



**GAY and
LESBIAN
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION**
Lexington,
Kentucky

GLSO NEWS

March 2005

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Volume 20 Number 2

Whishing Chair 10th Anniversary Concert

Whishing Chair has spent the winter months working on their new CD, **Underdog**. There will be a combined CD Release and Whishing Chair 10th Anniversary Concert on April 2 at Memorial Hall, sponsored by the UK's Women's Studies Dept. A portion of the proceeds will go to benefit UK Lambda

Their very special guests for the evening will be The Reel World String Band. Tickets will be available through the UK Student Center in early March. Come join us for a wonderful evening.

Miriam and Kiya appreciate the generosity and support from so many in the community during the recording process. They now need to pre-sell 100 CDs in order to pay for the duplication process. Go to <http://www.folkout.com/id29.htm>. You can pay by credit card or send in a check or money order.

You will be buying the CD at the reduced rate of \$12; they will pay the shipping. You will get your copies first, they will send them straight to you the day after they receive them from the manufacturer.

LEXINGTON PRIDE IDOL CONTEST

GLSO's Pride Committee is preparing for a two-month search to find Kentucky's most talented vocalists to compete in the first ever Lexington Pride Idol Contest.

...continued on page 2

Falsies Will Be Flyin'

The Oscars and Grammys have all been doled out to deserving candidates, but now it's time for recognition of the high drama, glamour, and artistry that take place onstage in Lexington clubs, backstage, and in the community at large.

Join the Academy of Drag Arts and Sciences as they present their 9th annual Falsies Awards on Tuesday March 29th at the historic Kentucky Theater. Ticket sales begin at 8 p.m. at the box office. The ceremony will begin at 9 p.m. Get there early, as we have had to turn folks away. Admission is \$10, with proceeds benefiting the charities of the Court, including GLSO, AVOL, and Moveable Feast.

The ceremony will include recognition of hair, makeup, costuming, dance, character impersonation, male impersonation, community service, technical support (hagging), offstage drama, bartending, and comedy, as well as performances by favorite local entertainers. And we promise it won't take as long as the Oscars.

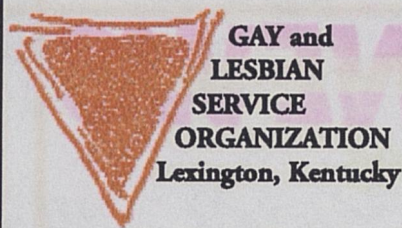
Mr. Ky Leather - next page

Sponsor of the Month



Ernesto Scorsone
Attorney at Law

254-5766



The GLSO NEWS

Volume 20 Issue 3

published monthly by

**The Lexington Gay
Lesbian Service
Organization**

389 Waller Ave.

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**GLSO Annual Dues &
Newsletter \$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 staff reserves the right to edit submissions and advertisements as well as the right to reject submissions or advertisements.

PRIDE IDOL CONTEST The contest will start with preliminary rounds at local bars and coffee houses. We are seeking seven locations and have some dates in early April set up. Up to twenty individuals will compete at each hosting location in the preliminaries. There will be 3 contestants chosen by the audience from each location.

The 21 preliminary winner's will then perform for our panel of judges. The judges will select 12 from this group who will go on to compete in the finals at the Pride Picnic on Sunday, June 12 where the audience will be the final judges. The picnic will be at Windy Knoll Farm but not on Father's Day this year.

The grand prize will consist of a trophy, a gift certificate to Disc Jockey, and studio time at Grooves Professional Recording Studio to produce 10 copies of a two song CD. And, of course, the title of Lexington's 2005 Pride Idol!

We have a few dates set for the preliminary rounds: Tuesday, April 5 at Mia's, Tuesday April 12 at The Bar, Friday April 22 at Crossings, Tuesday May 10 at Club 141. A complete list of dates, times and locations for the initial contests will be in April's GLSO News. Applications will become available near the end of March.

Harnesses, Jockstraps, and Chaps! Oh My!



The weekend of March 4th-5th, join the Imperial Court of Kentucky at Club 141 as we host some of the region's hottest leathermen as they compete for the title of Mr. Kentucky Leather 05.

The weekend's festivities will begin Friday with a reception from 8-9, followed at 9:30 by a Leather and Lace Fantasy show and Contestant Meet and Greet.

The contest will begin Saturday at 9:30 p.m., with a silent auction of erotic art taking place over the course of the evening. Admission is \$5 each evening with proceeds benefiting the charities of the Imperial Court of KY. Doors open one hour prior to show time.

The second annual Mr. Kentucky Leather Contest is produced in assistance with Kentucky Leather Productions and the Lexington Lyons L/L Club. The winner will go on to represent Kentucky at the International Mr. Leather Contest (IML) in Chicago.

Community News

Bar Complex Events

On St. Patrick's Day, Thursday, March 17, come out to The Bar for the "Wearin' of the Green." The best three green outfits will win prizes.

On Wednesday, March 30th, The Bar is hosting their annual Turnabout Drag Show, **Springin' Into Drag**. A night where those who do not usually perform in drag (well at least in public) turn about in The Gilded Cage Cabaret and strut their stuff!

Door opens at 8 pm, show begins at 9:30pm. Admission is \$5. There'll be raffle drawings, a give-away door prize and fun for all. Proceeds from this dragaroma will go to Moveable Feast Lexington so bring lots of dollar bills.

DIVERSITY IN GENDER ALLIANCE

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lexDGA>

The Lexington Diversity in Gender Alliance meets on the first Saturday evening of the month (March 5th) at a private location. Doors open at 7, the meeting starts at 7:30. Call Julia at 255-7306 for information.

