

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Volume 19 Number 2

Civil Rights Attorney BETH ROBINSON Reel World String Band Concert

Attorney Beth Robinson served as cocouncil in the Baker v State case before the Vermont Supreme Court that opened the way for state-recognized civil unions for same sex couples. She then led the lobbying effort that led to the passage of the Vermont civil union law - the first ever in the United States.

Bluegrass Fairness is bringing Robinson to Lexington for a weekend of activities. On Friday, Feb 13, Ms. Robinson will speak at Memorial Hall at 7 pm. A suggested donation of \$5 is asked.

How will the Vermont decision for same-sex civil unions affect the national dialogue and how might it affect us in Kentucky? Do you know the difference between domestic partnership, civil union, and civil marriage? Ms. Robinson will address these issues on Friday night.

On Saturday at 10 am at the Beaumont Branch of the Public Library, Fairness is offering a seminar featuring Ms. Robinson on "Rights and Responsibilities of Same-Sex Couples." Topics will include investment, realty, power of attorney, living wills, and more. A suggested donation of \$5 is asked.

Saturday night, Feb 14, a benefit concert with Reel World String Band will be held for the Ky Fairness Alliance. Come celebrate Valentines Day with us at Memorial Hall at 7 pm. A suggested dona-...continued on page 2

AVOL Mardi Gras Ball

AIDS Volunteers of Lexington invites you to an evening of New Orleans-style revelry. Please join us for the AVOL Mardi Gras Ball on Saturday, February 21 at the Sheraton Suites, 2601 Richmond Road, Lexington.

Doors Open at 7 pm with Opening Ceremonies at 8 pm. There will be dancing, casino gaming, a cajun dinner buffet, a costume contest, and tarot card readings offered. Music for the eventing will be provided by Zydeco Bon. Master of Ceremonies will be Freakdaddy of 100.1 WKQQ.

Tickets are \$60 per person, and VIP Tables for 8 are available for \$600, and VIP Tables of 4 for \$300. For more information or tickets, contact AVOL at(859) 225-3000 or AIDSVolunteers@aol.com.

Special "Mardi Gras Ball" Room Rate of \$82 for a Suite are available for the 21st at the Sheraton Suites Lexington. Join us and *lets have a Ball!*

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'GLSO NEWS

Volume 19 Issue 2

published monthly by
The Lexington Gay
Lesbian
Service Organization
389 Waller Ave.

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GLSO Annual Dues & Newsletter.

Individual - \$15 Couple - \$25

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.

tion of \$10 is asked. This money will help Fairness in their work to achieve legal protections for LGBT people and to stop actions that are designed to slow or reverse our progress.

A number of states including Kentucky have proposed amendments to their states constitutions defining marriage as being between one man and one woman. Fairness is working in Frankfort to defeat such amendments. You can help by writing letters or emails, by lobbying and by calling your legislator. See page 8 for information about how to get involved.

St Mychal the Martyr Church Open House Jan 28 7 to 9 pm 1350 Eastland Dr. see page 15

MR. KENTUCKY BEAR BENEFIT

A Bar Night Benefit will be hosted by Bill Howard, Mr. Kentucky Bear 2003, on Sat, Jan 31, at Crossings. There will be a Raffle and Door Prizes starting at 10:30 PM. Grand Prize - 27" stereo color TV, DVD Player, DVD's, Local Merchant Gift Certificates, and other great prizes

There will also be a tee-shirt raffle starring guys from the Men of Crossings Calendar. Proceeds to benefit AVOL, GLSO, and travel expenses for Mr. KY Bear to compete at the International Bear Rendezvous in San Francisco.



Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World

and No Dumb Questions
Saturday, Feb 21 2 pm
Lex Public Library

see complete list of films on page 14

Community News

Pride Month Committee

The first organizational meeting to plan Pride Month 2004 will be on Thrusday, February 12 at 7 pm. This committee is open to anyone, just show up and get involved. We will set up the calander of events, choose a theme, and make decisions about advertising. All GLBT organizations are invited to send a representative to this meeting. For more information contact Terry at 252-2867

Men's Meet to Date

Men's Meet to Date gives men the opportunity to participate in fun activities designed to help people get to know each other followed by a dating match technique. Meet to Date will be at the Pride Center on Sat. Feb 21 at 3 pm. There may be another date scheduled, call the office (253-3233) or contact Darnel at darnel172000@yahoo.com

No one will be asked to go out with anyone they do not select and who does not select them. Dates can be as short as 20 minutes.

