

The February 2010 GLSO News



A Publication of the Lexington Gay Services Organization

Volume 32 Number 2



Lots of Hearts & Body Parts Valentine's Bash!!!



In celebration of the most romantic holiday of them all, the GLSO and the Lexington Pride Festival 2010 Planning Committee are proud to invite everyone to the **Lots of Hearts and Body Parts Valentine's Bash!** This event will be held at Pulse Nightlife on Thursday, February 11th starting at 8pm.

Plan for a ton of fun and festivity including; raffle prizes, 'love' shots, drag performances, live music, couple photos or photos with the deity of love, himself, Cupid! There will be a \$5 donation at the door, with all proceeds benefiting the 2010 Lexington Pride Festival. So dress up, or down, and come out with your friends and partners to celebrate.

The 2nd Annual Dress Lexington Pride Festival Logo Contest

The Second Annual Dress Lexington Pride Logo Contest winner is Anthony Mejean. His winning design concept was created "based solely on the theme [A Horse of Every Color], combining the elegance and pride of our local horse industry with the colorful boldness of Lexington's Pride Festival."



In addition to bragging rights, Anthony will receive a free 2010 Lexington Pride Festival t-shirt, a full-page spread in the 2010 Pride Guide, and \$100 cash! Awesome job, Anthony! Get regular updates by following us on Facebook, or going to LexPride.org.

Imperial Court of Kentucky

The Imperial Court of KY will be having two fabulous events this month. Coming up first on Feb. 10th. will be the Miss Gay Valentine Pageant. Join them at Pulse Nightlife, 257 W. Short St. in Lexington. The doors open at 8:30pm the pageant is at 9:30pm; the cover is \$5. This is a preliminary in the new ICK Entertainer of the Year series. Only two pageants left before the Big Finale.

The following week on Tuesday, February 16, the Imperial Court will be hosting the annual Mardi Gras Ball. A number of community organizations are assisting in this production. It will be held in the Downtown Hilton Ballroom, 369 W. Vine St. in Lexington. Tickets will be \$20, the doors open at 7pm.

There will be all your favorites: drag artists, silent auction, live music, and a costume contest. The event will benefit AVOL, GLSO, Lexington Fairness, and Moveable Feast. Come out in support of all these organizations and have fun doing it.

Sponsor of the Month

Dr. Ted Richardson O.D.

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**GAY and
Lesbian Services
Organization**

Incorporated as
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P.O. Box 1172 Lex., KY 40588

www.glsso.org

GLSO News

Volume 32 No. 2

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Next meeting Feb.18th,
7pm at the Pride Center

GLSO: Moving Forward
by mary crone

The GLSO has had some positive accomplishments over the last few months and we are moving forward with plans for more ways to support our community. This month I will focus on the GLSO Gay Straight Alliance for Youth.

In January we held a GSA Networking meeting at the Pride Center for high school students. Matthew Hufford Christian, a member of the UK GSA, helped plan the event. He says:

"We hope to inspire and assist students, teachers, and administrators to overcome the obstacles associated with making high school a more accepting place."

Other UK GSA members, Vincent Purcell, and Matt Layson, joined Matt in presenting ideas about leadership, facilitating decision making at meetings, and attracting new members. They taught us a great game, fulfilling my goal of having fun! The high school students benefited from their ideas and positive energy.

Matt and Vincent were instrumental in starting GSAs when they were in high school and were also members of the GLSO GSA. It was a pleasure to watch them working with younger students, passing on what they have learned.

Those in attendance represented several different high schools and took away with them materials and new ideas. They also had a great time meeting new people and made plans to get together again.

Another networking meeting is planned for February 20th, at the Pride Center. We also will visit local high school GSAs to support their efforts and to teach similar organizing.

GLSO is also sponsoring a local group discussing becoming a PFLAG chapter. You can email Sandy Linville at kylinvilles5@insightbb.com



Community News

LGBT Radio Show

Announcing Kentucky's only LGBT radio Show, *OUTloud*. The show airs on Wednesdays from 8am to 9am on WRFL, 88.1 fm. You can also stream the show online at www.wrfl.fm.

It will be based as talk show model and they are hoping to eventually be able to take calls on air. For now, listeners can phone in comments off air at 859-257-9735. Congratulations to Vincent Purcell, Bo Burnett, and Watson for getting this underway. For more info. see www.outsourceoutloud.org.

African Drumming

Joan Brannon teaches Meditation and African Drumming to adults and youth. Along with the traditional cultural approach, the drum is taught as a tool for meditation and healing. Working with the drum in this way helps participants open a gateway into their personal spirituality. She can be reached at Drum4spirit@yahoo.com or 859 684-0458

GLSO would love to have drumming a part of Pride Month activities. So, take a class and consider performing for us.

SisterSound

SisterSound had a wonderful winter concert on Jan. 23. The sanctuary of St. Michael's Episcopal Church was packed with friends and supporters. Great job women!