We welcome all people who transcend gender norms or who are questioning their gender identity, including transsexuals, intersexuals, effeminate men, masculine women, drag Kings, drag Queens, gender queers and more. Family and supportive allies who would like to learn more are also welcomed.

We discuss a variety of issues at our meetings and support each other as we consider who we are and how we want to present ourselves. It is not, however, a therapy group.

There is an article on page 14 concerning some of the recent research on Intersexuality.

SisterSound Invitation

SisterSound is looking for interested women to join the chorus. We do not require auditions. Come to a rehearsal, meet some people, try singing with us and see what you think. Rehearsals are at 6 pm every Sunday at Lansdowne Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 333 Redding Rd. For information email Patti at paowens@excite.com or call 806-0243. www.geocities.com/sistersound

Rainbow Families of Lexington

Rainbow Families of Lexington (RFOL) pulled off another successful gathering on February 12th celebrating Valentine's Day. Eight families with children ranging from infant to age 6 gathered on a wonderfully sunny day to enjoy great food, laughter, fun and friendship. The kids played with toys and new friends while feasting on a wonderful array of Valentine's Day treats. The parents enjoyed exchanging stories of parenting, home life and activism. The day was pretty enough for the kids to exert some energy outside on the slide, in the playhouse and enjoying the sandbox.

March will also bring loads of fun as we spring into Spring! Saturday March 12th, RFOL will launch its first annual Easter Egg hunt and pot luck picnic. Location and time is still TBD but we hope to have more participants than ever before! The little tots will enjoy an Easter Egg hunt and the older kids can enjoy running, playing ball, croquet, Frisbee, badminton or any other games they wish to enjoy.

Our events aren't only beneficial for the children; parents are realizing the benefits of networking with other parents. To quote one parent, "I thought this group would be good for my kids,

but I didn't realize how good it is for me!" But just to show how excited the kids are, one child asked another before leaving the Valentine's party, "Will you be at the Easter egg hunt?"

Rainbow Families of Lexington is an organization for gay and lesbian parents and their children that reside in the greater Lexington area. RFOL's mission is to show our children that there are other families like theirs out there.

For information on this event or to join the group, call Jen at 533-6260 or email jen_cheryl@yahoo.com. You can join RFOL's Yahoo Group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rfolky>

MACT KY

MACT, Men of All Colors Together KY is a chapter of the National Association of Black and White Men Together. We have social get togethers regularly. For information email MACTKY@aol.com.

Lyons Levi/Leather Club

The Lexington Lyons meet every third month at the Pride Center. Their next scheduled meeting will be in May. The Lyons will be assisting with the Mr. KY Leather in March. Contact Paul at 312-9346 for more information about the club.

Family Dentistry



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- * Zoom Teeth Whitening
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UK Support Group

A GLBTQ support Group is meeting at UK. on Thursdays, 12:30 to 1:45. Not a therapy group or social club, just a safe place to get support. We talk about issues that can sometimes be difficult to discuss including: coming out, flirting, sexuality, spirituality, family, employment, relationships, homophobia.

This group is free and for UK/LCC students only. Facilitators: Colby Cohen-Archer, PH.D and Sherry Rostosky, PH.D. Call 257-8701 or crcohe2@uky.edu

Kaleidoscope Disciples of Christ

Kaleidoscope is an open and affirming congregation committed to building a community that crosses all boundaries and is welcoming to all people regardless of including race, gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.

We meet every Sunday at 11 am at the Lexington Theological Seminary, 631 Limestone, in the Mary Ann Sanders Chapel. There is plenty of parking around back. ... more Religious News pages 22 -

Pride Month Planning
Thursday, March. 10 at 5:30
Pride Center Open to All
Pride Event Registration Pg 16

Research Subjects Needed pg 8

Fairness News pg 10

Intersex Research pg 14

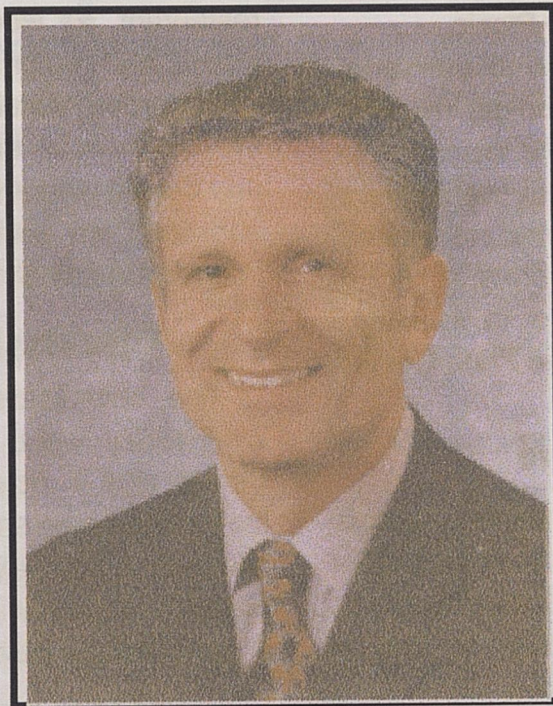
Women Singing The Blues pg 19-20

Religious / Spiritual Resources pg 22 - 23

Sponsor of the Month

ERNESTO SCORSONE

Attorney at Law



511 West Short Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

(859) 254-5766



PRIDE CENTER NEWS and ACTIVITIES



389 Waller Ave. 859-253-3233 Mon-Fri 10 am. - 3 pm

Volunteers help us keep the Center open after 3 and on Saturdays.
Call to be sure someone is here. We need volunteers for Saturdays!