Miss Bag Lady Pageant

Club 141 will host the "Miss Bag Lady" Pageant on Wednesday, March 3, 2004. Doors open at 8:30pm and showtime will be at 9:30pm. There will be a \$3 door cover, all proceeds will be donated to a local charity. Featured entertainers will include the reigning Miss Bag Lady - Crystal Diamond, Val E. Cheridan, Rayna Starr, Godiva Amore and LaToya BaCall. Anyone interested in competing in the pageant should contact Crystal or Greg (manager) at Club 141. Entry Fee is \$10.

Miss Gay Valentine Pageant

The Miss Valentine Pageant sponsored by the Imperial Court of Kentucky is the state's oldest continuously produced contest for female impersonation. This year's pageant will be held at Club 141 on Wednesday, Feb. 11. Doors open at 9 PM and the pageant begins at 9:30.

Contestant may contact Empress 22 JD Vaughn at Sheldon311@aol.com for an application. Applications can also be obtained from and ICK Board member. Admission with a \$5 donation. Proceeds will benefit the charities of the Imperial Court of Kentucky, Inc.

Valentines Day at The Bar

Romance Will Be In The Air At The Bar Complex on Saturday, Feb. 14th, Valentine's Day. We are having a Valentine's Day Card Contest. Make your special someone or want-to-be special someone a card and we'll display it in The Lounge Bar. The Fancier, the Better!

The Winner will be chosen on Feb 10 and will receive: (1) Dinner for Two at Mia's (gift certificate), (2) A Bottle of House Champagne and (3) Four House Passes with a reserved table for four in The Gilded Cage Cabaret at The Bar for Valentine's Day night. There's a \$5 entry fee, turn your entry into Kenneth before closing on Feb 10.

DRESS AND GENDER ALLIANCE

The Lexington Dress and Gender Alliance will meet on Sat, Feb 7 at 8 pm. We will be talking with freelance Makeup Artist Kevin B. Shields (e-mail: kevb-sheilds@yahoo.com). He will give skin care advice and product recommendations, based on ...continued on next page

professional experience, price and product performance for both F2Ms and M2F's. Kevin will include a straight-foward discussion on contrast and color and give an demonstration, with step-by-step explanations and examples.

There will be a drawing at the beginning of the meeting, the winners will be the modles for this session. 2 winners for F2Ms, 2 winners for M2Fs. This is your chance to come and learn how to deal with skin problems, which makeup to choose and how to apply it. For more info please visit us at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LexDGA

Discussion Group

The discussion group meets every Wednesday night at 7 pm at the Pride Center and is open to all. Some members join when they are first coming out, others just enjoy hanging out with folks and discussing topics of interest. We strive to make this a safe space where yu can be yourself. For more information contact Jane at ladyjaneky@yahoo.com

Lexington Lyons Levi/Leather Club

The Lyons next business meeting will be on Feb. 9 at 8pm at the Pride Center. Anyone interested in learning more about the Club is welcome to attend. We will also be meeting for brunch at Mia's on Sunday Feb. 29. at 1 pm. Please join us. The Lyons are proud to be a Pride Patron of the GLSO Pride Center.

Sistahs in The Life

Sistahs in the Life is a support group for Black Lesbians and Bi-sexual women. Join us for provocative discussions about our lives and experiences. We meet at 7 pm every first Tuesday at the Pride Center. For information contact Joan at 859 539-2657 or email Jweslie@aol.com.

Gaymes Night

Due to lack of interest, Gaymes Night will no longer be held at the Pride Center on the fourth Friday of the month.

Mr. Ky. Leather 2004

The Imperial Court of Ky will sponsor the Mr. Kentucky Leather 2004 Contest on March 12-13, at Club 141 in Lexington. Assisting with the event will be Kentucky Leather Productions and the Lexington Lyons Leather Club.

The contest is open to residents of Ky and the Louisville and Cincinnati Metropolitan Areas. The is a \$15.00 entry fee. Interested persons should contact Larry Stanley at LDStanley09@aol.com or the Imperial Court of Kentucky, PO Box 265, Lexington, KY 40588.