SisterSound is starting rehearsals for their May concert. This is a non audition chorus. They have a great time together and offer beautiful music to the community. For more information send an email to info@sistersound.org.

PFLAG

There is a group interested in establishing a local PFLAG (Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays) chapter. The first meeting will be held on February 4, 7 pm at the Pride Center 389 Waller Ave.

Please Email Sandy Linville at kylinville5@insightbb.com if you are interested in helping with the PFLAG organizational meetings. They plan for a second meeting later in February.

Once they are organized, this group will be a great resource for people who need information and support as well as a way to give support to LGBT friends and family members. We hope to have two meetings a month.

Grief Support Group

A free grief support group by Hospice of the Bluegrass for GLBT people whose partners have passed away will be held from Feb. 4- Mar. 4 at Hospice of the Bluegrass 2312 Alexandria Dr Lex, KY. For more information and to register for the group please send an email to wmorgan@hospicebg.org, or call 859-277-2700.



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Pride Center

Hours 10am to 3pm M-F 389 Waller Ave., Ste. 100 Phone 859-253-3233

Bible Study Group

A gay affirming Charismatic Christian bible study will be meeting every Sunday at the Pride Center starting Feb. 7th at 10:30am. You can email Karen at ktaylor@fewpb.net, or call the Pride Center at 859-253-3233 for more information.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Every Wednesday at 7pm
Pride Center 389 Waller, Ste. 100
All Are Welcome

Insight Group

This month on Feb. 5th will be a bit different. We ask that you bring light snacks such as popcorn, chips, pretzels, cookies, or fruit. We will be having a games night as opposed to a potluck and movie night. Then on Feb. 19th if this goes well we will start having a games night on the third Friday of the month starting in March.

GLSO News On-Line

To receive the e-newsletter send an email addressed to: newsteam@glso.org. Put "on-line newsletter" In the subject line.

There is a request for a \$20 a year donation but you can receive the e-newsletter with a smaller donation or free.

There will be advertising possibilities; we hope to have a rate sheet available soon.

Lex. Lyons Levi & Leather Club

Monday February 8th at 7 pm at
The Pride Center,
389 Waller Ave., Ste. 100.

TransKentucky

TransKentucky is a support, social, and resource group serving Lexington and Kentucky. The group provides a safe place for transgender individuals and people who feel they do not fit into the standard gender norms to express their true selves.

While the group is not therapeutic in nature, we can provide information, advise and share resources from our unique experiences. Family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend meetings to gain understanding and be supportive of their loved ones.

TransKentucky meets on the first Saturday of each month at 7:30pm, doors open at 7pm. Meetings are free and you may dress however you feel comfortable. For information contact TransKentucky@gmail.com or call 859-963-6606.

Bluegrass Women's Network

The Bluegrass Women's Network is a social group for women who identify as lesbian. Membership is free and there are no obligations. We use a Yahoo group website to announce events. We also have a phone list.

Members plan a variety of activities such as potluck dinners, plays, movies, parties, card games and whatever else we manage to dream up! Our goal is to enrich our lives with great friendships.

Interested in joining go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/thebluegrasswomensnetwork/> and apply to join. Facilitators are Debby Hemstock and Lynn Matlock.

Dr. Ted M. Richardson, O. D.

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Lexington Fairness

By Craig Cammack

Over the past year, I've found myself in the public spotlight, fighting against Kentucky Senate Bill 68 through my Facebook activism, organizing and attending rallies, participating in the Lexington Pride Festival and eventually joining the board of Lexington Fairness. My activity in the community has increased dramatically and I am excited to continue finding ways in which we can all come together and make a difference in Central Kentucky.

Now, as newly-elected Chairman of Lexington Fairness, I find myself in a new role, but still reaching to you to help increase fairness in Kentucky. You have read our articles in this newsletter and know plenty about our organization. But as time ticks, things change. We want to engage you and show you the many ways you can become involved with Lexington Fairness.

Over the past year, we have joined a new Statewide Fairness Coalition, produced results during a Fairness Advocacy Day in Frankfort, participated in the annual Lexington Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom March, worked with like-minded students and passionate activists at the 2nd Kentucky Fairness Summit, held our annual Lexington Fairness Awards, participated in the Lexington Pride Festival, built a float for the Lexington 4th of July parade and reached out to UK social work students to educate them on the inequalities faced by the LGBT community.

This is just a portion of what our organization is all about. Lexington Fairness has never strayed away from making a difference in the community. But, we want to do more and we hope you can help us!

This year, we look forward to participating in community engagement

activities that help ensure the LGBT community is treated equally and represented fairly. This includes citizen lobbying training, how to lobby your legislators and fight for fairness in Kentucky. The 2010 legislative session has begun and we all have a duty to fight for our rights. We hope you will join us, along with other Kentucky fairness organizations, during the Fairness Lobby Day on February 24.