Pride Month Committee

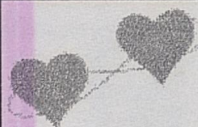
The Committee planning Pride Month 2005 will meet again on Thursday, March 10 at 5:30 at the Pride Center. Swing by after work, we are keeping these meetings short. We will be discussing the Pride Idol Contest and the Pride Picnic.

This committee is open to everyone; we invite you to show up and get involved. We are looking for someone interested in hosting a Pride Reading, an event where people share various forms of writing such as, poetry, essays, stories, and so forth. For information or to volunteer call Mary at 266-5904 or the Pride Center at 253-3233.

Get On Board

Get On Board now is accepting applications for the Spring 2005 Class scheduled to begin April 16. Applications are due by March 25 and are available on line at www.uwbg.org.

Get On Board is a United Way of the Bluegrass initiative that recruits, trains, and places under represented people to serve on nonprofit boards in the Bluegrass. For more information please contact Susie Cavanaugh, (859) 233-4460 ext. 238.



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40+ WOMEN

The next 40+ Club meeting will be on Sunday, March 13, 2pm at the Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave. Come with ideas for activities you would like and plan to join us after the meeting for a meal at a local restaurant. All women over 40 and their friends are welcome to attend.

Saturday, March 19 is Girl's Night Out. We will meet at the Pride Center at 5:30 and decide where we want to go out to eat and what we want to do afterward. For information call Ginger at 253-0061.

Discussion Group

The discussion group meets every Wednesday night at 7 pm at the Pride Center and is open to all. We strive to make this a safe space where you can be yourself. If you enjoy lively discussions, please join us. For more info contact Jane at ladyjaneky@yahoo.com

DRUMS FOR PEACE

There will be a drum circle and gathering every Sunday between 5 -6 pm at the Woodland park Gazebo. (weather permitting). Open to non-drummers, dancers, children and all seekers of peace.

There is also a Drumming Peace Wave planned for noon, March 20th, International Earth Day. Contact upkentucky@yahoo.com for information.

Volunteers Needed

- *to keep the Pride Center open a couple of hours on Saturdays
- *to write articles for this newsletter
- *to host a Pride Reading in June
- *to distribute this newsletter

call 253-3233

The 9th Annual

Falsies



March 29th

The Kentucky Theater

Doors @ 8 P.M.

Ceremony @ 9 P.M.

Admission: \$10

Proceeds to
benefit the
charities of
The Imperial
Court of
Kentucky



Categories

Include:

- *Hair
- *Makeup
- *Costuming
- *Dance
- *Character Impersonation
- *Male Impersonation
- *New Image
- *Community Service
- *DJ
- *Newcomer
- *Special Performance
- *Supporting Role
- *Karaoke
- *Offstage Drama
- *Bartending
- *Technical Support
- *Comedy

SoulForce Plans Focus on The Family Confrontation

Jamie McDaniel, coordinator of the Lexington chapter of SoulForce, has recently been hired by National SoulForce as their Webmaster. His work is not yet available on line but there are a couple of sites worth examining including SoulForce.org and DearDrDobson.com, a web site concerning soulforce's plans to confront the ideas promoted by Focus on the Family, James Dobson's right wing anti-gay group. Congradutlations Jamie!

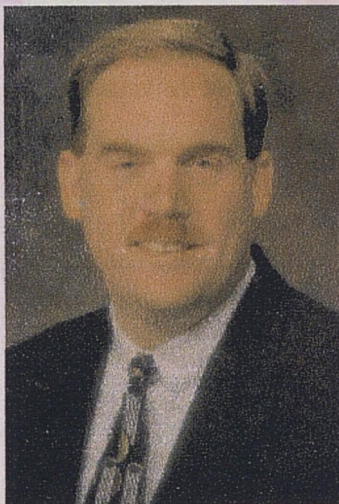
SoulForce will be going to Colorado Springs, the home of Focus, April 30 through May 2. GLBT couples and families, single folks, and allies will take a tour of the Focus headquarters and eat lunch in the cafeteria. They plan to be out and open as GLBT people and same-gender families, holding hands, introducing them-

selves and their kids to Focus staff.

"The love that shows in our smiling faces will be more powerful in confronting untruth than any of our words."

In March, Dr. Dobson's group is holding a one day workshop, "Love Won Out," concerning their x-gay ministry in Louisville. There may be an alternative event organized by the Letter.

SoulForce Lexington continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. SoulForce members come from various religious backgrounds and follow the principles of non-violence practiced and taught by Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr. They believe that to create meaningful change, GLBT people need to directly confront the religious organizations and individuals that use the Bible to preach against us. For information call Jamie at 859 230-5625. www.SoulforceLexington.org,



Scott Ackerman

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BLUEGRASS FAIRNESS ANNUAL RETREAT

by Laura C. Harris, Treasurer

The Bluegrass Chapter of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance had their annual retreat at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park the weekend of Feb. 18-20. The agenda and priorities were mapped out for 2005-2006. See future GLSO newsletters for upcoming events involving the Kentucky Fairness Alliance.

Bluegrass Fairness has no specific events scheduled in March. In April, Bluegrass Fairness will co-sponsor/participate in the Human Rights Commission Fair Housing luncheon, the Kentucky Conference for Community & Justice dinner, and the AVOL AIDS Walk for Life. Fairness will continue to lobby legislators and educate the community at large. Be looking for our outreach materials at local establishments and events.

One highlight of the retreat was a serious discussion regarding building the community from within. In addition to increasing our allied support, we must keep apprised of internal issues. The anti-marriage amendment to the Kentucky constitution was a real blow to the LGBT community. Much of the post-election experience involved a lowering of self-esteem and retreat back into the closet for LGBT persons and sympathetic allies. Bluegrass Fairness is developing a seminar surrounding this dynamic.