UK Support/Therapy Group

The UK Counseling & Testing Center offers a weekly Therapy /Support group to provide a safe environment for GLBTQ folks to talk about issues related to their sexual/relational orientation.

The group will be led by Anne Edwards, Psy.D. and Colby Cohen-Archer, Ph.D. Students taking at least 6 credits at LCC or UK are eligible. The group is meeting on Mondays from 1-2. Anyone interested in joining or wanting additional information is encouraged to call 257-8701.

SisterSound

SisterSound is in rehearsal for their May concert every Sunday evening at 6 pm. If you would like to sing with us, come join us any Sunday at the Lansdowne Cumberland Presbyterian Church. For more info Patti (806-0243) or Toine (276-0753), sistersound@hotmail.com.

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PRIDE CENTER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

389 Waller Ave. 859-253-3233 Mon-Sat 10 - 3



Monthly Coffeehouse

Local singer-songwriter Lori O'Connor is hosting a free monthly coffeehouse/openmic at the Pride Center. On Saturday, February 21 at 7 pm come to the Center for some socializing and fun entertainment. Gay or gay-friendly poets and musicians are invited to share their works in a supportive and comfortable atmosphere. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Pride Center if you would like to sign up in advance. You can also contact Lori at lorioconnor@yahoo.com or 619-1717.

LESBIAN VIDEO NIGHT

We'll honor Black History Month by watching *The Color Purple* Friday, February 13 at 7 p.m. Steven Spielberg directed this 1985 film, which is based upon Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. While many have criticized Spielberg's portrayal of the lesbian relationship between Celie and Shug Avery, Spielberg's adaptation offers outstanding performances, beautiful cinematography and a soundtrack composed by Quincy Jones. The film's stars include Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Glover and Oprah Winfrey. Please join us for this unforgettable film.



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Pride Center Library Highlights: Love and Romance

Its February and that means Valentines Day. I have to admit I use to hate the "V" day when I didn't have a valentine to share it with, but now that I do, it's a big favorite of mine. So for those of you who already have a love in your life and for the rest of you who are working on it here are some titles from the Pride Center Library that might add to the romance.

Aphrodisiac: Fiction from Christopher Street (PS 648.H57 A6)

Cherished Love by Evelyn Kennedy(F Kenn C521)

Fairy Tales: Traditional Stories Retold for Gay Men by Peter Cashorali (PS 3553.A79393 F35)

Finding a Lover for Life: A Gay Man's Guide to Finding a Lasting Relationship by David M. Price (HQ 76.2.F494 P78)

Gay Love Signs by Michael Jay (BF 1729.H66 M621)

Lesbian Love Advisor: The Sweet and Savory Arts of Lesbian Courtship by Celeste West (HQ 75.5.W47 L62)

Man of My Dreams: Provocative Writing on Men Loving Men edited by Christopher Navratil (PS 509.H57 M36)

Parted Lips: Lesbian Love Quotes Through the Ages by Simone Rich (PN 6084.L45 P37) Sweet Machine (poetry) by Mark Doty (PS 3554.O798 D725 S74)

Wild Good: Lesbian Photographs & Writings on Love edited by Beatrix Gates (PS 509.L47 W54)

These and over 1,500 other books, videos, and audios can be checked out at the Pride Center Library Monday-Saturday from 10-3, 389 Waller Ave, Rainbow flag in the window.

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Bluegrass Chapter

Promoting equality for all people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity

Feb 13 Beth Robinson Keynote 7 pm
Feb 14 Robinson Seminar 10 am
Feb 14 Reel World String Band 8 pm
evening events at UK Memorial Hall
see page 1 for details

P.O. Box 22032 Lexington, Kentucky 40522 859-806-4114 www.bluegrassfairness.org www.kentuckyfairness.org info@bluegrassfairness.org

Lobby In Frankfort

Kentucky Fairness Alliance's Executive Director, Andrea Hildebran, will be in Frankfort each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the Legislative session to meet citizen lobbyists and help us talk with our legislators. She can be reached at 502-897-1973 (office) or at 502-387-0625 (cell).

Daily schedule:

8:00 - 9:00	Training and orientation
9:00 - 1:00	Meet with legislators
1:00 - 2:00	Lunch and de-briefing

We meet in the cafeteria in the basement of the Capitol Annex. Get there by 9 am if at all possible. You can come any day of the session, but you may be especially interested in these themed lobby days:

Youth lobby day: February 4

Transgender lobby day: February 18

Religious leaders: March 3
Allies lobby day: March 17

Contact your Representatives

We encourage everyone to e-mail or write letters to their Kentucky representatives and senators. Handwritten letters are particularly effective because they receive fewer of them.

