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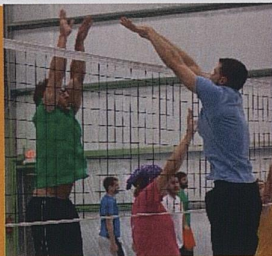
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### **EDITOR**

Don Lowe

LinQ is published monthly by and for the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization members and community. The Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization envisions a community that accepts and celebrates each individual. The Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization seeks to educate, enhance and empower the community about GLBTQQA issues.

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Mon-Fr 12-5 p.m.

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“Views expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the GLSO.”

Written by: Helena Handbasket

# That's What I'm Talkin' About

Have I ever been bullied? Yes. Have I ever been a bully? Yes.

I just hate a bully! I hear people say this all the time and I see people post it on Facebook. I see people organize and participate in charity events and stand up and say it loud and proud... I AM AGAINST BULLYING. But I ask you... are you really?

I am sure your first answer is, of course I am, but I challenge you to look a little closer and then ask yourself again... Am I really against bullying?

What is a bully anyway? A bully is anyone that tries to make someone else do or believe what they want them to by means of violence, aggression, intimidation or manipulation.

All too often I have been witness to occasions where people with a difference of opinion or belief started hashing out those differences on social media or in bars in front of others - or my favorite example, when someone

openly discusses, in a very belittling manor, the person that they have the conflict with in an attempt to "recruit" people to "be on their side" or "convince / encourage" them to see things "their way". Sadly, this often happens when the person with the other opinion is not even around. So why wouldn't you agree with someone when their opinion is the only one voiced? Is that person then NOT a bully and are YOU not being bullied?

I see this from WITHIN our own community from some who work tirelessly to fight for equality. Whether it be in the drag community or the leather community or whatever. It is all around us.

Have I ever been bullied? Yes. Have I ever been a bully? Yes. So, before I stand up and say I am against it, I first have to ask myself then, "Is this something I need to work on and try to realize when it is happening and then stop that

behavior before it goes too far? YES YES YES.

look a little closer and ask yourself again... Am I really against bullying?

Does this mean that I can eliminate conflicts I may have with others? Hell no! But, maybe the better solution would be to get together privately with the person you disagree with and try to work out a compromise (ever heard of that word before?). And, if a compromise cannot be reached, then agree to disagree and respect the fact that we are not all going

to feel the same way about everything. So, move on. Get over it. But for God's sake, leave everyone else out of it and allow them to form their own opinions. And, most importantly... Shut the hell up about it - whether in public or on Facebook. None of the rest of the community wants to hear about it anyway.

Send comments or suggestions to [HelenaHandbasketKY@gmail.com](mailto:HelenaHandbasketKY@gmail.com)



Written by: J. D. Vaughn



# IMPERIAL COURT NEWS

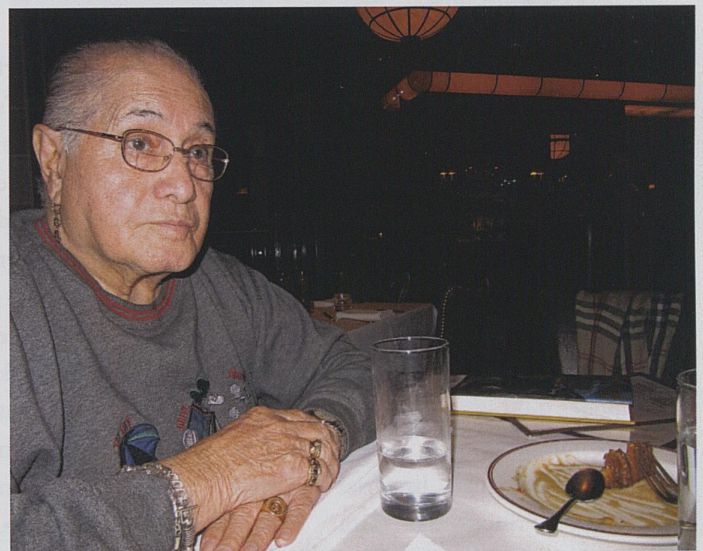
Greetings from the Imperial Court of Kentucky. Reign 32 has had a busy month with several events, and also wants to announce many upcoming events. Before we get to those announcements though, we want to inform the community of the passing of our beloved founder of the International Court System, Jose Julio Sarria, Absolute Empress I de San Francisco, the Widow Norton, on August 19, 2013.

The International Court System (ICS) was founded in 1965, when Jose proclaimed herself the Empress of

San Francisco, and laid the foundation for the formation of the Imperial Court of San Francisco. Today, the ICS has over 65 chapters in the United States, Canada and Mexico, making it the second largest LGBT organization in the world.

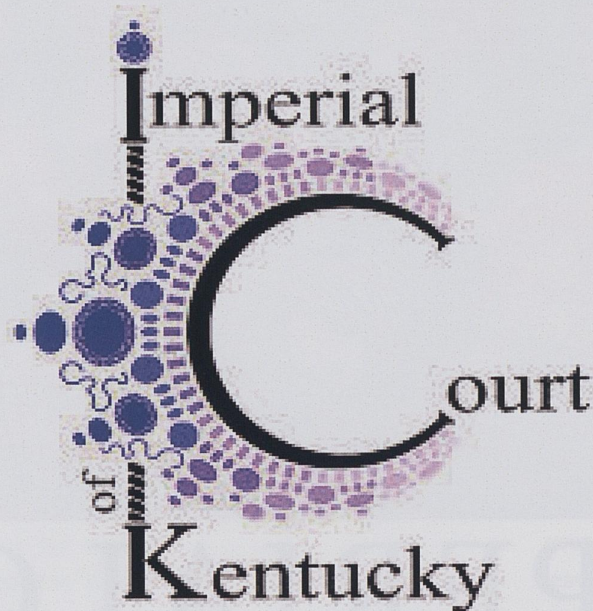
A Celebration of Life and funeral services will be held in San Francisco on September 5 and 6. A local Celebration of Life for Jose will be held here in Lexington and is in the planning stages. Look for upcoming announcements regarding that event.

Reign 32 continued its



TOP: Court members shop for school supplies for area children.

ABOVE: Jose Julios Sarria, Founder of The International Court System.



## Imperial Court of Kentucky

fundraising in August with a new event this year called "Back to Our Future."

Spearheaded by Empress 21 and 28 Nicole Diamond, the event was a benefit to purchase back to schools supplies for children of AVOL clients. The event was a huge success, raising over \$3200. Backpacks and school supplies were purchased for 33 children.

In mid-August, Imperial Crown Prince 32 Tim Logsdon and Imperial Crown Princess 32 Christina Puse held a Beach Party-themed event at Crossings. It was a fun-filled evening of fundraising with lots of

beach-wear and summer-inspired performances.

A few days later, the Court sponsored an Emperor's Carwash at pulse nightlife. The guys and gals of the court washed cars and raised money on a beautiful summer Saturday.

Then at the end of the month, Emperor 32 Patrick Thompson and Regent Empress 32 J.D. Vaughn hosted "Steppin Out in Stiletto's" at Bogart's Lounge. The night featured classy performances by many of the female line members and Empresses. The show marked the third annual fundraiser for the American

Diabetes Association. The disbursement to ADA will be announced next month.

And September and October will continue to be busy. On September 4, the Julie Vaughn Memorial Closet Ball will be held at pulse nightlife. This perennial favorite is a "coming out of the closet" type pageant for new and budding drag queens and kings. The first judged category is a presentation of the contestant in their natural gender. Then, they have an hour to transform themselves (with the assistance of one helper) into the performer they want to be. They then present themselves in a

Talent category. This is open to both male and female performers, although only one Closet Queen or King will be selected. The event will begin at 9 pm and will also feature last year's Closet Queen, Ava Westwood.