Bluegrass Fairness is updating and compiling their referral lists. The latest versions of our LGBT supportive attorneys, counselors, et al. will be available soon.

The monthly meetings of the Bluegrass Chapter of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance have been changed. Beginning March 14th, the steering committee meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of the month at

7:00 pm at the Pride Center. The meetings are open and all Fairness minded folks are welcome to attend. There are also a variety of committees that would welcome new volunteers.

To better accommodate our needs surrounding the Kentucky legislative sessions, the Annual General Membership Meeting of the Bluegrass Chapter has been changed from January to October and the steering committee will go on their retreat in November.

For more information, phone 859-806-4114 or check out <http://www.bluegrass-fairness.org/>.

Research Study of Same-Sex Couples

Dr. Sharon Rostosky and Dr. Ellen Riggle at the University of Kentucky are looking for gay/lesbian/same-gender loving couples (at least 23 years of age and together at least two years) to participate in a study of spiritual and/or religious values. Couples will participate at a time convenient for them and will be compensated \$50 (\$25 each) for their time (approximately 1 ½ hours).

During this session, the couple will be interviewed (together) about their views and experiences with spirituality and religion within the context of being a couple. The interview will be taped and later transcribed and then all interviews will be compiled for analysis.

Each couple member will also be asked to individually (and confidentially) complete a questionnaire about him/herself and his/her relationships. All information that is collected will be treated confidentially. Couples interested in hearing more about this study are asked to call (859) 257-7880 or email: rostosk@pop.uky.edu.

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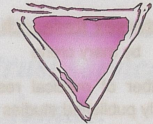
Laura Wigglesworth, GE Fianancial264-9926

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GLSO Newsletter Calendar

March 2005

To schedule events at the Pride Center, call Bill at 253-3233
 Visit us on the web at: www.webspawner.com/users/glsqnet



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>More information about many of the events are in this newsletter. You may want to call or email the group to confirm the date and time, see the directory on back page.</p> <p>Pride Center may be abbreviated - PC Call for Place may be abbreviated- Call</p>		<p>7p GSA (call for place 266-5904) 7p One World "Free" Films: <i>Mujahid, The Holy Warrior</i> @ Public Library</p>	<p>Pride Center open til 6p 7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC</p>		<p>8p ICK Leather & Lace Fantasy Show @ Club 141</p>	<p>9a Frontrunners/walkers Arboretum 7:30 p - Diversity in Gender (Call) 8p ICK Mr. Kentucky Leather @ Club 141</p>
<p>9:15 & 11a UU Church 10:30 a St. Mychal 4p Integrity @ St. Michael's 6p SisterSound Rehearsal 3:30p One World "Free" Films: <i>Foat-Kine</i> @ UK Student Center</p>	<p>Pride Center open til 6pm 8p AA Step Study (call for place)</p>	<p>7p GSA (call for place 266-5904)</p>	<p>Pride Center open til 6pm 7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC 8p AA Step Study (call) 10 a, 1p, 7p One World "Free" Films: <i>Paper Clips</i> @ Kentucky Theater</p>	<p>5:30p Pride Month Committee Mtg-PC</p>	<p>Pride Center open til 6pm 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA (call for place)</p>	<p>9a Frontrunners/walkers RFOL - Easter Egg Hunt</p>
<p>2p Women 40+ Club-PC 2p One World "Free" Films: <i>When the Spirit Dance Mambo</i> @ Public Library 4p Integrity @ St. Michael's 6p Imperial Court Mtg.-PC SoulForce (call Jamie 230-5625)</p>	<p>Pride Center open til 6pm 7:30 p Fairness-PC 8p AA Step Study (call for place) Orthodox Lent begins</p>	<p>Newsletter Dead-line 7p GSA (call for place 266-5904)</p>	<p>7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC 8p Gay/Lesbian AA (call)</p>	<p>St. Patrick's Day Wearin' of the Green contest @ The Bar Complex</p>	<p>Pride Center open til 6pm 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA (call for place)</p>	<p>9a Frontrunners/walkers Arboretum</p>
<p>9:15 & 11a UU Church 10:30 a St. Mychal's 4p Integrity @ St. Michael's 6p SisterSound Rehearsal 7p MACT-PC Palm Sunday Spring Begins</p>	<p>Pride Center open til 6pm 7:30 p GLSO Board Mtg. 8p AA Step Study (call for place)</p>	<p>7p GSA (call for place 266-5904)</p>	<p>7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC 8p Gay/Lesbian AA</p>		<p>Pride Center open til 6pm 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA (call for place) Good Friday</p>	<p>9a Frontrunners/walkers Arboretum</p>
<p>9:15 & 11a UU Church 10:30 a St. Mychal 2p Women 40+ Club-PC 4p Integrity @ St. Michael's 6p Imperial Court Mtg.-PC SoulForce (call Jamie 230-5625) EASTER SUNDAY</p>	<p>Pride Center open til 6pm 8p AA Step Study (call for place)</p>	<p>7p GSA (call for place 266-5904) 8p ICK Faisles Award @ Ky Theater</p>	<p>7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC 9:30 The Bar's Annual Turnabout Show, to benefit Moveable Feast.</p>			

Weekly Activities:

- Mondays:**
 8pm - AA Step Study (Call for Location)
- Tuesdays:**
 7pm - GSA (Gay Straight Alliance)
- Wednesdays:**
 7pm - GLSO Discussion Group
 8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for Location)
 9pm - Rainbow Bowling League Southland Lanes
- Fridays:**
 8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for Location)
- Saturdays:**
 9am - Frontrunners/Walkers @ UK Arboretum
- Sundays:**
 9:15 & 11am - UU Church Worship Services.
 10:30 - Mass, St. Mychal The Martyr.
 4pm - Integrity @ St. Michael's
 6pm - SisterSound Rehearsal @ Landsdowne Presby. Church.
 7pm - LMC Rehearsal @ St. Michael's Episcopal Church.