We look forward to hearing your voices and recommendations on how Lexington Fairness can make an impact on your life and the lives of everyone in our community. Our organization is here to support our community. We look forward to forming new collaborations, working with other organizations and groups, to serve the community's needs. We are here to stay and, with your help, will continue to ensure everyone in Central Kentucky is treated equally and fair.

Volunteer activity is an important civic duty. We would truly love to have your support to help make our organization stronger. Ensuring equality and fairness in Kentucky is not a one person or one organization job. It will take all of us coming together and working to fight discrimination. We hope you will become an active Lexington Fairness volunteer.

Please introduce yourself the next time we meet or you can connect with me in the social media world at:

www.twitter.com/craigcammack

or find me on Facebook by searching for Craig Cammack. Also, please make sure to follow the work of Lexington Fairness at:

www.twitter.com/lexfairness

and by joining the Lexington Fairness group on Facebook.

The Imperial Court of Kentucky presents...

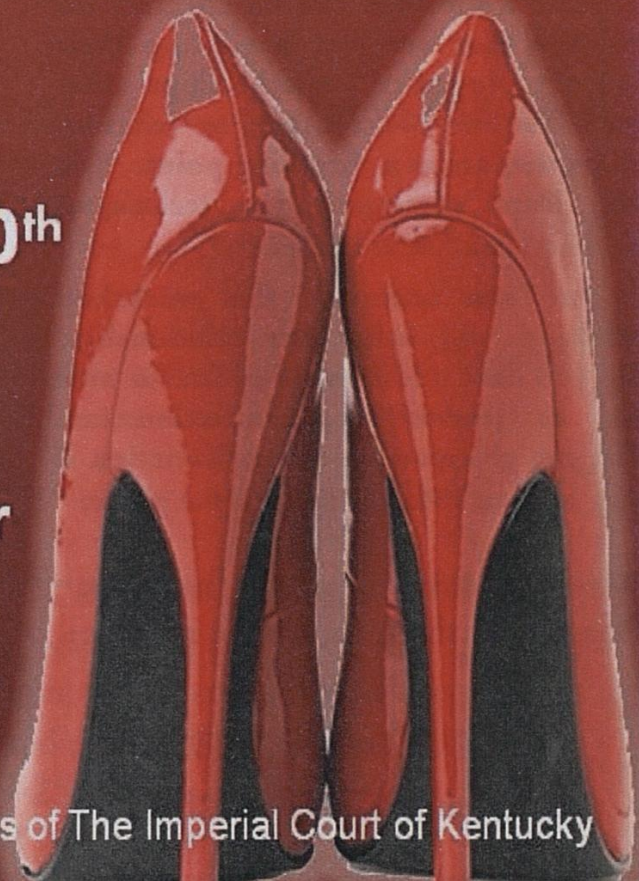
Miss Gay Valentine



Join us for our next Preliminary
Pageant in the new ICK
Entertainer of the Year series!!!
Only two Pageants left before the
Big Finale!!!



Wednesday, Feb. 10th
Door @ 8:30pm
Pageant @ 9:30pm
\$5 Donation @ Door
Pulse Nightlife



Net proceeds to benefit the charities of The Imperial Court of Kentucky

Imago Therapy with Jessica Bollinger

Jessica Bollinger, LCSW, has been an advertiser for GSLO news for many years. She does individual, family and couples therapy. Jessica is a certified Imago Relationship Therapist. In her relationship work with couples, she has seen how this approach can transform both the individual and the relationship.

Jessica offers workshops every month using Imago Relationship techniques. The next two sessions will be in February: Friday 5th through Sunday 7th, and in March: Friday 26th through Sunday 28th. Workshops include brief lectures, movie clips, music and opportunities for private reflection.

Participants work privately with their partner at various intervals during the weekend. Couples are never required to share their personal information with the group. They can share with the group according to their own comfort level.

The workshops can be effective for couples that are just beginning their journey together, relationships that have become too routine, or relationships that are at a breaking point. You will learn communication techniques that you can use at home.

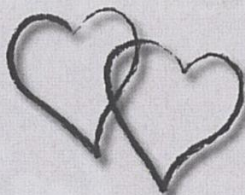
Are you unsure if this workshop weekend will help your relationship? Do you have questions? Feel free to email her at jessica@imagoconnection.com. She can give you contact information if you wish to speak to her on the phone.

We are looking for new subscribers. Please send the form on the right to:

GLSO

P.O. Box 1172

Lexington, KY 40588



*"Keep the Love you Find,
Get the Love you Want."*

Jessica Bollinger, LCSW
Imago Relationship Therapist
EMDR Trauma Work
Couples, Family, Individual
Imagoconnection.com
859.552.6533

*Monthly Workshops for Couples
check web site or call for information*

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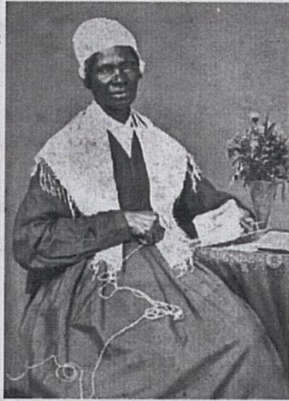
SisterSound	859-806-0243
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Richardson Vision Center	859-278-4201
1757 Alexandria Drive, Gardenside Shopping Ctr.	
KCHIP	877-524-4718
kidshealth.ky.gov	
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Lexington Fairness	859-951-4450
www.lexfair.org	
Moveable Feast	859-252-2867
474 Silver Maple Way	
Unitarian Universalist Church	859-223-1448
3564 Clays Mill Rd.	

