins. (aka David Lowmen) I recently had the honor of interviewing Coti, for the GLSO.

(Q) When did your female impersonation career begin?  
(Coti) I was exposed to female impersonation in my second year of college in Huntington, WV. It took a while to come to terms with performing. Kiesa Lamont was the first to ever paint me (put in drag) and my first time ever performing was in a pageant for a West Virginia America prelim. It was the most remarkable feeling and experience that I had never felt before.

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## **Free Films**

### **Toilet Training**

March 10, 7 p.m. Oswald Building Auditorium, Bluegrass Community and Technical College Campus.

A look at the difficulties transgendered people have in using gender segregated public toilets and the fight to bring awareness to this issue. Film will be followed by a discussion. Running time 30 minutes by Tara Mateik, part of the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth Social Documentary Series sponsored by the Bluegrass Film Society. Free to the public.

### **Hannah Free**

March 10 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Kentucky Theater

One World Film Festival will show Hannah Free at no charge in the State Theater, inside the Kentucky Theater. Sharon Gless stars as Hannah in this award winning feature film. Hannah and Rachel grow up in the same Midwest town where traditional expectations challenge their deep love for one another. Hannah becomes an adventurous, unapologetic lesbian and Rachel a strong but reserved homemaker. The story reveals how the women maintain their love despite a marriage, a world war, infidelity, and family denial.

Reviews say that Gless "glammed-down and butched-up" as she delivered a "stellar performance that is gritty, poignant, and real". Don't miss this extraordinary film. GLSO and the Health Department will host a reception after the second screening. For a complete listing of One World Festival films see [www.oneworldfilmfestival.org](http://www.oneworldfilmfestival.org).



# Issue 3 2011

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Pride Festival features Amber

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Every Tuesday, 7 p.m.  
Pride Center

#### GLSO Discussion Group

Every Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Pride Center

#### Lexington Pride Festival Meeting

Sunday, March 6 & 20, 4 p.m.  
Pride Center

#### Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.  
The Bar Complex

#### GLSO Board Meeting

Sunday, March 13, Noon  
Pride Center

#### Imperial Court of Kentucky Meeting

Sunday March 13, & 27, 6 p.m.  
Pride Center

#### Show Me Your Blarney Stones

Friday, March 25, 10 p.m.  
Barrel House

#### Bluegrass Trans(Gender)

**Youth & Families**  
Saturday, March 26, 1 p.m.  
Pride Center

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## **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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www.glsso.org

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## **EDITORIAL NOTES**

The GLSO is currently looking for new contributors and editorial staff. If interested, e-mail [editor@glso.org](mailto:editor@glso.org).



# **GSA 10th Anniversary**

Mary Crone, Contributor

The GLSO Gay Straight Alliance for Youth has been operating the community for ten years. During those years students in all Lexington public high schools have started GSAs or diversity groups in their schools. We have supported those groups in a variety of ways. Including providing information about how such groups can get started, programming, and training for youth leaders at the Pride Center. This year there has been no group meeting at Henry Clay. During the last decade we have also seen teens more willing to come out publicly and there are more straight allies at their sides.

The atmosphere in schools has changed for the better, but there is still a need for activism in this area. We also have an interest in working with middle schools in the coming months.

The GSA is still in need of an additional advisor. If you are interested, please contact mary crone at 859 266-5904 or mary@glso.org.

## **GSA Activities**

This year we hosted our first Winter Ball (pictures page?). Youth attended from area high schools as well as some middle schools.

Young adults, some of whom are previous members of GSA, always help out at our events. It was a great success. We are considering a Halloween dance next fall. In May we will produce our fifth Pride Prom. We have outgrown the Unitarian church and are looking for a new venue. Last year 235 teens came to our prom; many told us that it was more fun than their school prom. We are definitely accepting of whatever attire, affectionate expression, and joy the youth want to share with us. They are so amazing! In addition, we are working with individuals interested in starting a group for gender variant, including transsexual, youth.

## **Scholarship Fund**

The GLSO Board has established a scholarship fund to help support GLBTQQAIS young people. (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, allies, intersex, straight?) There are many young people who delay or cancel plans for education after high school because of financial need. This can be complicated by lack of family support or lower school performance due to harassment in high school.

The GLSO GSA donated \$1,000 of their profit from last year's prom to this scholarship fund. GLSO will be doing fund raising specifically for the fund in the coming months.