September fundraising continues with the annual Divas of Hazzard event on September 11 at Crossings. This hillbilly/country-inspired event will feature a Hillbilly buffet and cocktail hour starting at 8:30 pm with the show beginning at 9:30 pm.

The reigning monarchs and several court members will also make out of town

Regent Empress 32 J. D. Vaughn and Emperor 32 Patrick Thompson host many charity events throughout the year including Steppin Out in Stilletos held in late August at Bogart's Lounge..



trips to Washington D.C.'s Kentucky) or online at [www.imperialcourtkentucky.org](http://www.imperialcourtkentucky.org). Membership and/or volunteers are always welcome and encouraged.

More events are scheduled for the coming months and those will be announced here in LinQ,

or check out the Imperial Court on Facebook (group name Imperial Court of



LEFT: Jose Julio Santa in his early years.  
 ABOVE: The Widow Norton.

# HEALTH NEWS

Written by: Jeff Jones, PhD

Recently the Fayette County Health Department conducted health assessments of various minority populations. Funded by the KY Office of Health Equity and the State HIV/AIDS Program, one of these assessments focused on local LGBT residents, their health issues, and barriers to health care. This month we begin a series of short articles on this 2012 study.

The study included 306 local residents who took an online survey, filled out a paper survey, or participated in a focus group.

The researchers recruited participants via social media, signs at local bars, and the GLSO

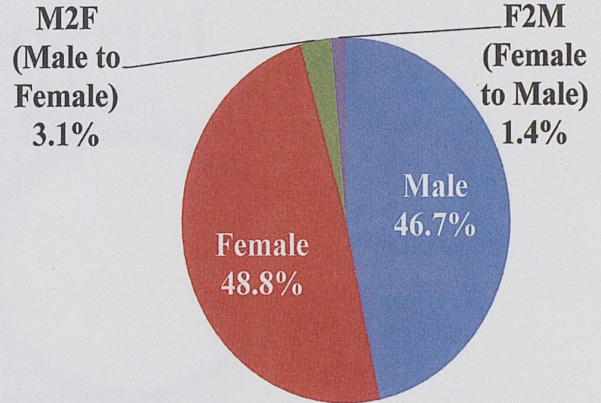
News. Perhaps you were one of our anonymous respondents. If so, thank you!

In most ways, these 306 participants and their demographics are very similar to the demographics for Fayette County as a whole.

In terms of average age, race, gender, income, and relationship status, the people who responded to this assessment match other Lexingtonians. In one area – education – the LGBT sample, however, is quite different: the LGBT respondents are twice as likely to have a college degree.

While the sample and the county's overall population seem quite similar, we cannot say this

GenderRaRR



LGBT people in Fayette County.

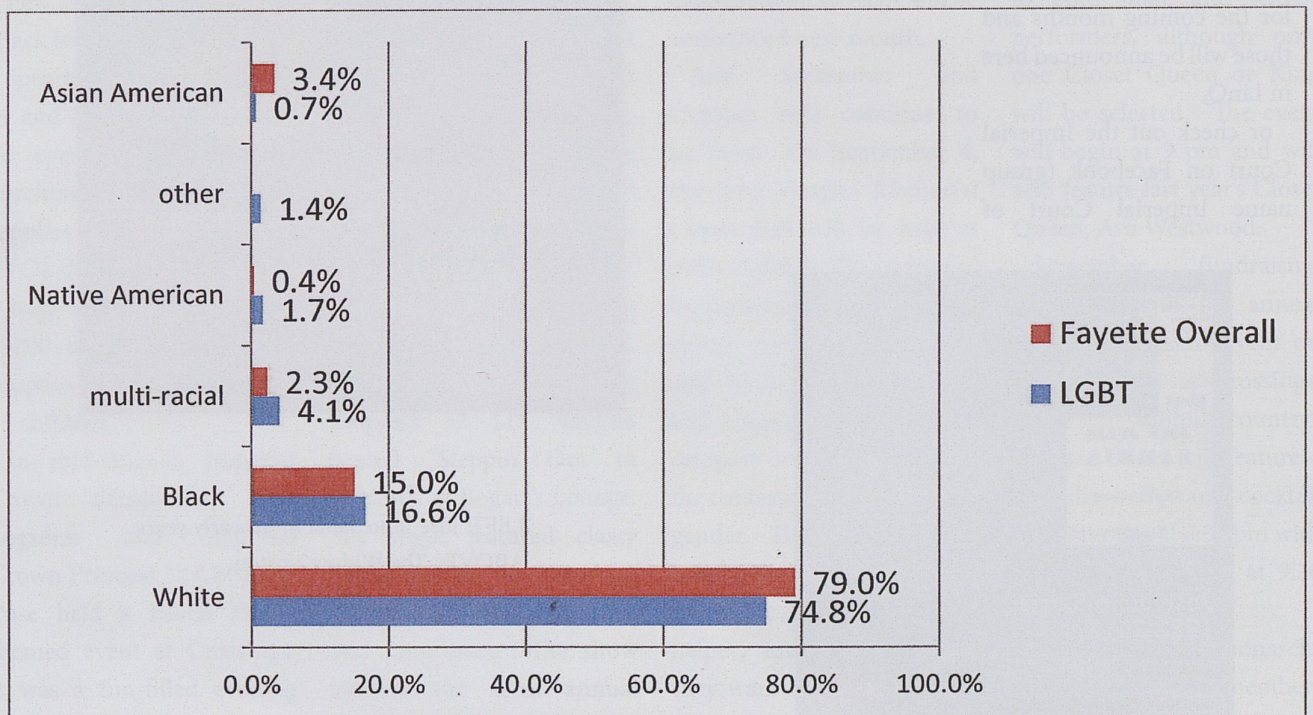
No one knows how many Lexingtonians are LGBT – or heterosexual – and thus we could not conduct a census or random sample of LGBT people.

Instead, we have this convenience sample – to use a

statistical term – to gain some insights into local LGBT health issues.

Read more next month about the Fayette County LGBT Health Assessment.