If you don't know who your legislators are, go to www.vote-smart.org. Fill in your 9-digit zip code. For the mailing address see www.lrc.state.ky.us

You can also call to express support or disapproval of a bill. Call the messag line in Frankfort 800-372-7181. A live human being will answer the call, ask for your name, address, and phone number. You can leave messages for both your representative and your senator. However, they cannot look up your legislators for you. You must already know who you are leaving a message for.

If you want to be notified when a bill comes up for a vote, call or email Fairness, contact info above.

THE IMPERIAL COURT OF KENTUCKY PRESENTS



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bill ail Miss Gay Valentine 2004

Wednesday Feb. 11, 2004
Club 141
9:30 pm
\$5 Donation

Proceeds to benefit the charities of the Imperial Court of Ky.

Interested contestants contact Empress J.D. at empress22kyid@sol.com

http://kentucky.impcourt.org

St Mychal The Martyr

St Mychal the Martyr is having an open House on Wed. Jan 28 at 1350 EastlandDr from 7 to 9 pm. If you get this in time, join us. Sunday services are at the same location at 10:30 with Rev. Kenneth Waibel performing mass. St Mychal is a member of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America, a national denomination that is gay supportive. The OCCA performs blessings of gay unions, and ordains women to the orders of Deacon, Priest, and Bishop.

INTEGRITY

Integrity, a group for GLBT Episcopalians and friends, invites you to join us on Sunday, February 8 from 4-5:30 pm at St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 2025 Bellefonte St. For additional information call Rev. Sandy Stone at 277-7511 or email stmintegrity@yahoo.com

Soul Jorce

Soulforce Lexington follows the principles of non-violence practiced and taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. to confront "spiritual violence" against GLBT people. Members come from a variety of religious backgrounds work to confront the religious organizations and individuals that are using the Bible to preach against us. For infor call Jamie at 859-230-5625 or check out www.SoulforceLexington.org.

Unitarian Universalist Church

The UU Church of Lexington welcomes visitors at any time. Worship Services are at 9:15 and 11 am every Sunday. There is child care and religious education for young people K-12 during the second service. We are located at 3654 Clays Mill Rd.

The Women's Spirituality Group willl meet on Feb. 20. call Mary Crone 266-5904 for info and directions.



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February 2004



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 & 11 am UU Church 10:30 Mass @ St. Mychal the Martyr 6 pm SisterSound Rehearsal Landsdown Presby Church 7 pm Dignity Call for place	7pm GSA for youth ages 15 -20 (Call for place)	7 pm Sistahs in The Life - Pride Center	4 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 8 pm GaylLesbian AA (Call for place)	The case of the ca	6 can should yet a second a se	7 Pride Center Open 10 -3 8 pm LDGA meeting
8 9:15 & 11 am UU Church World 10:30 Mass @ St. Mychal the Martyr 2 pm 40+ Lesbians meet PC 6 pm SisterSound Rehearsal Landsdown Presby Church	8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place) 8 pm Lex. Lyon Lev// Leather Club Pride Center	10 7pm GSA youth ages 15 - 20 (Call for place)	7 pm Discussion Group 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 3pm Miss Gay Valentine Pageant Club 141	12 7 pm Pride Month Committee Meeting . open to all	7 pm Lesbian Movie Night, Pride Center 7:30 pm Gay(Lesbian AA (Call for place) 7 pm Beth Robinson to speak at Memorial Hall	14 Pride Center Open 10-3 10am Fairness Seminar (see p.3) Beaumont Library 7 pm Real World in Concert Memorial Hall 9 Cabaret The Bar
9:15 & 11 am UU Church 10:30 Sunday Mass, St. Mychal 2 pm One World Film M & M Smith Library see page 14 6 SisterSound Rehearsal, Landsdown Presby Church 6 pm Imperial Court PC	16 7 pm GLSO Board Meeting, Pride Center8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	17 7 pm GSA (Call for place) GLSO News Deadline	7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	19 Include yrigoedle not yennen is se doj se enotico etchi en emotico etchi entri de yennen ten or en git alift week to amoog v	20 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	Pride Center Open 10-3pm 2pm One World GLBT Films Lex. Pub Library 3 pm Men's Meet to Date PG 7 pm Open Mic Night at Pride Center 40+ Lesbians Poker Night
9:15 & 11 am Worship Services UU Church 10:30 Sunday Mass, St. Mychal 6 SisterSound Rehearsal, Landsdown Presby Church	7 pm GSA (Call for place) 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	7pm GSA for youth ages 15 - 20 call PC for place 7pm One World Film: Left Luggage Lex Pub Lib Theater	7 pm Discussion Group 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	26	27 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	Pride Center Open 10-3pm
9:15 & 11 am UU Church 10:30 Sunday Mass, St. Mychal the Martyr 1 pm Lyons Brunch at Mia's 2 pm Film Mr and Mrs Iyer UK Worsham Theater 6 pm Imperial Court PC	esons, Trait Riding, E in offi mucky. No	Meeting at the may be abbre Call for Pla abbreviat	ace may be	by going of Feb. 21 P	40 + Lesbians PM Pride Center Meetin out to eat. Members of oker Pot-Luck Night. 253-0061 for details.	