# FULL SCHEDULE FOR ICK IN MARCH

Helena Handbasket, Contributor

Get ready Lexington because the Imperial Court of Kentucky will have lots to offer in the form of quality entertainment for the month of March. Performances of "Dear Harvey" will begin on Monday, February 28 at EKU; also Tuesday, March 1 at UK; and then Sunday and Monday, February 6-7 at Busters. You have to see this. I recently went to a rehearsal and this production will touch your heart. For more info check out the website, [www.imperialcourtkentucky.org](http://www.imperialcourtkentucky.org) or look for the promo on Face book. On Tuesday, March 8th will be our 3rd annual Mardi Gras Ball at the Magnolia Room in the Lexington Downtown Hilton. This will be a Fat Tuesday celebration fit for a king, and a queen. A collaborative fundraiser for the GLBT community brought to you the efforts of The Imperial Court of Kentucky, Lexington Fairness, AVOL, Moveable Feast and GLSO. Costumes, music, go-go boys... whatever you are into, you will probably find it here. This is always a fun event and we look forward to seeing all of you there. The door opens at 6:30 p.m. with the show and dancing beginning at 7 p.m.. Don't forget to attend the after party at Crossings Lexington at 11 p.m. (117 North Limestone). On Friday, March 11, take a little road trip with us to Shooters in Cincinnati for the Miss Big Bone Lick Pageant, an event sponsored this year by our sister court, the Imperial Sovereign Queen City Court of the Buckeye Empire. This one will really bring out the caveman or cave woman in you (you decide which).

Come on all you Neanderthals. Let's go get primal. Woohoo. On Saturday, March 12, come to the 2nd annual show we call "Drags and Wags" at the Barrel House and support all the little domestic critters that we love so much. You know you love our little animal friends so I expect a large crowd for this one. For times and other information, check us out on Facebook or see our website. Happy St. Patrick's Day to you... Wanna drink a little something green until you feel a little green? Then join us at Crossings Lexington on Thursday, March 17th for the Green Party. Music, drag, the complete St. Patrick's Day atmosphere for fun. Bring your favorite Leprechaun and show him/her you love them by kissing their blarney stone. On Tuesday, March 29, join us for the always delicious Falsie Awards at the Kentucky Theater. Come out to be entertained as well as see if your favorite performer or GLBT community member wins the award you hope they will. Nominations will be out soon so watch for them and see if you can pick the winners. Lastly, on Friday, April 1, we will be putting on the "Can't) Win Em All" show which will feature the nominees from the Falsies that didn't take the trophy. That's okay because we think they are all winners and we are giving them a chance to prove it to ya. More info to follow on this one so check out the website and the facebook page.



# THE GLSO RAINBOW SPONSOR

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Moveable Feast 474 Silver Maple Way	859.252.2867
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## Amber Headlines Lexington Pride Festival 2011

Orvis Kean, Contributor

The 2011 Pride Festival Planning Committee is pleased to announce that we have just finished negotiations with international recording artist Amber. Amber will be headlining this year's festival from the 9:30 to 11 p.m. time slot.

She has amassed an impassioned army of fans with 4 full length albums and a string of worldwide smash hits from 1996 thru 2009 including This Is Your Night, One More Night, If You Could Read My Mind, Sexual li da di, Love One Another and I Don't Believe In Hate. She has racked up and impressive seven consecutive number 1 dance singles and an additional 6 top 10 dance hits.

In the summer of 2004, Amber performed with the international recording artist Zelma Davis at the Milwaukee, WI Gay Pride.



She has worked with Bette Midler and Cher. "I am in a happy place now and there is nothing like owning your own music and masters and running your own show and destiny. No longer do I have to live in anyone else's world or dance to someone else's beat." she says.

We continue to grow and bring a bigger and better pride festival to the Lexington community each year. If you would like to join the committee or volunteer in any way, please contact the Festival Chair, Orvis Kean at [orvis@glso.org](mailto:orvis@glso.org). Please be watching for upcoming



The Bar Complex & The House of BaCall presents:

# Happy Birthday Bash!



AAG Emeritus  
LaToya BaCall

Starring:



Miss Gay America  
Coti Collins



Paris Lawren Octavia Sundae London Mya

Come help us Celebrate the Birthdays of LaToya, Coti, and Paris

## March 27th, 2011 @ 9 p.m.

### \$5 cover, Proceeds to Benefit GLSO/ PRIDE Festival



224 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507  
[www.facebook.com/thebarcomplex](http://www.facebook.com/thebarcomplex)



GLSO  
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER SOCIETY OF KY



## Discussion Group

Josh Pack, Contributor

The discussion group is a special place. It's a place where all are welcome regardless of sexual orientation and gender orientation. It's a place where you can talk, express whatever you need to, and actually be heard. Where you can get support and advice. It's a place where we cry together. It's a place where we laugh together. It's the place where I learned the true meaning of community and its importance to the GLBT community. I found this group and the Pride Center during a time when I was still coming out to myself. I am forever grateful for the love and support I found here. That's why I'm doing my best to keep the group alive (with the help of Debbie, Lynn, Laura and Jerie). If you need support or would like to help, please contact me at [jpack11664@aol.com](mailto:jpack11664@aol.com) We would love to see you Wednesday at p.m.