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African American History Month Sojourner Truth

by mary crone

Historians are not inclined to label people as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. As historians, they want to be sure of what they are reporting. But to assume everyone is heterosexual by default does not seem right either.



In discussing our foremothers and forefathers, I have found that many African Americans claim Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman as family. Historical accounts of Sojourner Truth seem support a view of Truth that encourages me to claim her as transgender and a member of our GLBT community.

My favorite books about Truth are *Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol*, by Nell Irvin Painter and *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*, first published in 1850, was written by Olive Gilbert. The Narrative is largely a transcription of Truth's words, but also contains his views.

Truth was born in rural New York about 1797 and given the name Isabella. She was owned by a Dutch farmer and grew up speaking Dutch. She was sold away from her parents when she was 9 and endured months of beatings because she did not understand what was being said to her. She gradually learned to speak and understand English and eventually became proud of speaking grammatically correct English although with a Dutch accent.

Isabella took the name Sojourner Truth at about the age of 40 when she began to travel, speaking on behalf of women's rights and the abolition of slavery. She became one of the most renowned orators of her day. She was known for a powerful delivery, a quick

wit, and a beautiful deep singing voice that was frequently part of her presentation. She was never taught to read or write but she nevertheless composed powerful speeches with time given to logical, biblical, and personal arguments in support of her cause.

The speech she is best known for, "Ain't I A Woman", was delivered at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Ohio in 1851. The earliest account of her speech was written by Marius Robinson, a recording secretary at the convention, with whom Truth was residing during the convention. Robinson presented Truth's three arguments for women's rights as women's physical ability, her intellect, and the Biblical support for equality. His rendition of her words was in standard English, not in a southern or black dialect.

The speech which has become a popular icon, however there was a version written and popularized by Francis Dana Gage, twelve years after Truth gave her speech. Gage's version was written in dialect, with incorrect English. Gage also reported that Truth faced a hostile crowd that day, something that no other accounts of the convention mentioned.

In her book, historian Painter asks that we look beyond this misrepresentation of Truth and get to know the actual woman that she was. Truth dedicated the last forty years of her life to the pursuit of justice and voting rights for women and for blacks.

Truth was almost six feet tall with an imposing physique, lean and muscular. She was said to have a masculine voice and a forceful style. She was often heckled and accused of being a man pretending to be female to make herself sensational. One time she bared her breasts to prove that she was indeed a woman and, with her intelligence and sharp wit, managed to make the heckler look foolish.

The assumption that she was male was not only made by hecklers. For example, the *St. Louis Dispatch* published an account of her visit to Kansas and said:

"Sojourner Truth is the name of a man now lecturing in Kansas city. He could only be called 'sojourner' there, for the truth could not abide in that place long as a permanent resident."

Painter notes how Truth was repeatedly seen and described as "other", someone whose physical appearance and way of speaking was outside the experience of even the abolitionists and feminists who supported and befriended her. She was called 'grotesque' and 'bizarre' even by those who liked what she had to say.

Truth was darker than other African American orators, such as Frederick Douglass, who were working for the abolition of slavery. Her blackness drew comments. One writer said she was born into an African tribe and had tribal scarring across her face.

Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote an essay, "Sojourner Truth, The Libyan Sibyl" (a Sibyl is a prophet and truth teller), in which she portrayed Truth as a native African who spoke with a "barbaric accent" and quoted Truth as saying, "Honey, I h'nt heered much bout Jesus".

Truth responded to Stowe's ridiculous portrayal in a letter to the Boston Commonwealth in which she corrected her place of birth, suggested that her self-published Narrative would be a more accurate source of information, and says "I don't make use of the word 'honey'."

From my perspective, Sojourner Truth, at nearly six feet tall, muscular, with a masculine voice and a commanding presence, was "other" in a way that I understand to be transgender. If she lived today would she welcome that label? Would she perhaps be lesbian,

gender queer or transsexual? We can not know. However, I find her gender variant presentation to be a delightful discovery.

There is a lot more about this complex person to ponder and to celebrate. As a young woman, freed herself by making an agreement with her owner which he did not keep but that she forced him to acknowledge when she walked away from his farm to live with Quakers she knew to be abolitionists. She sued him a few years later for violating New York law by selling her son to slave owners in the south. The court agreed that he had broken state law and her son was returned to New York.

She challenged other feminists to broaden their conception of women's rights. In addition to her Narrative, she traveled with her "Book of Life" that contained letters people wrote to her and articles written about her, and signatures of famous people.

