

# ELSO NEWS October 2005

# A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization

Volume 20 Number 10

Fairness Education Seminar

# "Protecting Ourselves **Through Visibility**"

KY Fairness, Bluegrass Chapter has scheduled this year's Education Seminar for Saturday, Oct. 15 which is the weekend after National Coming Out Day, Oct 11. It will be held at the Downtown Library from 9 am to 4 pm. Parking is available in the Library Lot. The goal of this year's seminar is to provide "tools for change" for every attendee. We plan to encourage each of you to take YOUR next step Out, at whatever level is comfortable for you.

Being out and confident of one's sexual orientation is healthy for the individual and for the community. We know that people have safety and job security concerns, but protecting one's self by hiding and presenting a false persona has a cost. It creates constant stress and keeps us from ... Continued on page 3 being close to

# Movin', Movin', Movin'

By Terry Mullins

Moveable Feast is moving, no pun intended. We are moving to a new kitchen provided by the Episcopal Church at 1321 Trent Blvd. Lexington, 40517. We hope to be keeping the same phone number and mailing address. We plan to start delivering meals from the new location on Monday, October 3, exactly seven years to the day we served our first meals from the kitchen at St. Augustine's. In those seven years we have delivered over 150,000 meals to very needy people and families in Lexington.

Why are we moving? Several good reasons:, the kitchen we are in is old and crumbling. The new kitchen is bigger with Continued on page 2

# The Imperial Court Presents Turnabout & Diva of Darkness

Join the Imperial Court of Kentucky as we kick off the Halloween Season in Style. On Wednesday, October 5th we bring you the Emperor's Turnabout which features male line members taking a stab at female impersonation. It may not be pretty. The show will be at The Bar Complex at 9:30 pm. Be sure to get there early for a good seat. This always promises to be one of the better attended court functions.

Two weeks later, on Wednesday, Oct. 26th. The Court will host its annual Diva of Darkness pageant, also at The Bar Complex at 9:30 pm. For a contestant application, email Empress Phoenix Gave at Phoenixgaye@aol.com or see any board member. Doors for both shows will open at 8:30 pm with a \$5 cover. All proceeds go to the charities of the Imperial Court of KY.



# ActOut Tryouts

Auditions for the next ActOut play will be on November 3

(Thurs.) and 4 (Fir.) at 7 pm at the Pride Center. The play will be the controversial Corpus Christi. Their is a perusal script at the Pride Center if you would like to familiarize yourself with the play.

Sponsor of The Month

Debra Hensley Insurance & Retirement Planning 276 - 3244



# GESO NEWS

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# GLSO Membership and Newsletter:

Individuals or Couples \$20. For One Year Subscription.

Opinions expressed in the GLSO News are those of the authors and don't necessarily represent those of the GLSO Board. Submissions received after the deadline, which is the 15th of each month, may be cut or not printed when space is limited. The staff reserves the right to edit or reject submissions

Moveable Movin ...continued from page 1 up to date stainless steel sinks and garbage disposals, walk in freezer and cooler. It is on the ground floor, not in a basement. We won't have to feel like mole people anymore, we will see the sun, the rain, the snow and the trees. It also has parking, lots of parking without UK police lying in wait to write a ticket. And best of all it has air conditioning. In the summer it will no longer be 95 outside and 100 in the kitchen.

Why are we moving on such short notice? Katrina. The property we are going to is the old Excepticon which has many dormitory style buildings. The church is planning on housing as many as 200 evacuees from the storm-ravaged South for up to a year and a half. They have asked Moveable Feast to feed them in addition to our regular clientele. They are working to secure the funding for the increased service and employees it will take to feed that many more people.

This doesn't mean that we don't need your contributions, we really do, now more than ever. Earlier this year we saw a drop in donations because of the tsunami and now Katrina hits us. I realize there are only so many charity dollars to go around and I am not really complaining; however, we still have our people to feed and AVOL still has their people to house and care for and the Rape Crisis Center, and the Hope Center etc. etc. All I'm saying is with all the major crisis' everywhere don't forget about us here at home struggling to help those in need. If you want to help Moveable Feast call 252-2867 or visit www. Feastlex.org.