Bi-weekly:

- 6pm - The Imperial Court SoulForce -Call jamie 230-5625

Monthly Activities:

- Mondays:** 7pm - GLSO Board Mtg. (3rd Mon.)
- Tuesdays:** 7pm - Fairness (4th Tues)
- Wednesdays:**
- Thursdays:**
- Fridays:**
- Saturdays:** 8pm - Diversity in Gender (1st. Sat.)
- Sundays:** 2pm - Women 40+ (2nd. Sun.)
 7pm - MACT (3rd. Sun.)

Intersex Research

by mary crone

A number of medical researchers have recently published studies that support the belief of Intersex persons that no surgery should be done on babies that are born with a both male and female traits. They suggest that such children should be listened to as they mature and given the right to claim the gender that they believe fits them.

The Intersex Society of North America (ISNA), the organization of Intersex persons that has called for such research, is celebrating and encouraging the distribution of this information.

Intersex is a relatively new term referring to persons born with mixed sexual physiology, including physical manifestation of genital, genetic, and or endochrinal differentiation that is different from the cultural norm. It is term chosen to include individuals with a variety of issues that place them outside our cultures dichotomous conception of gender. (two genders, very different from each other) There are a variety of ways of viewing gender, other cultures see more than two categories and many people are now viewing gender as a continuum.

"Intersex" is replacing the term "hermaphrodite" which means having physical attributes of "both" genders. Hermaphrodite retains the concept of two genders.

When a child is born with genitals that are not easily classified, doctors check other indicators including sex chromosomes and levels of sex hormones in the babies blood. They use that information to assign gender and often will perform surgery to create genitals that fits the assigned sex.

When the indicators of gender are not conclusive, doctors are likely to assign a female gender to the child and to perform

surgery to make the genitals match this decision. Doctors more frequently chose female in part because the surgery is simpler. The surgery may include "reducing the size" of a clitoris that is "too large", creating a vaginal opening or in other ways creating a more "normal" appearance. This procedure is based on a belief that gender is flexible and that the social conditioning of being raised as a girl will successfully create a person with clear female identity,

Dr. William Reiner, a urologist who performed sex-assignment surgeries on babies, became aware that some of the children he operated on, later came to identify themselves as the "other gender." His interest led him to retrain as a psychiatrist and to study this phenomenon. His latest review of 94 intersex children found over half the children assigned "girl" came to identify themselves as boys as they grew up.

Another researcher, Dr. Eric Vilain, suggests that there are many factors effecting a child's gender identity, including some that we do not know how to measure. Through his research on mice, he identified 54 genes that work differently in the brains of male and female mice embryos just 10 days after conception, before sex hormones are even produced.

Both of these researchers support the position of the Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) of not doing surgery on intersex babies. A child can still be raised as male or female with the understanding that s/he may announce at some point that s/he has been mislabeled.

It is difficult enough for a child or adult to claim a different gender identity without having the issue of infant surgery that can't be reversed. In addition, too often the surgery damages an individuals sexual responsiveness. ISNA's position is that doctors should stop pathologizing children that do not fit their standards for what is "normal" and stop infant surgery.

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or Kathy J. Banta at (859) 233-8923



to discuss how we can help you protect your family.

Pride Month Event Registration

The Pride Month Committee has established a calendar of events for June 2005 and has set dates for a number of events. We are asking all groups that are planning an event to call Bill at the Pride Center Office (859 253-3233) before you choose a date so that we will have as little overlap as possible. Events such as the ActOut play that happen over several weekends can overlap with other events. These dates are set

Fri, Sat., Sun. June 3, 4, 5 Coronation The Imperial Court
Sunday June 12 Pride Picnic GLSO

WE NEED THIS INFORMATION FOR THE PRIDE BROCHURE

Name of Sponsoring Group

Name of Event

Date and Time of Event

Admission Cost

Contact Person

Description

GLSO needs your financial support to maintain the Pride Center and to support our other projects that include:

Gay Straight Alliance for Youth Pride Month Activities

Discussion Group Diversity in Gender Alliance

Pink Pages 40+ Women Pride Gallery ActOut

Speakers Bureau Pride Library Social Events

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

_____ \$20 Couple membership and newsletter

_____ I would like the newsletter at this reduced rate

_____ Additional contribution

Mail to GLSO News PO Box 1172 Lexington, KY 40588

Mr. Kentucky Leather 2005 March 4-5 Club 141

141 W. Vine St.

Schedule of Events

Friday, March 4th

8:00-9:00: Reception

**9:30: Leather and
Lace Fantasy Show &
Contestant Meet and
Greet**

Saturday, March 5th

**9:30: Mr. Kentucky
Leather Contest &
Silent Auction of
erotic art**

**\$5 Donation each
night**



**Sponsored by the Imperial Court of
Kentucky, with the assistance of Kentucky
Leather Productions and The Lexington
Lyons L/L Club.**

**Net proceeds to benefit the charities of the
Imperial Court.**



ONE WORLD FILM FESTIVAL

All Films are Free
We do appreciate donations

Mujahid: The Holy Warrior

Tuesday, March 1 7:00 pm

Central Library Theater

Pakistan 2004 subtitled 100min.