## Race

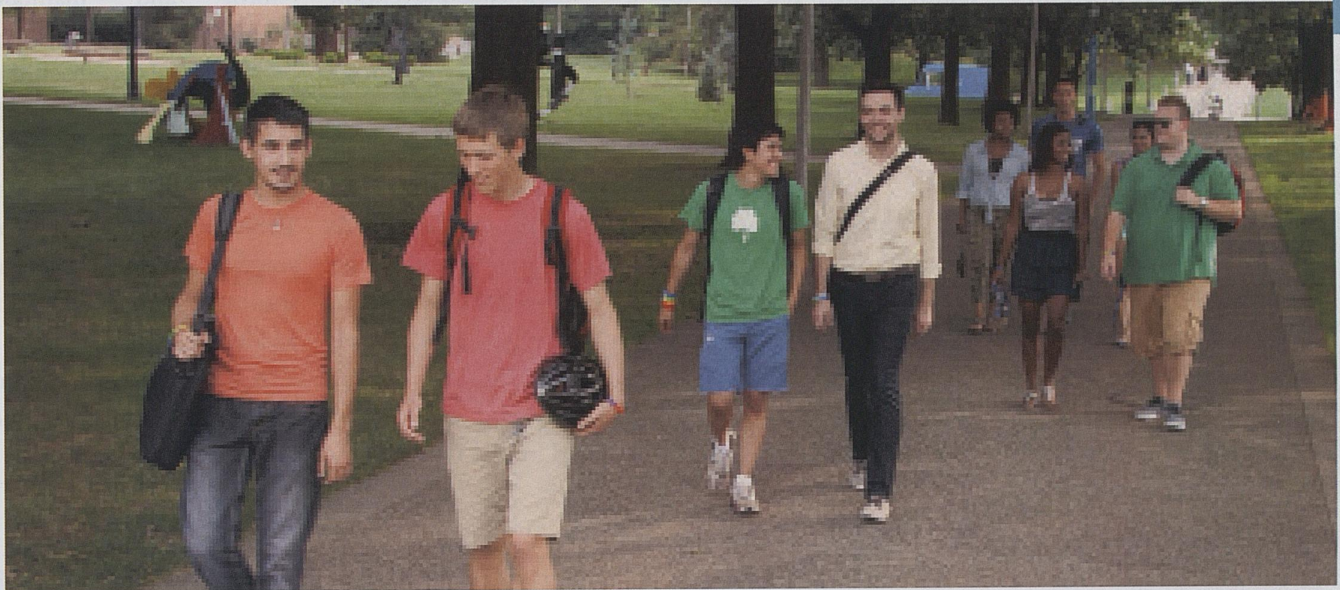




Written by: Burley Thomas

# Back to School

Finding resources, finding family



College is about transition. It is about becoming involved and independent. It's about becoming comfortable with the adult that you've become and finding strength in your community. This community starts for many students with an inclusive organization on campus.

Beginning in the late 80s and popping up through the 1990s, lesbian & gay student groups surfaced in high schools and on college campuses nationwide. These groups offer support to young people who may be living in fear or provide resources for would-be activists wanting

to make a change.

LGBTQQIA: you may not recognize all of the queer alphabet, but these are the letters that make up our collective identities. Young people from around Kentucky, many from rural regions and out of state, make their way here to complete their education. The move can be isolating or, contrariwise, liberating. For LGBTQ youth, it is a chance to truly express who they have been all along & find other 'letters' like themselves.

The incoming students are diverse. Some seek the 'gay group' immediately, some

find it accidentally or hear through word of mouth that such a group exists. Nick Cross, current co-president of UK Gay-Straight Alliance (UKGSA) recounts his discovery of a group presence on campus, "for me, the first time I saw anything gay on campus was when the 'hate-preachers' were at the student center. (UKGSA) were there with signs with words of love and giving out hugs."

Students vary in their experiences and the resources they need. Many, particularly from rural areas may not have been able to 'come out' and are still

looking for help loving self, discarding guilt, and finding ways to talk to their families. EKU Alphabet Center President Dan Hendrickson explains, "I see it all the time, people come to a few events, and then they find out how many LGBTQQI people are there, and think, hey, I don't have to be afraid to be myself anymore," and he says, "The Alphabet Center also has a volunteer mentor program with our leadership acting as mentors. We've been there, we know how to deal with that."

Students involved in central Kentucky's groups

have made notable strides institutionalizing progress. The University of Louisville is an excellent example of what colleges are capable of with an active LGBTQ center. Most recently, U of L secured an LGBTQ dorm. Other student groups like the University of Kentucky's OUTsource & UKGSA, as well as Eastern Kentucky University's Alphabet Center have rapidly grown from a small group of invested students to productive and active members of the community.

For some, it's a social experience to escape their daily routines. UKGSA member, Joe Goodman,

"GSA is a good break from all the school and work. It's nice to just talk to people who have things in common with you- or don't, there's such a variety of people." Cross adds, "You spend a couple of hours with these people, we have dinner, it's called family dinner. You start to care about each other. We learn we're all just- people."

Alphabet Center & OUTsource don't have weekly group meetings, they focus on informative events focusing on the queer community. Actively finding ways they are needed, Kyle Kleisinger, OUTsource co-director says that they've done a community needs'

assessment survey to see how to be most effective, "historically OUTsource has been a resource center... we're becoming more involved in activist causes. We're designing and will be offering a program called 'Ally Training' that's basically a violence-prevention program focusing on power based community violence."

Valerie Pfister, co-director of OUTsource, adds, "We'll be having guest speakers, people that students will want to hear. They will be open (monthly) forums... and everyone is welcome to come." The formation of ECU Alphabet Center was inspired by UK OUTsource,

a safe-space for students to congregate, but with a function. Alphabet Center Co-founder, Farah Ardeshir, says "It's still a place where groups can come together, but... to discuss 'something'.. like, unhealthy relationships in the queer community.

form and maintain friendships, and help young people deal with their coming-of-age issues with support from queer peers and introduce them to allies. They establish and strengthen youth as they transition from students into future activists and leaders.

\*A list of regional student groups can be found in the LinQ directory pages\*

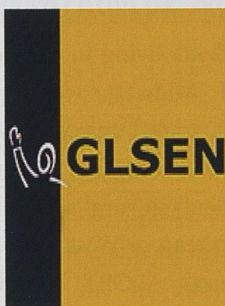


Back to School and Cover Photos by:  
Brian Hawkins



# GLSEN Rural findings

Written by: Mary Crone



Every student deserves  
a Safe Space



GLSEN Research: The Experience of LGBT Youth in Rural American

In December of 2012, GLSEN (The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Educators Network) released a report based on data collected in their 2011 National School Climate Study. This report focused on rural students that identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) or who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Not surprisingly, they found that students feel

less safe, face heightened victimization and have fewer supportive resources than LGBT students in suburban and urban areas.

This report, titled *Strengths and Silences: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Students in Rural and Small Town Schools*, documents the experiences of more than 2,300 LGBT secondary students. The results and conclusions are not surprising, but it is important to have this research that adds to and validates our

knowledge and beliefs about what is happening in rural Kentucky and elsewhere.

“Strengths and Silences is the first in-depth look at the significant challenges faced by LGBT students in rural areas and small towns,” said GLSEN Executive Director Dr. Eliza Byard. “These students are frequently the most isolated - both physically and in terms of access to critical resources and support - and our findings require us to both honor their resilience and respond to their needs.”

In addition to incidents of student victimization based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, findings also indicated that an unsafe school climate for LGBT students contributes to poorer grade point averages (GPAs), absenteeism and lowered aspirations to pursue post-secondary education.

The national study also reports that LGBT youth attending rural schools have limited access to inclusive curricula, supportive educators, and student

clubs such as Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs). These resources are associated with substantial improvements in school climate and students' wellbeing.

"Although research on the educational experiences of LGBT youth has grown considerably over the past 25 years, less was known about the experiences of rural students specifically," said Dr. Joseph Kosciw, GLSEN's Senior Director of Research and Strategic Initiatives. "The findings demonstrate that attending school in a rural area or small town can add to the isolation that can come with being an LGBT youth. Yet, given that resources such as GSAs and supportive school staff can provide important benefits for rural youth, even more attention to developing and supporting LGBT-related resources in rural schools is warranted."

## KEY FINDINGS

### *Hostile School Climate and Student Victimization*

87% of rural LGBT students reported being verbally harassed, 45% reported being physically harassed and 22% reported being physically assaulted at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation.

68% of rural LGBT students reported being verbally harassed, 31% reported being physically harassed and 16% reported being physically

assaulted at school in the past year because of their gender expression.

91% of rural LGBT students heard "gay" used in a negative way (e.g., "that's so gay") and 79% of LGBT students frequently or often heard other homophobic remarks (e.g., "dyke" or "faggot") at school.