After the Civil War she met with President Lincoln and expressed her concern for the freed slaves who were poorly equipped to manage their freedom. Truth lobbied for programs to assist them and spent years working for land grants to be offered to freed men who were willing to move west.

As an elderly woman she worked to integrate street cars in Washington DC. She sued one cable car company and won. They eventually integrated the street cars but often required African Americans to stand or to sit at the back. Sojourner protested that also; on one occasion she hit a streetcar conductor with her cane when he refused her a seat.

If you belong to a book club, I highly recommend you read Nell Painter's *Sojourner Truth, A Symbol, A Life*. It reads as easily as a novel and will give you an in depth look at one of our foremothers, a transgender person of note.

Spotlight on the Beautiful People...
by Helena Handbasket

Hello again everyone, I am so pleased to be getting feedback from you in the community. So many of you have come up to me at Imperial Court shows or at Wednesday Karaoke and told me that you look forward to this column each month and can't wait to see who the next month's spotlight is shining on. Thank you all for your encouragement and support. I am always open to your suggestions of people that you think deserve to be recognized.



Our February spotlight is shining on none other than Miss Karen Kollett. She originally hails from Monticello, Kentucky but has been in Lexington for 21 years. On January 23rd she and her partner, Doug, celebrated their 22nd anniversary. They share their home with their two babies: two Shi-tzu's named Patches and Dusty.

Miss Karen, or "Mama" as many of the girls call her, has been performing for 21 years. Her first show, 21 years ago this month, was when she won Miss Closet Ball and she has been going strong ever since. She says her drag mother and inspiration when she began was Judy Jetson, who painted her face the night she won.

In addition to her Miss Closet Ball title, she has also formerly held the titles of Miss Bar Complex, Miss Gay Lexington, Miss Gay Firecracker, and she was the first Miss Derby Pride. She is also a Hall of Fame recipient. She says that her partner, Doug, designs many of her outfits but she has also gotten things from Juice, Jenna Jive, and several of the other girls that sew in

town. Her favorite number to perform is the female version of the old Dobie Gray hit, "Drift Away". She dreams of performing someday for Ellen DeGeneres.

Her most embarrassing moment was during a performance when her son was visiting. She was doing the number "Clumsy" by Fergie. Suddenly, she realized her heel was caught in her dress, which happened to be during the part of the song that says 'you got me trippin' and stumblin', and, as she tells it, "my ass hit the ground". "It still didn't stop me from gettin' up and finishing the number... after all, the show's gotta go on baby," she laughs.

Her favorite charitable organization is the Imperial Court of Kentucky because she says it touches home. She loves what the court stands for and all of the people that they help. She has been involved, on and off, with the court for many years and she has shown her commitment most recently by helping with the "Pink Ribbon Ball" where proceeds were raised for breast cancer research.

HH: What is the biggest misconception or false rumor about you?

K: "I am not the oldest girl on the show cast... and I'm NOT telling who is so don't ask me baby, but it ain't me."

MY FAVORITES... music - classical; color - purple; movie - The Color Purple; TV show - The Young and the Restless; actor - George Clooney; actress - Angelina Jolie; dream vacation - Hawaii; current book that you are reading - children's stories for my 5 grandbabies.

H: If you were stranded on a desert island, who would be the 3 people you would want to be there with you?

KK: "Of course, Doug would be my first choice but after that, I just couldn't choose. I have been so blessed with many dear friends in my life, I just couldn't choose. They would all just have to come to our little island."

HH: Miss Karen, I'm sure you

would find enough palm leaves and coconut shells to have Doug make you a fabulous gown to entertain us all. That's a show I'd buy a ticket for. <wink>

KK... "The world would be a better place if... everyone just worried about themselves and not be so worried about what everyone else is doing, especially if it doesn't concern them." "I strive to make the world a better place by... setting an example of treating people the way I would want them to treat me. Like Aretha said, It's all about 'RESPECT' baby." "I would most

want to be remembered for... always being myself... uh, Karen always being herself... uh... oh hell, you know what I mean."

HH... You are a hoot girl, both on and off the stage. You have been nothing but supportive to Miss Helena and I think you are a true asset to Lexington. You help people to love life. You are sensational. Thanks girl... for the interview and everything. I love ya!

*** Contact me at Advicefrom-Helena@aol.com and let's be myspace friends. Look me up at <http://www.myspace.com/helenah>



**2010
Film
Festival
Feb 25 -
March 28
Free
Admission**

Departures

Japan, 2008

Japanese with Subtitles (130 min.)

Thursday February 25, 5 and 7:30 pm

Kentucky Theatre

Departures won the 2009 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. After losing his job, young cellist Daigo (Masahiro Motoki) comes to the realization that he needs a new career. Returning to his hometown, he trains for a new professional role as a nakanshi, or one who prepares the dead for burial. Tsutomu Yamazaki provides comic relief as Daigo's eccentric mentor in director Yojiro Takita's drama about finding your bliss.