# BLUEGRASS CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING WED., OCT 26 7 PM DOWNTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Conference Room A - Basement
Come discuss the work ahead of us, elect
A new Steering Committee, and see

"OUT IN THE HEARTLAND"

See page 10

# Community News

#### **Fairness Seminar**

.. continued from page 1

our friends and family members. Coming out whenever we can Coming out wheneer we can helps develop selfrespect and self-assurance.

As more of us come out, our visibility provides political and social protection to GLBT people. Studies show that individuals who get to know GLBT people become more positive in their attitudes towards us. The more of us that are out and visible, the more society accepts us. and the safer we are.

Family members and straight friends or co-workers can also learn how to be out as allies to GLBT folks. We all wonder at times about how to speak up when someone makes an anti-gay comment or joke. Allies may also want to know how to help family members, friends or coworkers as they move through the coming out stages.

We want to facilitate personal change in a supportive environment that will help give people the personal tools they need. We are planning interactive workshops designed to meet the needs of people who are at different levels of visibility:

Level I - For people who are in the earliest stages of coming out.

Level II - People who are out in a limited way, to their closest friends or family member(s), & are considering the next step.

Level III - People who are out and proud in many aspects of their lives and ready to do Join us on Oct 8 as we help each other create a fair and safer world.

**GLBT Adoption and Foster Parenting** See page 10, 14 - 15

Coming Out article page 8 **Review of Southern Baptist Sissies Uncensored Page 16** 

The Bar Halloween see page 22

### AVOL ART FOR LIFE

Life is a celebration, and AVOL is leading the way with its 2005 fundraiser, Art for Life. AIDS Volunteers, Inc. ART for Life Art Auction will be November 6, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Mansion at Griffin Gate located at 1800 Newtown Pike in Lexington.

This year's event will feature gourmet hors d'oeuvres, fine art, a live and silent auction, live entertainment, a cash bar, and perhaps even a ghost sighting! The cost will be \$25 (price includes one drink ticket) or two tickets for \$40 (price includes two drink tickets) for a spectacular evening steeped in Southern charm.

Local and nationally known artists will be featured including Arturo Sandoval. Our feature piece this year is a 1974 Keeneland billboard. Join us and enjoy great food, music and exquisite art! For more info on this event. sponsorship, art auction updates or to donate art please call (859) 225-3000 or visit our website at http://www.aidsvolunteers.org. We can't wait to see you there!

# 26th Annual GLSO Camp Out

by Steve Ross

Yes, it was October, 1980, and the first GSO Camp out was held at Eddie's farm in Josephine, KY. About 21 campers made it down the narrow one-lane roads, and a tradition was born. We had a huge bonfire. roasted hotdogs and marshmallows, drank a little beer, and had a lot of fun. The next morning we all went on the first of many annual hikes through the woods.

This year, my partner Mark and I will celebrate our 25th year together. We met on the way to the camp out, and started dating a few weeks later. We have made it every year to the camp out, occasionally with only one of us going.

Over the years, the camp out continuously changed, just like the Gay community in Lexington. It grew to a large turnout with over 120 people, including motor homes and televisions. The smallest turnout

... Continued on next page

was about 12 people, but each year was always special. Eventually, Willy & Eddie built a home on the farm, so now we have facilities! Men and women both have had that special connection with nature, the stars, the rain, the cold, and especially the cow patties. The large community breakfasts are always a nice treat.

This years "Party in the Country" will be Saturday, October 8, starting after 1:00. Bring camping gear and food if you want to spend the night, or just come for the fun. Drink and snacks will be provided. Call Eddie @ 259-0878 or 221-1415 for directions. Get involved with GLSO-You'll be glad that you did!

# SisterSound

SisterSound is observing its tenth anniversary concert season. We will celebrate the occasion at both the winter (January 21) and spring (May 20) concerts by reprising the very best of our repertoire from the past ten years and adding new music that celebrates the lives of women.