One World Film Festival

Free Admission

Sun. Feb 15 2 pm Central Library Theater M & M Smith: For Posterity's Sake A documentary by Heather Lyons

Morgan and Marvin Smith, twin brothers and prolific African American artists, boldly moved from Kentucky to New York City in 1933 to pursue artistic careers. By 1937 they had opened a photo studio next door to Harlem's renowned Apollo Theater. studio became a Harlem gathering place for the great African American performers, writers and political figures of the time including Duke Ellington, Eartha Kitt, Katherine Dunhill, Billie Holiday, Joe Lewis, Langston Hughes, Rev. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. and Dr. W.E.B. DuBois. Narration was written by poet Nikky Finney and performed by Ruby Dee. The screening will be followed by a reception.

Sat, Feb. 21 2 pm Central Library Theater
Two GLBT documentaries

Dangerous Living: Coming Out In
The Developing World 61 min. and
No Dumb Questions 24 min

Dangerous Living examines the struggles and triumphs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) people living outside of the western world. The film crew traveled to five continents to tell the stories of brave individuals working to make their homeland safer for GLBT people. Dangerous Living examines the oppression of GLBT people in many countries including Honduras, Kenya, Egypt, and Thailand. This award-winning documentary is the work of John Scagliotti, Dan Hunt, Janet Baus and Reid Williams. It is narrated by Janeane Garofalo.

MIORE E ILLMS IN MARCH

No Dumb Questions is a documentary about transitioning by Melissa Regan. Uncle Bill is becoming a woman and his 6, 9, and 11 year old nieces are struggling to understand how and why. With just weeks until Uncle Bill's first visit as Aunt Barbara, the sisters navigate the complex territories of anatomy, sexuality, personality, gender and fashion. Their reactions are funny, touching, and distinctly different. This film offers a fresh perspective on a complex situation from a family that insists there are no dumb questions. Panel Discussion and reception to follow the films.

Tues, Feb. 24 7 pm Library Theater Left Luggage

Set in Antwerp Belgium, in 1970 this film tells the story of two families with differing Jewish cultures. The main character is a young woman moving between the two families who, at the start of the film, is indifferent to her Jewish heritage. Chaja is a liberal philosophy student who reluctantly accepts a job as a nanny for an Hassidic family who's customs are foreign and disturbing to her. Rarely do films show events unfolding in such a graceful manner, from so many points of view. This film is funny, tragic and bittersweet. Reception to follow.

Sun, Feb 29, 2 pm Worsham Theater, UK Student Center *Mr and Mrs. lyer*

Meenakshi lyer is traveling with her nine month old son, Santanam. Raja Chowdhary, a Muslim is introduced to her through a mutual friend as they board the bus. Because Meenakshji is travelling alone with her infant, Raja takes on the responsibility of looking after her and everyone on the bus assumes they are a couple. When the bus is stopped by an angry mob of Hindu extremists on the prowl for Muslims, Meenaksi is frightened to be associated with Raja's and tries to distance herself from him. But fate has other ideas. Reception.