Sita Sings The Blues

USA, 2008

Sunday February 28, 2 and 4:30pm

Lexington Public Library Theater

India's ancient epic Ramayana gets a fresh, funny makeover in this award-winning animated film. Using songs and humor, director Nina Paley juxtaposes the split between Rama and Sita with her own divorce to tell "the greatest break-up story ever told." Original 1920's recordings of singer Annette Hanshaw give musical voice to Sita, the star of Paley's tale, while amusing shadow puppets provide the narration for the colorful story.

The Garden

USA, 2008 (Not Rated)

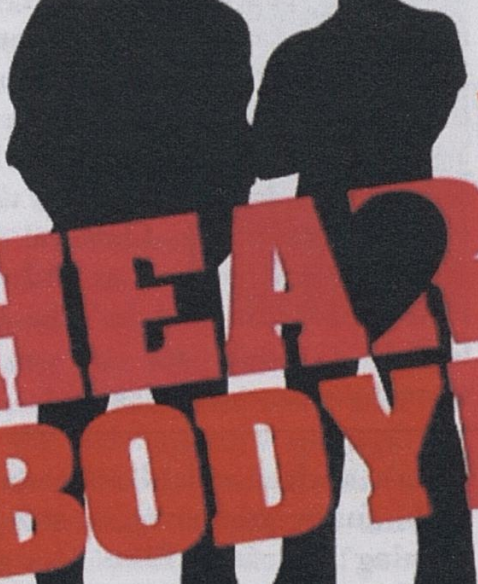
Thursday March 4, 5:00 and 7:30PM

Kentucky Theatre

Filmmaker Scott Hamilton Kennedy's Oscar-nominated documentary follows a group of low-income families struggling to protect a 14-acre urban farm in the middle of South Central Los Angeles. Their struggle drew the attention of notable activists and politicians including Dennis Kucinich, Joan Baez and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

There will be eight films in March. For the entire schedule go to

www.oneworldfilmfestival.org



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Pricing is based on the current market plus additional factors, dry-aged beef does cost a bit more. However, if you have ever tasted the supreme flavor, you know the cost is worth it.

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AND
OPERATED**

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or call: 606-682-9261

Spiritual Points of View and Resources

St. Mychal The Martyr
www.stmychalthemartyr.org
859 338-1195

You are invited to our worship services every Sunday at 10:30 with Rev Kenneth Waibel performing mass. We are at 1033 Industry Rd. Suite #5, off Winchester Rd. We are a liturgical church, our worship filled with ritual and our hearts filled with joy.

The Mission of St. Mychal is to provide a church that welcomes people in all their uniqueness and giftedness. Our church performs blessing of gay unions, welcomes divorced people, and ordains all persons into the orders of Deacon, Priest and Bishop.

Our church is available for meetings and receptions. Rev. Ken offers couple counseling and can also speak to individuals about the spiritual concerns. Rev. Ken can be contacted at 859 338-1195.

St. Mychal is a member of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America, a national church that is gay supportive. It is one of many offshoots of the Roman Catholic Church.



The Unitarian Universalist Church
3564 Clays Mill Rd.
Public Support for GLBT Rights

The U.U. Church has worship service at 11am each Sunday. We are a welcoming congregation that celebrates our GLBT members. We are located at 3564 Clays Mill Rd., just inside Man O' War. Please pay us a visit.

Interweave, the GLBTQS support group, will be meeting on Sunday, Feb. 7. This is the day of the church's pot luck lunch, so bring a dish and join us.

Ours is a liberal religious tradition with room for many beliefs. Our congregation includes people who identify as Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Pagan, Muslim, Atheist, Agnostic, and Humanist. The four pillars of our church are Worship, Religious Exploration, Fellowship, and Service. We have had mission trips to work on houses in Biloxi, Mississippi for the last four years.

There are classes for adults offered at various times. For more information go to our web site at www.uucl.org.

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Sunday Worship 10:30



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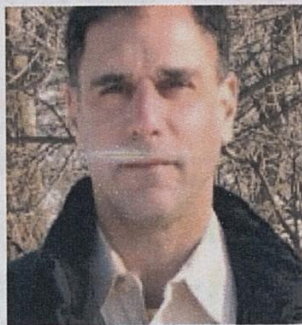
Lexington Shambhala

Connecting with your own heart of compassion...

Spiritual life is not separate from our daily lives or experiences from whatever background we bring to it. Meditation practice heightens the integration of the spiritual and mundane. It can be a powerful tool for opening our hearts even when we are dealing with negative reactions from those who have a narrow view of (what human life is about) - take this out and substitute GLBT people.

Another tool for developing that integration is community life. Gathering with others to support meditation practice, study and spiritual growth can lead to positive life changing experiences. Queer Dharma, one such community, is sponsored nationally and in some major cities by Shambhala International, which has centers around the globe and here in Lexington.