This film is the story of two friends who return to Pakistan from Afghanistan where they went to fight as "jehadis." Director Nadeem explores the attempted reintegration of these soldiers into mainstream society. He successfully captures the frustration and hopelessness that makes these young men vulnerable to conversion to extremist causes. The film offers us a perspective on soldiers who were once considered "freedom fighters" and now might be considered "terrorists."

Faat-Kine

Sunday, March 6 3:30 pm

Worsham Theater, UK Student

Center 118 min. subtitled

Director Ousmane Sembene established himself as one of Africa's leading novelists before becoming a masterful filmmaker. He is known for making films that combine comedy, political allegory, and social criticism.. The title character, Faat-Kine, is a brash, self-made woman who manages a gas station, supports her mother, and puts two children through college. Faat-Kine's children are embarrassed by her unwed status and set out to find her a husband. Sembene successfully combines hilarious comedy and social consciousness with a feminist slant. **Shown in cooperation with the UK Woman's Studies Program.**

Paper Clips

Wednesday, March 9

Kentucky Theater 90 min.

Public Screening at 7:30 pm

School groups 10 am and 1 pm

Struggling to grasp the concept of six-million Jewish Holocaust victims, the students at Whitwell Middle School in rural Tennessee decide to collect six-million paper clips to better understand the extent of this crime against humanity. The film details how the students met Holocaust survivors from around the world and how the experience transformed them and their community. Support from Central Ky. Jewish Federation, Thomas and King, and an anonymous gift.

When The Spirits Dance

Mambo

Sunday, March 13 2pm

Central Library Theater

91 min. subtitled

This documentary traces the role of sacred African thought and practice in the formation of Cuban society, culture and music. Director Marta Morento Vega expresses the soul of her people through this documentary. This film is a tribute to the historical and spiritual roots of ritual, music, dance and belief that enriches the lives of many Cubans and Americans today. Winner of Best Documentary at the 2003 American Black Film Festival.

We thank our sponsors: Lexington Fayette Urban County Gov., Lexington Public Library, Thomas & King, UK Women Studies Program, UK International Hospitality Program, UK Cultural Diversity Festival, The Gray Foundation, The Lexington Herald Leader, Central KY Jewish Federation, and The Gay Lesbian Service Organization

Rediscovering Our History

Bulldagger Blues and More by mary crone

Reading the Barbara Smith essay on African American GLBT History that I printed part of in last month's newsletter, led me to do more reading concerning the gay presence in the Harlem Renaissance, approximately 1920 to 1935. During this period, Black writers, musicians, entertainers, and artists flourished. They truly enriched our American culture.

This was also the time of prohibition, speakeasies, "rent parties" with bathtub gin, and "buffet flats" offering public sexuality and prostitution. White folks came to clubs in Harlem to enjoy the great music and to experience the unusual mix of races and sexualities common there.

Although I believe that GLBT folks have been present in every culture and time, there are some periods where the queer presence has been more predominant and influential. The Harlem Renaissance seems to have been one of those times.

Notable African-Americans that we claim as family include Ma Rainey, Richard Bruce Nugent, Bessie Smith, Gladys Bentley, Alberta Hunter, Jackie "Moms" Mabley, Ethel Waters, Josephine Baker and Langston Hughes.

Historians question how to label historic figures since concepts of gay identity change over time. But we can look at the writings, song lyrics and behaviors of individuals as we try to understand their lives and know many of them were not straight.

Since this is Women's History Month, I will focus on some stories about Women Blues singers who did not label themselves as lesbians but did present them-

selves in gender bending and women loving ways.

Ma Rainey is credited by many historians as being the first real Blues singer. She first appeared onstage in 1900, singing and dancing in vaudeville shows. In 1902 she married William "Pa" Rainey and from then on became known as Ma Rainey. They toured the south with various vaudeville companies including Rabbit Foot Minstrels, where Rainey befriended and mentored the young Bessie Smith.

By the 1920s Rainey was a solo star of the vaudeville circuit and was promoted in Harlem as the "Mother of the Blues." In 1923 she signed a recording contract with Paramount and recording over 100 songs between 1923 and 1928.

The history of African American lesbians and gays currently exists in fragments, in scattered documents, in fiction, poetry, and blues lyric, in hearsay, and in innuendo. -Barbara Smith

One time Rainey was arrested for hosting an "indecent party." On this occasion, Ma Rainey was said to have been involved in an orgy with a number of women. It is believed

that this story was told, in somewhat vague language, in her well known "Prove It on Me Blues."

Went out last night with a crowd
of my friends
Most of them women, 'cause
I don't like no men...
They say I do it, ain't nobody
caught me
Sure got to prove it on me...

Bessie Smith was another famous singer who was married to a man but didn't hide her interest in women. She had an intimate relationship with Lillian Simpson who traveled with her on the road. Ruby Walker, Bessie's niece, relates an incident that occurred following a quarrel that temporarily separated the two.

Smith went on a drinking binge with five women from her chorus including Walker. Her husband made a surprise visit, catch-

ing her in a "compromising situation" with one of the chorus girls. (Some rumors say more than one) Following a brief but loud confrontation, Smith fled with her friends to her private railroad car.

"That's how I lost the only fur coat I ever had", remembers Ruby Walker, "Bessie took us out of Detroit almost naked." One of Bessie Smith's gay themed songs went like this:

"There's Two things got me puzzled, there's two things I can't understand.

That's a mannish-actin' woman, and a skippin', twistin', woman-actin' man.

"Foolish Man Blues"

Several GLBT history books refer to Harry Hansberry's Clam House as one of the most famous gay oriented clubs. For years Gladys Bentley sang and played the piano at the Clam House dressed in a white tuxedo and top hat. One source quotes Langston Hughes writing that "for two or three amazing years, Miss Bentley sat and played a big piano all night long, literally all night, without stopping—singing songs from ten in the evening until dawn, with scarcely a break between the notes, sliding from one song to another."