3 in 5 (61%) rural LGBT students heard remarks about students not acting "masculine" enough; 42% had heard similar comments about students not acting "feminine" enough frequently or often at school.

Only 13% of rural LGBT students reported that school personnel intervened always or most of the time when they heard homophobic remarks, and 11% said school personnel intervened when they heard negative remarks related to gender expression.

Rural LGBT students reported feeling unsafe in specific school spaces, most commonly locker rooms (45%), bathrooms (44%) and physical education/gym class (37%).

Rural LGBT students who experienced higher levels of victimization were less likely to plan to attend college than students who experienced lower levels of victimization (85% vs 93%).

### *Presence of Interventions and Support*

11% of rural LGBT students

reported having an LGBT-inclusive curriculum (i.e., having been taught positive things about LGBT people, history, or events in their classes), significantly less than the 18% of suburban and 20% of urban students.

39% of rural LGBT students whose school computers had Internet access said that they could access LGBT-related websites, compared to 44% of suburban students and 44% of urban students.

27% of rural students reported having a GSA at school, compared to 55% of suburban students and 53% of urban students. But when there was a GSA at school, rural students were more likely to attend than urban and suburban students.

25% of rural LGBT students reported having a school administration supportive of LGBT students, compared to 35% of students in suburban schools and 36% in urban schools.

28% of rural students reported that other students in their schools were accepting of LGBT students, compared to suburban (33% accepting) or urban (46% accepting) areas.

18% of rural students attended schools with policies that enumerated sexual orientation or gender expression, including only 5% who said that their schools enumerated both categories.

Although they were less prevalent in rural areas, access to LGBT-supportive resources were associated with significantly better wellbeing and connectedness to school, and substantially lower levels of victimization.

### *Key Differences By Locale*

Rural LGBT students reported feeling less safe than urban areas and rural students living in the South and Midwest were more likely to feel unsafe based on sexual orientation than were students in rural areas of the Northeast or West.

Rural LGBT students heard most types of biased language more than urban and suburban students, particularly with homophobic remarks being particularly significant.

Rural LGBT students were more likely to feel unsafe at school due to their sexual orientation (71% vs. 62% of suburban and 58% of urban school students) and gender expression (49% of rural students vs. 42% of suburban and 42% of urban students).

Rural students were more likely to report discriminatory policies or practices against LGBT people by their school or school personnel compared to suburban and urban students.

Rural LGBT students were significantly less

# The Greatest Love of All

Written by: Sandy Spaulding

Sam and Marj have been together for 50 years. They are the same person.

That Sunday night I expected the toughest side of diversity to meet me in that back booth at O'Charley's. Instead, I sat across from a lovely woman, unassuming, and at home with herself. She was also a highly intelligent and respected scientist, quietly taking questions, conveying wisdom necessary to safely navigate an ungracious world. I waited for the bitter issues, an aching residue of oppression, pulled aside clothing to reveal some searing Stonewall tattoo.

Instead, she left us a love story.

Marj was a twinkle in his eye when he was only ten. A boy he played with came dressed as a girl to a neighborhood Halloween Party. After that Sam began collecting feminine things. Year after year he gathered lovely pieces of woman that would bring to life her longing to be, not unlike a sculptor who knows who he is looking for in the marble.

At 15 he concluded there were no others like him; her beckonings must be wrong. Sadly, he purged his world of all her belongings; but

her sleeping breath stayed, cradled in his heart. Nine years passed before the first primitive computer bulletin boards appeared and he learned she had sisters--sisters who wrote, who came together. She was not an aberration! So he woke her, buying her everything that was bright and beautiful in sunlight.

He was 28 when he saw her smiling back at him in the mirror. The time had come to name her, choosing "Marjorie", after a nun he knew who embodied a natural grace. Dressing her as a well

bred woman, she moved with a gentile poise. He loved her, protecting her from an unkind world, choosing thoughtfully where they went and who came close.

Now, when he is at work at the university doing Alzheimer research, Marj waits at home for his return. She renews him when making batches of brain tissue slides becomes tedious. They dance in the kitchen to big bands, and every night she sleeps in his arms, dreaming of the time when he retires, and she can be with him all the time, no longer left behind

OUR YEARS OF  
LOVING DANGEROUSLY

when he goes to Tanzania, Wyoming or communion.

Once, Sam brought Marj in from the cold when the climate changed. Without her, for 5 years he went about on his own until his heart could bare it no more. He found her and embraced her with all that he was and ever would be. "Maybe I'm not a woman, maybe I am not a man but we are here. We are human." Marj told him she was only sorrow without him; he said he withered in the grey emptiness away from her.

Some family knew, but they just never talked about it. After a recent wedding, she appeared at the grave of a brother who died of AIDS wearing her favorite floral as she stooped to lay flowers on his stone. That night she stood alone on a dock watching lights flickering on

the water, noticing lapping sounds sleepy rivers make. Breezes caught her sheer hem, moving it softly about her legs. A sweet and honest peace came over her. She's never had a diamond, but she has seen Paris, and met a fine truffle. Sam now reaches lab students. They're considering an invitation to serve on the GLSO board, and using the Sierra Club's Mr. and Ms. address labels anyway.

What is it about them? This peaceful countenance—Here, Trans is one pedal on the flower, but not the whole bloom and all the plant therein. His education has given him a full and productive life. In college he skied, backpacked, wrestled—still reads a lot. Sam stayed with her—no insisted suicide here. Trans is not an identity; it's their address.



Someone said love has no happy endings—all beloveds leave, change, or die.

But I like to think when these two pass, their ashes

will be flung at some wet and wild rainbow, to travel the wind with eagles and orchard pedals, until some lofty pine takes them in.



**Dr. Keisa Bennett, a Family Physician at the University of Kentucky, needs your help! If you did not have an opportunity to take this survey at Louisville or Lexington Pride, you still have a chance. Let us in on your perspectives about the general health of LGBT people in Kentucky, why LGBT people do or don't smoke, access to appropriate health care, and your own support structures and networks! You'll receive a \$15 gift card for completing the survey.**

**Interested?**

**Like us on Facebook by searching "LGBT Health in Kentucky"**

**Or visit our website at <http://lgbtappalachia.webs.com/about-the-study>**

# How Volleyball Could Change Your Life

Team Lex Volleyball, to be Exact

Written by: John Rhyne

I am no athlete, but the beauty of Team Lex Volleyball is that with a little bit of effort everyone can contribute to the league. The strength of the league lies in the camaraderie of the teams and diversity of the members. Everyone is welcome no matter your race, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, occupation, or skill level. Less experienced

players are mentored and encouraged at every turn: there is a skills clinic before every night of league play to develop skills and introduce players to volleyball. Skilled players face stiff competition, a challenging end of the season tournament, and the opportunity to welcome more players to the sport. The team that wins the tournament

chooses a charity for Team Lex to donate to at the end of the season.

Team Lex Volleyball offers healthy exercise and competition as well as opportunities to be a part of a community. In our first season this past spring, we hosted 36 players across five teams, and now have over 70 members receiving our email updates. We throw a

meet & greet social before each season and a "seeding" party to announce team rankings before the end of season tournament. Team Lex also holds open play pickup games over the summer, we made our debut presence at this year's Lexington Pride Festival, and we distribute excellence awards to enthusiastic players and mentors at the end of each



season. The first night of the new season is free to the public, and gives people the opportunity to see if Team Lex Volleyball is right for them.