If you have ever sung with SisterSound and have thought of coming back some time, this is the season to do it. Or if you have considered giving us a try, come lend your voice as we prepare to put on our best shows yet. Rehearsals are at 6 pm every Sunday at Landsdowne Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 333 Redding Rd. For information call 806-0243 or email Patti at paowens@excite.com.

What will you get out of singing with SisterSound? Teri, a member from 1996 says "I can't imagine my life without this and create our own sets."

"We are a non-auditioned chorus. Some of us have been singing in public as long as we can remember; others never sang anywhere outside of the shower. This group works for all of us. We support each other and give each other the courage to do things we never dreamed were possible."

Come to a rehearsal and see how you like it. There are no auditions and we are open to all women.

#### 40+ Women

The 40+ Club is a group for women over 40 (and younger friends) who are interested in attending a wide variety of activities together. We have lots of activities on the agenda for October and early November.

On Thurs, October 13th we are going to see Etta May at the Comedy Off Broadway Theater. Tickets are \$10.50 and if you want to sit with us you need to get your money to me or Jane by October the 7th. Etta May sells out quickly, so we've got to act fast.

Keenland will be open from October 7 to 29. We've not made any firm dates for this, but are open to suggestions.

We are going on a day trip to the Red River Gorge Sunday, Oct. 23. Meet at the Pride Center parking lot at 10AM. We'll be back about dark. We will ride the lift to the top of Natural Bridge and drive around the Gorge to see the fall foliage. We had a great time last time we did this.

On November 5 we are going to Equus Run Vinyards to a wine tasting and live music party to benefit God's Pantry. Bring two nonperishable foods for the entry fee. 1-4pm

If you have questions or would like to be added to the 40+ mailing list, call or email Ginger and Jane at 859-253-0061 or ggclr@yahoo.com for information.

# Rainbow Families

Rainbow Families will have their October / Fall outing on Saturday,October 22nd at the Double Stink Hog Farm: <a href="http://www.doublestink.com/">http://www.doublestink.com/</a> - (502) 868-9703 Located at 5312 Paris Road Georgetown, KY 40324. Time still TBD. Call Cheryl or Jen at 859-523-3083 for specifics and more information.

Rainbow Families of Lexington (RFOL) is an organization for gay and lesbian parents and their children in the Lexington area. Our mission is to show our children that there are other families like theirs. We invite parents as well as those who are just starting their journey to parenthood to join RFOL. To become a member call Jen at 533- 3083 or join http://Groups.yahoo.com/groups/rfloky.

More Community News on page 6

# **Debra Hensley Insurance**

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# Pride Center News

389 Waller Ave.

859 253-3233

Mon. - 3ri. 10:00 - 3:00

Volunteers keep the Center open after 3 and on Saturdays. Call to be sure someone is here.

# **Save The Pride Center**

### How you can help

#### 1. Subscribe to this newsletter -pg 22

- 2. Bring old cell phones and empty ink jet cartridges to the center.
- 3. Attend our Board Meeting on Oct 17 and consider joining the board or one of our committees.

# Coming in November Saturday Night at the Pride Center

We will be open in the evening on the second Saturday of each month for films, games or just hanging out. Check next months newsletter to see what we will doing on Nov. 13th.

# Lexington Insight

Lexington Insight is a group for gay men to meet and socialize. We will be meeting on the first Friday of each month. Join us on Friday, Oct. 7at the Pride Center

### DISCUSSION GROUP

Every Wednesday 7 pm
Pride Center 389 Waller Ave.
Open to all.

Jane at ladyjaneky@yahoo.com.

# **Diversity in Gender Alliance**

The Lexington Diversity in Gender Alliance (LDGA) will be meeting on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 7:30 pm. Call for location. L D G A is open to all people who transcend gender norms or who are questioning their gender identity including transsexuals, effeminate men, masculine women, gender queers and more. Family and supportive friends are welcome. This is not a therapy group.