Gladys was a woman of size, weighing between 250 and 300 pounds. For a number of years she wore a white tuxedo and top hat for her nightly performances.

One writer says that Gladys cultivated a specifically lesbian persona, often wearing masculine clothes, and was widely known as the "Bulldagger Who Sang the Blues." She has been referred to as a male impersonator, a cross dresser, a bulldagger, and a lesbian. It is difficult to know how she identified herself during that time or how she might see herself in today's world.

Gladys flirted openly with women in her audience and dedicated songs to current and former girlfriends. She is said to have had a ceremony of marriage to a woman in New Jersey in the 20's. Later, she was particularly famous for inventing obscene lyrics to popular songs.

In later life Bentley married a man, and claimed that her lesbianism was the result of a "hormonal imbalance" that had since been medically corrected. In 1952 in Ebony magazine she was quoted as saying "For many years I lived in a personal hell... I inhabited that half-shadow no-man's land which exists between the boundaries of the two sexes."

Bentley divorced her husband and in 1960 died at the age of 52. If she had lived into an old age she might have found the emerging proud GLBT community and been able to reclaim a lesbian or trans identity.



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GLSO Pride Center **FREE** Referral Service

As the office manager of the Pride Center, Bill Chandler quite often receives calls requesting referrals for a wide variety of services with an emphasis on the business being GLBT or GLBT supportive.

Calls have come in for Doctors (General Practitioners), Dentists, Attorneys, Plumbers, Electrician's, Auto Mechanics, Realtors, Accountants, Cleaning Services, Therapists and others. People have also called for suggestion of places to dine, live, work and play.

Many of these requests are easy to answer but others are not. Therefore, in addition to the Pink Pages, we are creating a list of gay and gay-friendly businesses and service providers.

There is no charge to be added to this list.

If you would like to be added to our Referral List, please fill out the form below and mail it to GLSO Referral Service, P.O. Box 1172, Lexington, KY 40588 or email your information to us at lexingtonglso@yahoo.com. Please put Referral Service in the subject line.

Call the Pride Center with any questions: 253-3233. We are open from 10 to 3 Monday through Friday.

Name (Business) _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Web-Site _____

If there is more information you would like to include please feel free to do so. Mail to GLSO P.O. Box 1172, Lex. KY 40588 or email us at lexingtonglso@yahoo.com. Put Referral Service in the subject line.

Religious and Spiritual Resources

Lexington Friends Meeting (Quakers)

The Lexington Friends would be delighted to have you visit us. We are a relatively small community, generally 40 - 55, including children, attend worship on Sunday mornings. Most of us came to Quakerism as adults, and many of us have found Quakerism to be a more comfortable spiritual path than the religion or church in which we grew up. Many of our current attenders have only been attending a few months or a few years. So, we are a place where newcomers can feel comfortable and welcome.

Lexington Friends Meeting is an unprogrammed Quaker meeting. This means that our worship is similar in form to silent meditation. But, unlike meditation, which is an individual practice, our worship is definitely a group experience. Most of us feel knit together in the silence.

We have no clergy, and there is no sermon, no order of service, and no sacraments. We sit together in silence. Friends "listen" to learn how we are led. If someone is led, he or she may speak from the silence. Such spoken messages are usually brief. Some weeks there may be as many as a half dozen spoken messages during the hour, and occasionally we sit in silence the whole hour.

In our culture, many people are uncomfortable with prolonged silences. But we generally find the silence to be rich and a time to slow down and reach for a profound center within. Many times the messages of others speak to our own conditions. It is not unusual for newcomers to find this experience very moving. But of course, it is not necessarily congenial for all people. Worship usually lasts about one hour.

The Clerk ends the worship by shaking hands with the persons beside her. Everyone then shakes hands with those around them. Following a brief period of announcements, we go around the circle introducing ourselves. (We sit in a circular formation, not in rows facing one direction, as people do in most churches.) During these introductions, Friends may optionally simply give their name or speak about a high or low of their week or about a message that they had during Meeting that did not quite 'gel.' We find this sharing to be a way of getting to know one another that builds community.

Meeting for Worship is at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Each Sunday there is singing from 10:15 to 10:30 a.m. There is Adult Discussion ("First Day School") from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. Child care is available during this Discussion period. There is First Day School for Children (Sunday school) during Meeting for Worship. Children stay in Worship until 11:00 and then leave worship to attend their classes.

Our meetinghouse is at 649 Price Ave., which is about a mile north of downtown Lexington. Price Avenue is a two block street that runs parallel to North Broadway between W. 6th Street and Delcamp Drive. From downtown, take North Broadway out of town. Turn left at 6th Street, and take your second right onto Price Avenue. The meetinghouse is on the left toward the end of the block. From New Circle Road, exit onto North Broadway and head south toward town. Pass under the RR overpass and watch for Delcamp Avenue on the right. Turn right onto Delcamp, then take your second left onto Price Avenue. The meetinghouse will be the first building on your right. Please pay us a visit.

Next Month: Quaker Theology

St Mychal The Martyr

St. Mychal The Martyr Parish holds services every Sunday at 10:30, with Rev Ken Waibel performing mass. We are located at 1350 Eastland Dr. St. Mychal is a member of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America, a national denomination that is gay supportive, performs blessings of gay unions, welcomes divorced people, and ordains women to the orders of Deacon, Priest and Bishop.

The Church is one of about three dozen offshoots of the Roman Catholic Church, and is open to married, divorced, and single individuals, welcoming all persons regardless of the blessings or problems of their lives. We have space available for meetings and receptions.