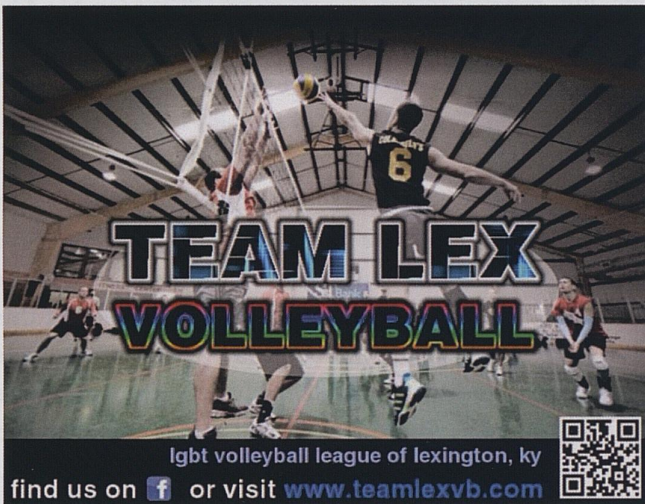
Team Lex Volleyball plays at the Bluegrass Volleyball Center out Old Frankfort Pike (709 Miles Point Way) on Sunday nights from 6:30 to 9:30 PM

starting September 15th. So if you are looking to make new friends in a safe environment, a healthy opportunity to get fit, or some fun on a Sunday

night, Team Lex Volleyball really could change your life.



Brian Hawkins Photography



lgbt volleyball league of lexington, ky  
find us on or visit [www.teamlexvb.com](http://www.teamlexvb.com)



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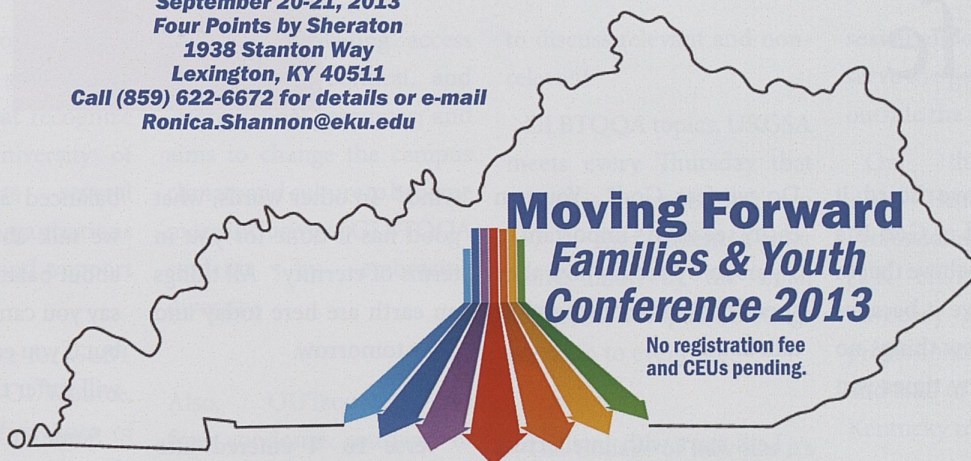
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## Save the Date

September 20-21, 2013  
 Four Points by Sheraton  
 1938 Stanton Way  
 Lexington, KY 40511  
 Call (859) 622-6672 for details or e-mail  
 Ronica.Shannon@eku.edu



Please join us in this collaborative effort to provide education and support for Kentucky's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex and Two-Spirit youth, their families and service providers.

For the first time ever in Central Kentucky, mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters and other family members of LGBT youth will gather this month to share information and experiences.

On September 20 and 21, Moving Forward: Families and Youth Conference will be held at the Four Points Sheraton in Lexington, Kentucky.

"This is a collaborative effort within the Kentucky Systems Enhance Early Development projects," said Social Marketing Specialist and conference organizer Ronica Shannon. KSEED is federally grant funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Association. And

operates "a system of care philosophy that has several initiatives meant to be culturally and linguistically competent."

"We try to look at all populations and meet the needs in all of them not just a few," continued Shannon. "This conference is the first of its kind in the state that involves LGBT youths and their families."

"We just wanted to get the youths, caregivers, health providers, parents, educators together and get them all on the same page in a shared learning environment."

Ultimately, Shannon said the goal of the conference is to educate parents, caregivers,

and service providers.

"There are a lot of assumptions and misinformation out there," She said. "A lot of people are just confused by all the terms. We want to help close the communication gaps."

"The ultimate goal is to give youth a more solid foundation in becoming adults," said Shannon. "Through our data collection we know that most LGBT students hear LGBT slurs at school and that can lead to bullying and in a lot of cases suicide. We take a very strong stance in suicide prevention and bullying."

Currently, groups participating include GLSEN of the Bluegrass, PFLAG of

Lexington, and Madison Southern High School in Berea's GSA.

Shannon said the conference is free of charge for anyone who wishes to attend and that conference registration will continue to be available until the conference takes place. You can register at:

<http://tinyurl.com/jwx98t7>

More information is available at

[www.childrensmentalhealthky.com](http://www.childrensmentalhealthky.com)

You can like KSEED on Facebook.

Written by: Karen Taylor

# Balance of Life



Perhaps you have heard it said, "The Word of God is a living Word". I believe that to be true. I believe it because it teaches you new things no matter how many times you read it.

You might read a given passage 10 times with it speaking a particular truth then one day you read it to see a more in depth meaning or see it from a different angle. On your 50<sup>th</sup> time reading it, it becomes new all over again as you see how it relates back to the old testament or how it relates in a different way to your life then it had previously.

That's exactly what I have experienced this past week in the book of Ecclesiastes. This book covers everything from intellectual accomplishments to wealth to politics to religion and how it's all futile. Our days on earth are short so what do we make of it? Do we spend all our time searching for wealth, power, and prestige? Do we take time to enjoy life?

Do we fear God? You can easily see what's important to a person by seeing how they spend their time or what they talk about.

Let's start with intellectual accomplishments. Now don't get me wrong, I am a believer in education. I plan to never stop learning; however, if that is our sole purpose in life we are indeed a sad people. Ecclesiastes affirms that wisdom helps us cope with life but acquiring knowledge for the sake of knowledge is futile.

Why? To find the answer let's look at Ecclesiastes 1:12-26 "I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I applied by heart and mind to seek and search out by [human] wisdom all human activity under heaven.

It is a miserable business which God has given to the sons of man with which to be busied.

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity, a striving after wind and feeding on

wind." In other words, what good has it done for you in terms of eternity? All things on earth are here today and gone tomorrow.

Verse 16 "I entered into counsel with my own mind, saying Lo, I have acquired great [human] wisdom, yes, more than all who have been over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has had great experience of [moral] wisdom and [scientific] knowledge. .... Verse 18 "For in much [human] wisdom is much vexation [sorrow], and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow."

This has the potential of opening a huge can of worms but let me just say at this point that it's all a matter of extremes.

Everything under the sun has purpose but when we take anything to extremes it becomes futile.

God is a God of balance. In everything we need a

balanced approach. When we talk about eating it's all about balance. No one need say you cannot eat chocolate, but if you eat it every day you will suffer the consequences.

Some in the church will say drinking is wrong, but the word tells us a little wine is good for the stomach. However, again, if you drink too much wine there are consequences.

I am striving to bring balance in my life. Whether I'm working for the GLSO, watching television, meditating on scripture I need balance. One of the definitions of balance is bring into harmony or proportion and that's what we as Christians, or as humans for that matter, need to be mindful.

I welcome any and all thoughts or comments just write to karen@glso.org.

Until next month I pray God's riches blessings and peace on each of you.