## 2012 Cruise on the Oasis

Ginger Moore-Minder, Contributor

A group is forming for a cruise the last week in November 2012 on Royal Caribbean's **Oasis of the Seas**. We are planning on 30-40 to decrease cost. Single share rooms are possible. Tell your friends. Call 859-253-0061 for more information.

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## **Kentucky Bourbon Bears Visit Owensboro**

Chuck Embs, Contributor

2011 is off to a big start for the Kentucky Bourbon Bears of Lexington. On Saturday, January 29th, the Bears traveled to The Equals Bar in Owensboro, Kentucky. Mike Prater and Scott Perry produced a fundraiser for CLAW (Cleveland Leather Awareness Week). This is a National Organization but the money raised benefitted local gay charities in Owensboro, KY. The Bears definitely left their mark on the smaller town of Owensboro.

Many members of the Kentucky Bourbon Bears participated in the HAIRBALL 2011 on Friday, February 11th. This was a show/party put on by Crossings Bar of Lexington. The Bears were on

stage as they have never been seen before. Eartha Quake (John David Elam) was the featured performer and almost \$2,000.00 was raised for the Central Kentucky Regional Humane Society. Thanks to Crossings for hosting such a fun event!

The following night, Saturday, February 12th, KBB had their 1st Year Anniversary Party and Membership Drive. Twenty five guys joined the club, signaling another successful year.

Events that are planned for 2011 are: Keeneland Spring Thaw Tailgating, Bar Crawl and numerous pool parties and potlucks. If you think you might be interested in joining, visit the 'Kentucky Bourbon Bears' on FACEBOOK. There you will find more information and pictures from our events. We'd love to have you.



# GOT HARVEY???

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

Show @ 8:00pm

Admission:

\$5 Students

\$10 Non-Students

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## Dear Harvey

The Stories of Harvey Milk

A One Act Drama

By: Patricia Loughrey

Music by: Thomas Hodges

Directed by: Wesley Nelson

Presented by:  
The Imperial Court of Kentucky

# MARDI GRAS BALL

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011  
DOWNTOWN HILTON HOTEL

● IMPERIAL COURT OF KENTUCKY ●

Lexington Fairness ● GLSO ● Moveable Feast ● AVOL

**DRAG ● DANCE ● FOOD ● DRINKS**

**GoGo Dancers ● Costume Contest!**

**Silent Auction ● DJ Xenergy**

Door: 6:30pm General Admission: \$15 Student ID: \$10

**FAT TUESDAY**  
**FAT TUESDAY**



# Miss Gay America

(continued from Page 2)

(Q) Other than being Miss Gay America what other accomplishments are you proud of?

(Coti) Being drug free all my life! Also, changing the face of female impersonation and taking it to Main stream, with the help of Reba McEntire. I have mainly worked at Casino's and Impersonator shows (LaCage) across the country. Imagine... for the last 25 years I have had a career in female impersonation and not a typical 40 hour work week. I have always kept an open mind, always been focused and have always been willing to change.

In 1996-1997 Coti toured with Reba McEntire as her double in her "Starting Over Road Show". This was country music's most lavish stage show. She traveled all 50 states and Canada with over 2 million fans watching as she appeared as Reba in the finale. This accomplishment has only been achieved by one other entertainer (Hot Chocolate - Miss Gay America 1980).

(Q) What advice would you give to new female impersonators?

(Coti) Be True to yourself and reach higher than the limitations of your dreams.

(Q) When you are not perform-

ing and traveling how do you spend your time?

(Coti) Animal Rescue, I love working with dogs and saving animals in my spare time.

(Q) Who do you look up to and who is your Hero?

(Coti) God is who I look up to. I am a very spiritual person. And for my Hero's I would say the 39 former Miss Gay Americas. Each one in some special way has put their single stamp of the system in my life. As I sit back and look at the book of formers I see how much each one has affected my reign. I hope to do the same for the next Miss Gay America 30 years down the road that she can look back and say that Coti impacted her life in some way or fashion.

Coti has worked with Entertainers like: Garth Brooks, Martina McBride, Faith Hill, Shania Twain, Celine Dion, Trisha Yearwood, Barbara Mandrell, and The Judds just to name a few.

It was an extreme pleasure to sit and talk with Coti, She is very excited about coming back to Lexington for her Birthday Bash and again in August for The Miss Bluegrass America prelim. The "Happy Birthday Bash" is March 27th, 9 p.m. at The Bar Complex. This will be a fundraiser for the GLSO / Pride Festival. Details for prelim in upcoming months.



# 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
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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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