Open Door Fellowship

The Open Door Community Fellowship has an outreach Bible Study group for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender individuals in Lexington. Open Door is a Spirit-led, Bible-centered, open and affirming Christian Church spreading the awesome news of Jesus Christ's unconditional love for ALL people. For information contact Rev. Cori Wood @ 859-264-7006 or see www.opendoorcf.com/index.html

INTEGRITY

Integrity is a gay and lesbian group dedicated to exploring issues within the Episcopal Church and Christianity. It meets the second Sunday of each month at 4 pm at St Michael The Archangel Episcopal Church at 2025 Bellefonte Drive in Lexington. The March gathering will be on Sunday 13 at in the Chapter Room of the church. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome to attend.



Unitarian Universalist Church

Sunday Services at 9 & 11

The Unitarian Universalist Church welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people to all our worship services, educational programs, and other events. Please note that we have changed the time of our early service on Sunday to 9 am. We are located at 3564 Clays Mill Rd.

On Saturday, March 19 we invite you to our annual Service Auction. This is always a wonderful evening of entertainment and great food with the opportunity to bid on some interesting items, services, and dinners.

Every Wednesday night in March there will be adult education programs that are fun and educational.



St. Mychal the Martyr Parish

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

We publicly celebrate Gay Marriage

Come Worship with Us

1350 Eastland Drive #5, Lexington (859) 389-9418

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GLSO Directory

GLSO Board

GLSO Pride Center (Bill)253-3233
GLSO Board (Thomas)225-0094
GLSO Discussion Group (Bill)253-3233
GLSO News (Mary)266-5904
 Subscriptions (Bill)253-3233
GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary)266-5904
Youth Gay Straight Alliance (Mary) ..266-5904
GLSO on Linelexingtonglso@yahoo.com
 www.webspawner.com/users/glsoqxnet
Pride Gallery (Thomas).....225-0094

Student Groups

EKU(Sue) sue.strong@eku.edu
UK Lavender Society uklavender@yahoo.com
Morehead State University (Ned) 606-783-2294
UK Lambdainfo@uklambda.com
Berea College ACE League (Ryan)..859-985-3633
Centre College (BGLAD-Mykol). . . .238-5332

Anonymous HIV Testing

Jessamine County885-4149
Lexington-Fayette County288-2437
Madison County859-723-7312
Woodford County873-4541
U.K. Adolescent Medicine323-5643

HIV/AIDS Info/Services

AIDS Volunteers, Inc225-3000
Lexington Health Department (Julie) ...288-2362
HIV/AIDS Legal Project502-584-1254
HIV Support (Somerset) ..679-7478 or 678-5814
Cumberland Region (SEKY-Pat) ..606-864-3776
 or 888-425-7282
Barren River Region800-559-4448
Louisville Region (Geri)502-574-0161
Northern Kentucky Region859-341-4264
Purchase Region800-522-8289
Moveable Feast252-2867

Community

Alcoholics Anonymous (Brian)619-5294
 Office276-2917
AL-Anon (Office)277-1877
Bluegrass Belles502-346-5298
C.O.L.T.S. (Morris)225-9169
Bluegrass Fairness859-806-4114
Council for Peace and Justice
 (Richard)277-6101
Fairness of Louisville502-893-0788
First Link (was Ask-Us)313-5465
Fronrunners/walkers (Hal)294-7944
International Gay Bowling (Steve) ..276-3058
Imperial Court of KY859 269-7756
 imperialcourtkentucky@yahoo.com

KY Leather Productions (Larry)253-0185
Kyians For The Commonwealth254-3585
 jlynjenks@msn.com
Lex. Lyons Leather/Levi Club (Paul) .619-3650
Lex Dress & Gender Alliance (Julia) ..255-7306
Lex. Human Rights Commission ...252-4931
Lexington Men s Chorus (Kenneth) ..255-1974
Louisville Youth Group502-894-9787
Men of All Colors Together (Jon).....351-4453
 mactky@aol.com
Moonshine Bears of KY. (Jim) ..859 299-2047
 www.mooshinebears.com
People for Unity and Fairness803-1130
 CUFCKT@aol.com
Pride Alliance of Central KY(Gary) 859-236-4547
 (Shane)859-854-0596
 Pridealliance@yahoo.com
PFLAG (Ed)859 200 9512
Pegasus Travel253-1644
Rainbow Bowling League (Steve) ..276-3058
Rainbow Families of Lex. (Cheryl) ..533-6309
Sistersound (Patti)806-0243
 paowens@excite.com
Sistahs in the Life (Joan)252-2657
24 hr. Crisis Line1-800-928-8000
24 hr. Teen Crisis Line1-800-999-9999

Religious Groups

Interweave (Unitarian-Mary)266-5904
Integrity (Episcopal-Rev. Stone)277-7511
Lexington Friends Meeting (Quakers)..254-3319
MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev.Cathy) ..888-340-6223
MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee)502-587-6225
MCC-Paducah (Rev. Lillian) ...270-443-3339
Norse Pagan Community (Rev. Pat) ...268-1640
KY Pagan Forum ..http://go.to/kypaganforum/
RainbowWind (Pagan-Sarah)273-2455
 Soulforce (Jamie).....859-230-5625
 www.SoulforceLexington.org
St. Augustine s Chapel(Episcopal) ..254-3726
St. Mychal (Independant Catholic)
 (Rev. Ken)389-9418
Open Door (Christian-Rev. Pam) ...396-7636
Wiccan/Pagan Group.....(Iggie) 492-9904

NEWS DEADLINE

Articles and Ads: March 15

Put Newsletter in subject line

marycrone@aol.com

lexingtonglso@yahoo.com