# GLBT Resources at UK

Information from <http://www.uky.edu/Diversity/resources.html>

The University of Kentucky hosts several student-run organizations that recognize and support GLBT. The University of Kentucky hosts several student-run organizations that recognize and support GLBT.

The main resource for GLBT issues is UK OUTsource, located on the first floor of the Student Center (directly beneath Starbucks).

OUTSource provides an affirming, safe, and confidential space for GLBTQQA students to learn more about gender identity, human sexuality, and related

issues by providing access to academic, cultural, and interpersonal resources; and aims to change the campus climate and culture to become more inclusive of GLBTQQA students by embracing diversity.

Also, OUTsource has free condoms courtesy of AVOL (AIDS Volunteer of Lexington).

The University of Kentucky Gay-Straight Alliance aims to improve acceptance and to provide a social safe-space

to discuss relevant and non-relevant

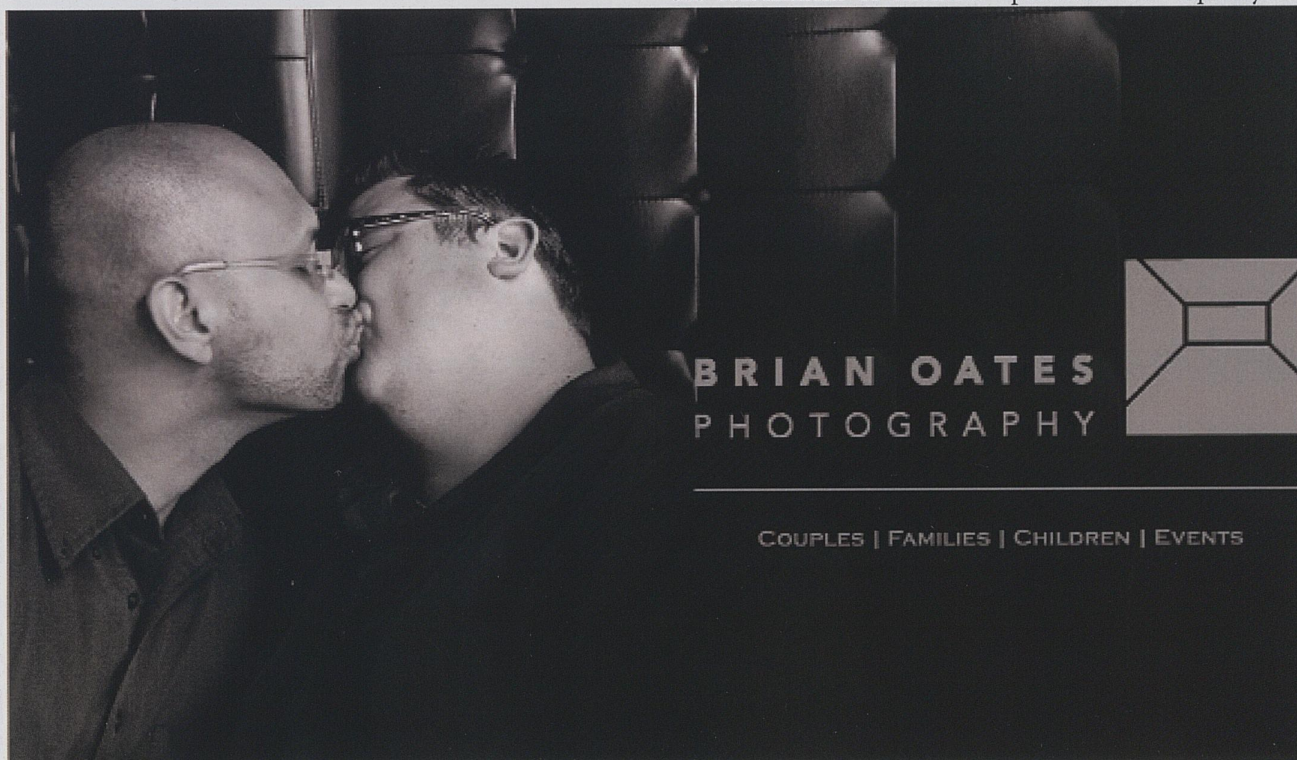
GLBTQQA topics. UKGSA meets every Thursday that school is in session in room 357 of the Student Center (third floor, by the small ballroom) at 7 pm. Meetings are open to everyone.

The College of Law has its own resource center called OUTLaw. OUTLaw provides a safe, supportive environment for LGBT students at UK Law, educate the university community about LGBT issues in the law, assist in the recruitment of talented

sexual minorities to UK Law, serve the greater community outside the university.

On the HealthCare side, Health Occupation Professionals for Equality (UK HOPE) is a LGBT advocacy group for health professional students, faculty and staff of the University of Kentucky medical campus.

We are open to all members of the UK Healthcare community, whether gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual or transgender; the only requirement is a desire to promote LGBT equality



# Sexual Health Course at UK Public Health

Undergraduates at the University of Kentucky can sign up for a new course called "Sexual Health."

The three-credit class, the first of its kind at UK, is being offered as an option for the social sciences requirements in the UK Core.

The innovative and exciting course is being taught by Richard Crosby, DDI Endowed Professor in the College of Public Health, who has studied condom usage and the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases since 1995. Crosby says anyone could benefit from taking this course, but it is especially important for people of college age.

"We have robbed our youth of a decent sex education," Crosby said. "This course aims to overcome this problem. It is designed to provide students with the information and skills they need to improve their sexual health throughout their lives."

Crosby stresses that this course is "sex-positive," in that it embraces sexuality as

an integral and essential component of human health. Although the curriculum includes instruction on avoiding disease and preventing unwanted pregnancy, Crosby says there's much more to sexual health than avoiding the negatives.

"Health has to do with understanding the body, both your own and other people's," he said. "One of the best aspects of sexual health is that it can lead to improved overall health. Science has discovered there are many health benefits from sex, especially in the context of a loving and caring relationship."

Crosby assures students that even if they had a good sex ed class in high school, this course is going to provide them with new information, drawing on the latest research. A couple of good examples are the "trust hormone" oxytocin and the "reward chemical" dopamine. Research shows that levels of both are increased after the experience of strong sexual feelings, in women and men. Both chemicals are associated with numerous

health benefits, as well as overall feelings of wellbeing, Crosby says.

There is also a lot of new and emerging information about sexually transmitted diseases, which students will not have been aware of before. For example, Crosby cites a spike in head and neck cancers scientifically linked to oral transmission of human papillomavirus (HPV).

"The class will help students learn how to protect themselves by identifying risks and by teaching them how to avoid risks," he said.

Students who sign up for Sexual Health will also gain an understanding of "sexual pluralism." This point of view does not advocate or elevate any particular type of sexual behavior or orientation, but rather acknowledges that healthy sexual expression can encompass a variety of different behaviors. The only two immovable parameters for defining "healthy sexual behavior," according to Crosby, are that it is consensual and that it occurs between adults.

This semester, 40 students are enrolled in the course. The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Students love the class," Crosby said. "What we are doing at the university level is what other countries have done with comprehensive sex education, starting around the fourth or fifth grade. We take sex off its pedestal, so students can learn about it in a way that is open and honest. It makes learning easier."

The course, currently offered as UK 131, is part of a comprehensive strategy by the College of Public Health to include more undergraduate course offerings in population health. In the fall, it will be offered under a new course number, CPH 203.

The fall enrollment cap will be set at 200 students, but Crosby says if there are students waiting to get in, he will push to increase that number by 100 each year.

"I'll teach it in Memorial Hall if I need to," he said.