Open House Questions and Discussion Entertainment and Desert

Wednesday, January 28th, 2004 7 pm to 9 pm



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FINDING LUCY STONE by Kelly O'Ferrel

"When the thought first came to him, Farmer Hogart dismissed it as mere whimsy. But, like most of his hair brained ideas, it wouldn't go away." From the movie, Babe

I started working at UK in January 2001 and I was reading To Believe in Women - What Lesbians Have Done For America - A History by Lillian Faderman. I had this idea that I would create a time line so I could see all the names, pictures and dates and feel more connected. I went to Lowe's and found some wallpaper border that I could write on. My plan was to hang that border around the walls of one of the rooms in the house and start adding information to it.

I was living with my partner of 7 years in a house we'd just bought in October of 2000 and moved into with our three cats. It was around that time when out of the clear blue I heard, "Get a dog". It was a very clear, small voice. I ignored it for a while, but when I kept hearing it I eventually started talking about it. I ignored it because I didn't think I could take care of a dog, didn't think I really wanted/needed one.

But, after talking with my partner about it, I decided one Saturday in February, 2001 to go and just look at dogs. I had heard that Pet Smart had dogs there from foster homes. (When I start talking about something, inevitably I hear just what I need to hear to take the next step.)

I remember on my way there talking to my deceased dog, Linus. He's been dead now for at least 25 years, but I decided on that ride to ask for his help. So, I asked Linus to let me know which dog, if any, I was supposed to have. And I accepted that I may come home without a dog. I was not attached to any outcome.

When I walked into Pet Smart, there was a pen with several dogs about 6 months

old. The deal is you take a dog for a walk inside of Pet Smart to get a feel for the dog. So, I took my first dog on a walk. Well, actually, that dog took me for a walk. His nose was on the ground and I just happened to be at the other end of the leash. And I heard, "I've had enough of these relationships in my life - the ones where the other person doesn't really care if I'm there or not." After just a few minutes, I brought that dog back and moved on.

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As I rounded the corner, I saw a medium size dog in one of the wire kennels and a small dog lying in a bed. I asked if I could take the small dog for a walk. The woman said yes so I put the leash on its collar and was ready to go but the dog just laid there. That's when the woman said, "You have to pick him up and carry him for a while." So, I carried him a ways, put him on the ground, and he laid back down. And I heard, "I've had enough of these relationships in my life, too - the ones where I have take care of someone else."

That little dog was happily returned to his bed. It was then that I noticed the dog I'd seen in the kennel earlier. Now she was paying attention to one of the foster women. I hadn't thought too much of this one earlier because her hair didn't look as soft as I like and she was larger than I had thought about. But, for some unknown reason, I just saw her in a different way once she was out of that kennel. I asked to take her for a walk and what her name was. Her name was Lucy. I immediately remembered the book I was reading and thought, "Well, Lucy Stone, how wonderful!"

We ended up in an aisle all alone. I looked down at her, and she looked up at me; I asked her to sit and she did; I dropped the leash, asked her to stay and she did; I walked off, turned around, looked at her for a moment, she looked back at me; and I asked her to come

... continued on next page

to me and she jumped up and ran over to me. I knew right then I could love this dog as I stooped down to her and loved on her and she loved me right back.

Lucy fit right into our household. The cats eventually learned to ignore her when her nose was 1/8" from them - waiting on their next move (Lucy's part border collie). What I didn't see coming, but apparently Someone greater than me did, was when my partner left the relationship in April of 2001. It doesn't take much to look back and notice that I heard, "Get a dog" at just the right time. I needed Lucy to already be in my life when it changed so quickly. She saved my life for the next few months. The one dog I didn't think was "my type" was exactly what I needed. I love her and she loves me right back - I've needed that a lot

in the last three years. She's a one-woman dog - I've needed that too.

I never did make that time line. When my partner left, I threw it all away. I couldn't bring the way I'd felt when I was excited about it together with the way I felt after she left. I never cease to be amazed at how I hear something, have to take God knows how long (literally) to act on it, and then when I'm finally ready to trust and take action, it's just what I need. Like Farmer Hogart's hair brained ideas that just won't go away, I'm grateful that "Get a dog" stayed with me until I was ready. Time, patience and trust - The Universe teaches me in ways understand. Good thing They have a lot of those three qualities, 'cause I tend to forget and have to be reminded.