Acharya Eric Spiegel (a senior teacher) works with Queer Dharma. He notes: "From the very beginnings of the gay movement, there have always been



spiritual aspects of the community. In fact, whenever people are slightly out of the mainstream, that sense of 'not fitting in' is a wonderful gateway to the dharma, as well as to artistic and intuitive expression."

Spiegel also suggests that "the tenderness that comes from being an outsider could either harden as we push to make ourselves 'fit in,' or it could become a passport to greater connection between heart and mind."

Acharya Eve Rosenthal adds: "Confidence and compassion are necessary for any minority group who often encounter a habitual response from others, perhaps a distancing and negativity. Sometimes the challenge comes from within the LGBTQ community itself - social pressure to be a certain way and hold certain views." -

Consider using meditation as a means of connecting deeply with the heart of being human in all its wonderful variety. Go to lexingtonshambhala.org to see program listings or visit us on Saturday morning 9-12 at 315 W. Maxwell for beginning meditation instruction and a social hour. Contact

Zaida Belendez, Center Director, (859) 552-6868 for further information.



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The Heart of God

by Karen Taylor

Many of us, if not all, have wept at the images we've seen on TV in Haiti. It truly is heart wrenching. Unfortunately, some are crying out, "Why would God do such a thing?" Regardless of what some TV evangelist may be saying, I do not believe God is responsible for any such tragedies. I believe He is weeping right along side of us.

There are natural laws that occur just because they are there. Science tells us that when two geological plates are pushing against each other, the pressure will build and eventually something has to give. That's nature.

The same type of reaction occurred during 9/11, and you can probably think of at least one event in your own personal life where you reacted with the question, why? Why, God, did you do this to me? Why did you allow this to happen? Where are you God? His response is generally the same, it wasn't my doing, and I'm right here with you to comfort, aid, and support you through it.

The personal event that comes to my mind first is a time when I was in counseling for past sexual abuse. I couldn't understand why God would have allowed that to happen to me, a young girl. I was innocent, undeserving. When one day I felt the Lord whisper We include cross dressers, transsexuals, gender queers, intersexuals, and others who do not fit the standard gender norms or who are questioning their gender. In my ear (not literally of course), there was nothing I (the Lord) could do.

That man was determined to do this evil thing and you had no one to stand in the gap for you, but I was there with you crying, desiring to hold you. That was when I realized that we are all part of an evil world and sometimes we fall victims of that evil. It also taught me the

importance of praying for those who have fallen into the hands of such predators.

I believe that as Christians, it is our responsibility to be the hands and feet of Christ on earth. We need to do everything we can to help those in need, whether it is a natural disaster such as an earthquake, a child we believe is being abused in one way or another, or a neighbor who has fallen on hard times.

As Americans it seems we focus mostly on donations, which is important and needs to be done. However, that isn't the only way we can help. We certainly need to pray. It's ok to get involved; call social services when you think something not right is going on, it can be anonymous. Cook a meal for your neighbor, call to let them know you are praying for them or ask if you can do anything to help. Give them a hug. Sometimes a hug can go a long way. The bottom line is to reach out and touch someone in need. Let the love of Christ show through your actions.

Let's let this terrible tragedy wake us up to our responsibilities as Christians.

Karen is heading up a Gay Affirming Charismatic Christian Bible Study group at the Pride Center on Sunday mornings at 10:30am.

Ahava Center for Spiritual Living

A New Thought Community

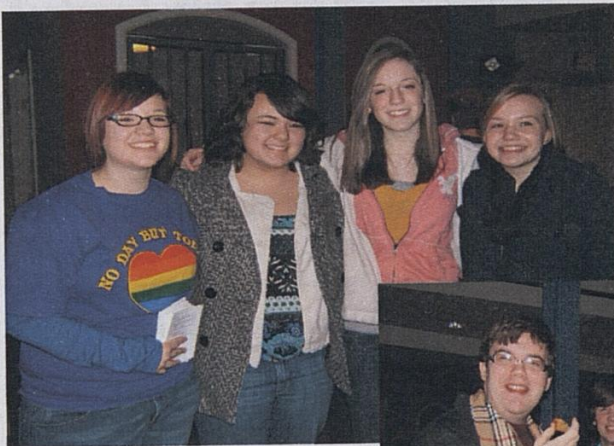
Ahava is an open and affirming community which accepts all religious paths. We are here to embody and express the Divine Love of God that is calling us to transform our personal lives through the practice of universal principles.

We are located at 300 Sherman Ave., which is off of Richmond Rd. at the corner of Sherman and Menifee in Lexington. Our services are Sundays at 9:45am. See www.Ahavacenter.com or call 859-797-7794

Straightlaced KY Premier

The screening of the film *Straightlaced* on January 9 was a great success. The State Theater was full of people of diverse backgrounds and interests.

The film focuses on gender, and features straight and not so straight youth talking about the impact of gender on their lives. Some of these young people do not question the need they experience to conform to the gender expectations of their friends and community. Others live outside the gender box and don't worry about repercussions. Some make a conscious decision to challenge gender expectations.