## EKU Alphabet Center



We are a resource center led by activists dedicated to providing a safe and affirming space for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, students, faculty, and staff. The organization acts as one local headquarter in the advancement of LGBTQ civil rights. We strive to break barriers, stereotypes, and reach equality within our campus, community, state, and nation.

**Location: Miller Basement**

For information on events and meeting times follow our Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ekualphabetcenter/>



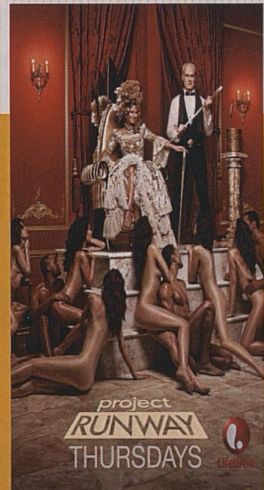
**More questions?**  
[thealphabetcenter@gmail.com](mailto:thealphabetcenter@gmail.com)

# THINGS WE LIVE FOR

4

## Project Runway Season 12

From the most talented and interesting cast in years to all the new changes, our favorite fashion show is back with a vengeance. The Tim Gunn save--the blind runway shows--online voting in real time--the leather daddy in the Loreal make up room--we raise our judge's cards in Nina Garcia style so we don't miss a shimmering detail Thursdays at 9 p.m. on Lifetime.



## Tegan and Sara

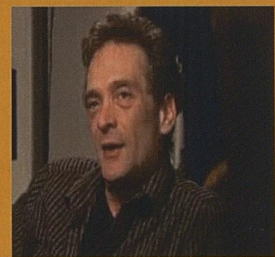
With hits like Closer and I Was A Fool, this Canadian, Indie Rock duo of identical twins has us playing Hearthrob over and over and over again And yes they are gay.

3

2

## Colbert Report's People Who Are Destroying America

Funny & heartbreakingly real, the openly gay mayor of Vicco, will change you. <http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/428601/august-14-2013/people-who-are-destroying-america---johnny-cummings>



## Celebrities Coming Out

From athletes likes Jason Collins to News Anchor Anderson Cooper we have been so proud all summer long but nothing got our attention like the stand taken by Wentworth Miller who refused to host a Russian event because he is gay.

1

# Senior Initiative Sets Lexington LGBT Community Apart: Conference September 18<sup>th</sup>

Written by: Sandy Spaulding & Troy Johnson

**Hunger occupies Frank's days. He fumbles through his dark apartment searching for the telephone. "Hello." Frank has dialed the number for the local senior center. "My name is Frank, and I'm 73. I need help, but I don't know where to go."**

The voice on the other end of the phone began asking routine questions about Frank's resources, health, and abilities. He interrupted, "I'm afraid to tell you something about me that could keep me from getting help. You see, I'm..." There was silence on the line as Frank took a deep breath. "... I'm a homosexual, and

I know that can keep me from getting help from the government. Right?"

The social worker was saddened by Frank's condition and his fear of asking for help. As a much younger man, Frank had been discharged from the Army for falling in love with another man, and lived his

entire life keeping it a secret. Now there was someone on his phone who was ready to help him.

As more and more Americans are reaching their senior years the demand for such services also increases, but in the case of Frank, an LGBT senior, many are reluctant to access services. LGBT seniors are five times

less likely to access services than their heterosexual counterparts. This leaves them more vulnerable to isolation, hunger, depression, abuse, and neglect. (Project Visibility, Boulder Colorado)

Lexington is often considered a model for LGBT leadership, programming, and advocacy. We have one



of the state's largest LGBT fairness organizations in Lexington Fairness, a city fairness ordinance protecting the rights of LGBT citizens, an openly gay mayor, judge, and council member, several

LGBT student groups and PFLAG, Speak Out an anti-bullying project, thriving night clubs, the Imperial Court an active philanthropic drag organization, the Gay & Lesbian Service Organization (GLSO) and Pride Center... and the list goes on.

But it's the GLSO's groundbreaking new senior initiative, Senior PRIDE,

which has heads turning; its soul mission is to address and prevent isolation among the aging gay population in the Bluegrass area. It keeps a busy social calendar, monthly potlucks, an outreach program that finds, calls and visits gay seniors, plus educational programs that help LGBT seniors with life skills and accessing services.

"She is my sister," Pat told the intake social worker at a local nursing home. In fact, Joan was not Pat's sister. Joan was her loving partner of 43 years. Recently, Joan, now 83 years old, was teaching a new friend how to dance and

stumbled. Her fall left her with a broken hip, and more badly bruised ego.

After her surgery, the hospital felt it would be best for Joan to recover with around the clock care. The best option was a rehabilitation unit in a nursing home.

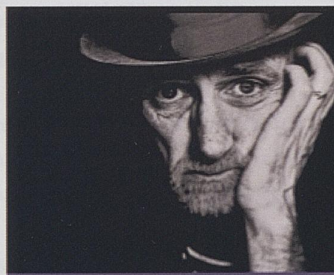
With accounts like these piling up on social workers desk across the country, there is little room for apathy or inaction. GLSO, the Bluegrass Elder Abuse Prevention Council, and the Lexington Senior Center are working together to co-host Lexington's first conference

directed to LGBT seniors. "SeniorPRIDE: A Conference on LGBT Aging" is dedicated to helping LGBT seniors to trust and access services, and increase awareness of their stories.

The conference will be held at the Lexington Senior Center on Wednesday, September 18 from 1:00 - 5:00pm.

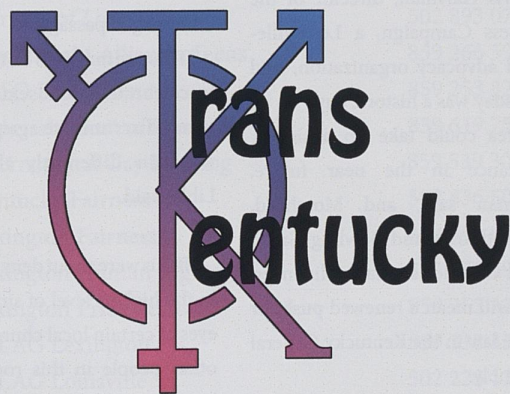
The event is free and open to the public, but participants are required to

RSVP at [GLSO.org](http://GLSO.org) Senior PRIDE Conference Registration or by calling 859-552-5402.



**Abuse hurts at any age ...**

**Bluegrass Elder Abuse Prevention Council**



**TransKentucky Meeting, Oct 5th, 2013, 7:30pm at the GLSO Pride Center.**

Dr. Keisa Bennett, MD/MPH, Department of Family Medicine will Join us for our October meeting to discuss research with the transgendered community. She is really interested in talking to us about the research she is doing. (Right now it's all surveys and interviews.) She may also invite people to participate if they haven't and give them information about how to do that. Mostly though she is planning to have an "off-the-record" conversation about research in general, how it's perceived, what the needs are, and how university and community groups and individuals can work together to further knowledge and awareness.

# Frankfort Fairness

Written by: Greg Kocher

## State Capital becomes 5<sup>th</sup> Kentucky city to pass Fairness Ordinance

FRANKFORT — Kentucky's capital became the fifth city in the state to adopt an ordinance prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations based on sexual orientation.

With the 3-2 passage of the ordinance Thursday by its city commission, Frankfort joined Lexington, Louisville, Covington, and Vicco in Perry County as cities with similar ordinances.

Mayor Bill May and commissioners Katie Flynn Hedden and Tommy Haynes voted for the ordinance. Commissioners Robert Roach and Lynn Bowers opposed it.

Under the ordinance, complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity would go to the mayor or a designated fairness officer, who would work to resolve the dispute.