THE REAL LUCY STONE (1818-1893)

"At Oberlin, Antoinette Brown fell in love with Lucy Stone, with all the passion and sentimental license possible between women of the time." from The Better Half: The Emancipation of the American Woman by Andrew Sinclair (Jonathan Katz quotes from their love letters in Gay American History)

Antoinette Brown married Samuel Blackwell and Lucy Stone married his brother, Henry Blackwell, both in 1855. Antoinette Blackwell had seven children while Lucy Stone had one daughter - Alice Stone Blackwell, born in 1857. Lucy Stone never took the last name of her husband which led to other women who choose not to take their husband's last name being called "Lucy Stoners".

Lucy gave up working for women's rights for seven years after her marriage, Antoinette Brown for 18 years. Henry Blackwell convinced Lucy Stone to marry him by promising he would work by her side for women's rights - and he was true to

his word. Both Emily and Elizabeth Blackwell (Henry's sisters) remained unmarried and were among the first female doctors in America.

In 1869, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton founded the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) which was committed to working for a constitutional amendment that would enfranchise women (the right to vote). A few months later, those who believed women had a better chance of getting the vote through a state-by-state strategy rather than a campaign for a federal amendment formed the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA) and named Lucy Stone its' Chief.

In 1890, Alice Stone Blackwell, then the editor of Woman's Journal, managed to unite the NWSA and AWSA to create the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). This united group aided the passage of the 19th Amendment. The state by state ratification of the 19th Amendment was completed in 1920. Few early supporters lived to see this victory.



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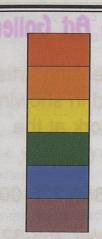
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GAY SPIRITUALITY: ICON 6

By Rev. Ken Waibel

Another common experience of the GLBT person is the feeling of Isolation. Similar to the previous icons of Exile and Mourning this common denominator of the gay experience reflects the reality of be unaccepted or isolated from the predominate "set". Certainly within those first days, months and years of coming to terms with the reality of being gay, the GLBT person experiences fear and anxiety over the lack of acceptance by family, friends and society. This sense and feeling of isolation is real and forces a certain amount of "backing away" that can become a stepping deeper and deeper into the closet and away from our true self. Isolation, especially when imposed upon us, can turn into anger, cruelty, selfishness, egoism and eventually hatred toward those who have caused the isolation.

This experience of isolation or being separated (set-apart) from the majority can have very positive and life giving effects. The "backing away" from others caused by being truly or apparently unaccepted, can force the person to step a little deeper into "self" thus enabling the "inner journey" to begin. We human beings are pretty resilient and we will find a way to survive, finding within ourselves the good or "acceptance" if it is not given from outside.

Looking within our self to find the good (or the holy) is the process of the "inner journey" (spirituality). The experience of Isolation can actually be a catalyst for selfdiscovery and self-acceptance.

Let's look at this another way: The process of being forced to discover self worth in the eyes of God without the assistance of society and/or church helps the GLBT person establish a spirituality earlier than most non-minority straight persons. For the straight married Caucasian "father of two" with the house in the subs and the white-collar job very little introspection is needed to discover self-worth. Such a person has his worth reflected to him daily by a society that celebrates these characteristics. This person barely needs to look within to discover his own beauty and dignity since he has "accomplished" what society desires.

The GLBT person, though suffering from such lack of acceptance and isolation, must find such positive reinforcement from within self - and this is the place where God meets us. Carl Jung called this the journey from the Ego to the true self. For the GLBT person Isolation may be the very thing that enables us to look deeper within, find the spark of God there, and then help the world see the dignity and beauty of each and every person.

Next month: The consolation (positive) icons of Gay Spirituality!

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Gay Supportive African Americans

Because there are vocal members of the African American community that say that they disapprove of the "gay lifestyle", many of us do not realize that we also have some firm support from black leaders. This is Black History Month, a good time educate ourselves about histories that didn't get equal time in our school lessons. Here are some quotations to get you started.

"I still hear people say that I should not be talking about the rights of lesbian and gay people and I should stick to the issue of racial justice. ... But I hasten to remind them that Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream to make room at the table of brotherhood and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people."

Coretta Scott King, 1998

We are at a crossroads over same-sex couples' freedom to marry. It is time to say forthrightly that the government's exclusion of our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters from civil marriage officially degrades them and their families. It denies them the basic human right to marry the person they love. It denies them numerous legal protections for their families.