Students from Dunbar helped as ushers at the film screening.

GLSO has purchased a copy of this film and we will have a public screening, or several, in the months to come. We also hope to facilitate the showing of this film in local high schools. There are already parents working to show the film at Dunbar.

If you are interested in helping promote this film or have a group that would like to view it, contact Mary Crone at 859 266-5904.



Tom (GSA Advisor) and Jackie (GLSO Board Member—GLSO News Editor) GLSO was one of the sponsors of the film screening. We set up a table and collected names of people interested in forming a chapter of PFLAG. See page 3 for information about PFLAG.



Judge Ernesto Scorsone and Paula Geran talk before the film.



Jane and Ginger appreciated the wonderful reception provided by the Central KY Council for Peace and Justice.

THANK YOU to the Jesse Higginbotham Technology Trust and the family of Hannah Landers for bringing this wonderful film to Lexington!

The GLSO Directory

* Have emails or websites

GLSO Board:

GLSO Pride Center (Bill)859-253-3233
 GLSO Board President.....Dennis Wheatley
 Contact number.....859-253-3233
 Discussion Group (Bill)859-253-3233
 GLSO News (Mary).....859-266-5904
 Subscriptions.....859-253-3233
 GSA -Teens (Mary).....859-266-5904
 Speakers' Bureau (Mary).....859-266-5904

Student Groups:

Berea College ACE (Ryan).....859-985-3633
 Centre College (BGLA (Mykol)
859-238-5332
 Morehead State Univ. (Ned)1-606-783-2294
 OUTsource (UK)859-323-3312
 UK Gay Straight Alliance (Matt)
859-559-7464

Anonymous HIV Testing:

Jessamine County859-885-4149
 Lex. Fayette County859-288-2437
 Woodford County.....859-873-4541
 U.K. Adolescent Medicine.....859-323-5643

HIV/AIDS Info/Services:

AVOL859-225-3000
 Lexington Health Dept.859-288-2437
 HIV/AIDS Legal Project1-502-584-1254
 Cumberland Region (SEKY-Pat)
1-606-864-3776
1-888-425-7282
 Lex. S.T.O.P. Program (Jeff)
859-254-3469 x 230
 Louisville Region1-502-574-0161
 Northern Kentucky Region859-341-4264
 Moveable Feast Lex., (Terry).....859-252-2867

Community Groups:

A.A. (Ron)859-967-9960
 Al-Anon / Al-Teen (Office)859-277-1877
 Bluegrass C.O.L.T.S. (Morris)
859-225-9169
 Council for Peace & Justice859-255-6999
 Fairness of Louisville1-502-893-0788
 Social Services (formerly First Link).....211
 Internat. Gay Bowling (Steve).....
859-276-3058
 Lexington Fairness859-951-4450
 Lex. Human Rights Comm.859-252-4931
 Lex. Insight Group (Dana)859-230-2428
 Lexington Pride Festival859-253-3233
 Lexington Lyons (Mason).....1-859-468-6371
 MACT859 358-8335

PFLAG Louisville1-502-329-0229
 Rainbow League.....859-420-6398
 United Way (Ask Us).....211 or 859 313-5465
 SisterSound (Patti).....859-806-0243
 TransKentucky.....859-963-6606
 24 hr. Crisis Line1-800-928-8000
 24 hr. Teen Crisis Line1-800-999-9999

Religious Groups:

Interweave (Unitarian-Mary).....859-266-5904
 Integrity (Episcopal-David).....859-396-9691
 Lexington Friends (Quakers).....859-254-3319
 MCC Paducah (Rev. Lillian).....1-270-443-3339

Email & Website Addresses:

GLSO President Dennis Wheatley.....
dennisjwheatley@gmail.com
 GLSO/Pride Center Website.....www.glso.org
 Pride Center.....lexingtonglso@yahoo.com
 AVOL.....www.avolky.org
 Bluegrass Women's Network.....
thebluegrasswomensnetworkowner
 @yahoogroups.com
 Imperial Court of Kentucky.....
www.ImperialCourtKentucky.org
 KY Pagan Forumhttp://go.to/kypaganforum/
 Lexington Fairness.....www.lexfair.org
 Lexington Pride Festival.....www.lexpride.com
 Email.....lexpride@gmail.com
 Lyons Leather/Levi Clubwww.lexlyons.org
 Moonshine Bears of KY (Jim).....
www.moonshinebears.com
 OUTsourcesusanmatsubara@yahoo.com
 PFLAG Lou.....pflaglouisville@yahoo.com
 Rainbow League.....morgan@morganfry.com
 TransKentuckyTransKentucky@gmail.com
 UK Gay Straight Alliance.....
matthew.hufford@uky.edu
 United Sister Circle Alliance.....
www.unitedsisters.org

GLSO News Deadline

February 15

Send articles, ads, and pictures to

articles@glso.org

advertising@glso.org

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