If that is unsuccessful, the person alleging discrimination could file a formal complaint with the seven-member Frankfort Human Rights Commission, which will be created by the ordinance.

The ordinance provides exemptions for religious institutions. It also includes a

provision governing how cases should be handled when an alleged violator holds "a sincerely held religious belief."

Businesses with fewer than eight employees would be exempt from the hiring provisions, but they could not deny services to customers on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Passage of the ordinance was postponed twice this summer as amendments were added.

The ordinance had been scheduled for final passage Monday, but that was postponed when the commission added "legal guardianship" to the definition of family.

Bowers sought to make two amendments that could have further delayed passage.

In the first amendment, Bowers made a motion to better define "gender identity." Hedden initially seconded the motion for the amendment but she later withdrew her second.

Bowers then sought to add "asexuality" to the list of protected statuses. That motion died for lack of a second.

"Because, for the first time, more than a quarter of Kentuckians live in a city with anti-discrimination fairness protections."

Chris Hartman, director of the Fairness Campaign, a Louisville-based advocacy organization, said Thursday was a historic day.

Berea could take up a similar ordinance in the near future, Hartman said, and Morehead, Elizabethtown and Bowling Green could consider similar ordinances. That will mean a renewed push for a state law in the Kentucky General Assembly.

"As more and more Kentucky cities do this, the state legislature is going to have to address the issue,"

Hartman said.

"There should be one uniform law that covers and protects everyone so that it doesn't have to be passed piecemeal across the commonwealth. But until those protections are extended, it's going to have to be done at the local level."

The commission listened to an hour of public comments on the ordinance before taking a vote shortly after 9 a.m.

The Rev. Wade Hughes of West Frankfort Church of God cited passages from the Bible that speak against homosexuality.

"I beg you not to pass this," Hughes told the commissioners.

But Frankfort resident Christina Libby urged passage.

"This ordinance is not a demand to celebrate (homosexuality) but to not discriminate against people who sin differently than you," Libby said.

"If this were about denying service to the highest level of sinner in the eyes of certain local churches, I and other people in this room would have gone hungry, homeless and jobless a long time ago."

Reprinted from kentucky.com



# LinQ TELEPHONE DIRECTORY



## HIV/STS Testing, Services and Information

AIDS Volunteers of Lexington (AVOL)	859 225 3000
Health Department, Fayette County	859 288 2437
Health Department, Woodford County	859 873 4541
HIV/AIDS Legal Project	502 584 1254
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	800 929 8000
24-Hour Teen Crisis Line	800 999 9999
Alcoholics Anonymous	859 967 9960
AA/Alcoholic Teens	859 277 1877
Council for Peace and Justice	859 488 1448
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	859 539 3058
Kentucky Fairness	502 836 5085
Lexington Fairness	859 951 8565
Lexington Human Rights	859 252 4931
Lexington Pride Festival	859 253 3233
PFLAG Lexington	859 338 4393
PFLAG Louisville	502 223 1323
Sister Sound	859 806 0243
Social Services, Lexington	211
Speaker's Bureau	859 266 5904

TransKentucky  
United Way

cassiemt@yahoo.com  
859 313 5465

## Religious Groups

Lex Friends, Quakers	859 254 3319
Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church	859 255 1074
Unitarian Universalist Church	859 223 1448

## Student Groups

Berea College ACE	859 958 3633
Centre College BGLA	859 238 5332
EKU Alphabet Center	

dan\_hendrickson13@mymail.uk.edu

Morehead State University	606 783 2294
UK OutSource	859 323 3312

To list Your Group, email your group name and telephone number to: [editor@glso.org](mailto:editor@glso.org) and we will add you to our directory!



# LinQ CALENDAR SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 1  
2:00pm Bible Study

Monday, September 2  
AA Meeting (AVOL, suite 120)

Wednesday, September 4  
7:00pm LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, September 5  
6:30pm GLSO Board Meeting

Friday, September 6  
3:00pm Outloud! Radio Show  
6:00pm Pride Night @ Kings Island  
6:30pm Lexington Gay Geeks Sci-Fi Club

Saturday, September 7  
6:30pm TransKentucky Meeting

Sunday, September 8  
6:00pm Imperial Court Meeting

Monday, September 9  
AA Meeting (AVOL, suite 120)

Tuesday, September 10  
6:30pm PFLAG Meeting  
7:00pm HIV/AIDS Support Group  
(AVOL, suite 120)

Wednesday, September 11  
7:00pm LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, September 12  
7:00pm LOVEboldly Board Meeting

Friday, September 13  
3:00pm Outloud! Radio Show

Saturday, September 14  
9:00pm Kentucky Bourbon Bears Board Meeting

Sunday, September 15  
2:00pm Bible Study  
6:30pm Team Lex Volleyball

Monday, September 16  
AA Meeting (AVOL, suite 120)

Wednesday, September 18  
7:00pm LGBT Discussion Group

Friday, September 20  
All day Editorial Deadline for LINQ Magazine  
3:00pm Outloud! Radio Show  
6:30pm Lexington Gay Geeks Sci-Fi Club  
7:00pm Senior's Bistro (Potluck)

Saturday, September 21  
7:00pm LGBT Movie Night

Sunday, September 22  
6:00pm Imperial Court Meeting  
6:30pm Team Lex Volleyball

Monday, September 23  
AA Meeting (AVOL, suite 120)

Tuesday, September 24  
6:00pm Kentucky Health Cooperative and KYnext presentations on Healthcare Affordable Care Act

Wednesday, September 25  
7:00pm LGBT Discussion Group

Friday, September 27  
3:00pm Outloud! Radio Show

Sunday, September 29

Monday, September 30  
AA Meeting (AVOL, suite 120)

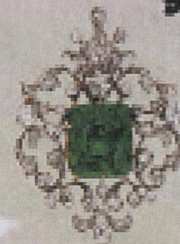
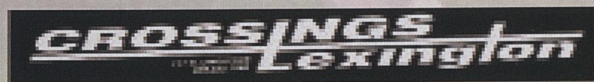
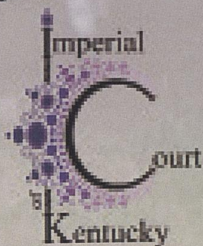


# DIVAS OF HAZZARD

\$5  
DONATION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

SHOW AT  
9:30 P.M.



LOOK FOR OUR EVENTS ON FACEBOOK OR [WWW.IMPERIALCOURTKENTUCKY.ORG](http://WWW.IMPERIALCOURTKENTUCKY.ORG)

NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE CHARITIES OF THE IMPERIAL COURT OF KENTUCKY

# WUKY and UK Army ROTC 2013 BLUEGRASS MUD RUN



## WHAT IS THE BLUEGRASS MUD RUN?

- A muddy 5K run with UK Army ROTC designed obstacles to test your endurance and get you DIRTY!
- Student and Uniformed Service Member Discounts Available
- Like us on Facebook to get special race hints and clues: [facebook.com/bluegrassmudrun](https://www.facebook.com/bluegrassmudrun)
- Must be at least 14 years old to participate
- The only mud event in the area where 100% of the proceeds benefit two local non-profit organizations: WUKY and UK Army ROTC

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 21, 2013

**WHERE:** Commonwealth Stadium  
University of Kentucky

**Registration online at**  
[www.bluegrassmudrun.com](http://www.bluegrassmudrun.com)

### BLUEGRASS MUD RUN PARTNERS

UKHealthCare.

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UK ARMY  
ROTC

WUKY  
NPR ROCKS @91.3