This discrimination is wrong. I have fought too hard and too long against discrimination based on race and color not to stand up against discrimination based on sexual orientation. I've heard the reasons for opposing civil marriage for same-sex couples. ...they stink of the same fear, hatred, and intolerance I have known in racism and in bigotry.

US Congressman John Lewis

Now, visit a library and read some books by or about black GLBT people such as:

<u>Time on Two Crosses: The Collected</u> <u>Writings of Bayard Rustin</u>; Carbado and Weise eds., Cleis Press

Bayard Rustin worked all his life for human rights and did so as an out gay man, socialist and Quaker. He is credited with teaching M.L. King some of the non-violent techniques that made that movement successful. Rustin organized the march on Washington where King gave his "I have a dream" speech. We need LGBT African American books in our Pride Library, please consider donating some.

Register to Vote at the Pride Center

Mon - Fri 10 to 3

Same-Sex Couples and Advance Planning by Sherry Rostosky and Ellen Riggle

Over the past five years, we and our colleagues have conducted research on relationship commitment in same-sex couples. For some of the couples that we have interviewed, the creation of advance planning documents, such as wills or powers of attorney, are a part of their expression of commitment to each other. Other couples have an awareness of the importance of having these documents to protect their partner during times of crisis and have indicated that they "intend to get around to it." Our most recent research, however, indicates that only 1 in 3 same-sex couples actually have any advance planning documents.

Until same-sex couples have marriage rights, it is of vital importance that they obtain advance planning documents. The relationships of same-sex couples are not recognized by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, nor by localities within the state. Thus, the rights of marriage are not available to gay and lesbian couples. Same-sex couples, however, can specify rights through certain legal documents. Rights to property upon the death of a partner, as well as the right to make decisions regarding the medical care and finances of a partner can be created through advance planning.

Same-sex couples face a variety of obstacles in creating these documents. First, couples avoid talking about advance planning. In general, most people do not like to consider the possibility of severe injury or illness. The topic of death may also be hard to talk about, especially for younger people. Same-sex couples need to find a way to talk frankly about these subjects.

Same-sex couples may also mistakenly believe that if their families-of origin are either accepting or not present in their lives that their partner will be granted rights to property and decision-making. However, families-of-origin will be presumptively given rights, even to the point of being actively located for decision-making and to the exclusion of their partner. Therefore, the expression of wishes to members of the family-of-origin or to a partner are not sufficient to protect the rights of that partner during a crisis.

Locating and paying an attorney are Advice about advance also concerns. planning and sample documents are available on the web and from books. The use of web-based materials and information may help couples minimize the costs associated with advance planning. A really good book to consider reading is A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples by Denis Clifford, Frederick Hertz, and Hayden Curry (2002, Nolo Press). This book provides information about how to write living-together contracts, plan for medical emergencies, plan your estates, and includes sample wills and durable powers of attorney. Reading a book like this may also help couples become more knowledgeable and educated about the documents they need. A copy of this is available at the Pride Center library.

Many couples have special concerns and may wish to seek the assistance of an attorney. Although any attorney can draw up advance planning documents, samesex couples may have concerns about being treated in an affirmative manner. We have worked with Bluegrass Fairness to create a list of local attorneys who are gay-friendly and have experiences with advance planning. This list of attorneys is available from Bluegrass Fairness or the Pride Center.

While the fight for marriage rights for same-sex couples is an important long term goal for equality for all people, for the ...continued on the next page

advance planning. This list of attorneys is available from Bluegrass Fairness or the Pride Center.

While the fight for marriage rights for same-sex couples is an important the being same-sex couples must utilize the resources available to them to protect their partner and relationship during times of crisis. While the rights created by advance planning documents are limited, they will help to decrease the vulnerability of couples.

Participants Needed for Next Study

Sherry Rostosky, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology, and Ellen Riggle, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies, are both at the University of Kentucky. They are looking for interracial gay/lesbian/same-gender loving couples (at least

21 years of age and together at least one year) to participate in a study of race, romantic relationships, and relationship values.

Couples will participate at a time convenient for them and be compensated for their time (approximately 1½ hours). During this session, the couple will be asked to have a discussion about their views and perceptions about their experiences as an interracial couple that will be taped and later transcribed. 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. You are also invited to visit our website at

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Student Groups	People for Unity and Fairness803-1130
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HIV Support (Somerset)679-7478 or 678-5814	MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee)
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