# Pride Center Library Highlights: Mysteries for Halloween BY JANE MINDER

Its time for ghosts and all those things that go bump in the night. Try some of the queer mysteries for some Halloween fright. *Early Graves:* Dave Brandstetter Mystery by Joseph Hansen (F Hans E36)

Eye Contact by Michael Craft (F Craf E97)

Ghost in the Closet: Hardly Boys Mystery by Mabel Maney (F Mane G427)

Grave Talent by Laurie R. King (F KingL G775)

House at Pelham Falls by Brenda Weathers (F Weat H842)

*Innuendo:* Todd Mills Mystery by R.D. Zimmerman (F Zimm I58)

Lavender House Murder by Nikki Baker (F Baken L399)

Old Black Magic: Robin Miller Mystery by Jane Maiman, (F Maim O44)

One Dead Drag Queen: Tom & Scott Mystery by Mark Richard Zubro (F Zubr O58)

Soul Snatcher by Camarin Grae (F Grae S722)

These and many other books and videos can be check out from the Pride Center Library. The Pride Center at 389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100 is open Monday-Friday, 10-3.



"Keep the love you find, Get the love you want!"

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Wednesday
October 5th
The Bar Complex
9:30 P.M. \$5 Cover

# National Coming Out Day By Tom Collins

I once made a joke that National Coming Out Day had nothing to do with Gay Pride. I went so far as to state that the idea was not even conceived by the GLBTQ community, that in fact it was created by right-wing politicians in order to find the best designers, florist, caterers, stylist, and personal trainers to hire for those upcoming holiday parties. The fact that it comes in October is no coincidence, but just a matter of timing. Of course I was just making a joke. In fact I personally believe that every day in National Coming Out Day.

There are few days that I do not have to announce to someone that I am Gay. Whether it be a new acquaintance at work, a new neighbor, an extended family member, or a salesperson asking to speak to "the lady of the house."

Some days I am really put off by this. I have come to believe that anyone should be able to readily identify me as Gay, apparently I have set my expectations too high. Earlier this year a gentleman in the cafeteria at work, was signing up people for a blood drive (just another of the discriminatory activities that I, as a gay man, am banned from participating in). He approached me and asked if I would like to donate blood. I responded. obviously you have mistaken me for a heterosexual. I was surprised that he jumped back as in fear, clutching his clipboard to his chest. I then realized how much power the statement has. Stating that you are Gay can garner a myriad of reactions from people, but regardless of how they react you will receive a feeling of power from simply making the statement out loud.

Sorry for the long prelude to my initial intent. I would like to challenge every member of our community to come out to themselves in a different manner. Professionally I work in the field of HIV prevention. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is encouraging

every sexually active person to know their HIV status. Never has it been so simple to gain this information. A free test which does not require blood can provide results in as little as twenty minutes. For more information about the availability of the test you can contact Tom Collins at 800-420-7431.

Knowledge is power! Exhibiting the power to state you sexuality to others is definitely beneficial to our feeling of selfworth. The knowledge of our HIV status gives us the power to structure the rest of our lives. Please accept my challenge to come out to yourself in regard to your HIV status.

# Inclusive Hate Crime Legislation

The U.S. House of Representatives voted in September to amend the Children's Safety Act by adding the "Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Hate Crimes Prevention Act." If enacted into law, the amendment'sprovisions would extend existing federal hate crimes laws that already cover crimes motivated by race, color, national origin and religion to include crimes based on actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, disability and gender identity including gender-related characteristics. The gender identity language was added just this year to make clear that he legislation applied to hate crimes against transgender people. The vote on the amendment was 223 to 199, with 30 Republicans supporting the amendment the full bill later passed the House overwhelmingly.

# Scott Ackerman

Scott Ackerman along with other real estate agent has opened Keller Williams Realty of the Bluegrass. This is a full service, high energy company that will give its agents access to the latest tools, education and marketing techniques.

"This company reinforces the client focus and service that has been a corner stone of my career." says Scott. If you are thinking of buying or selling your home, give Scott a call today. He can be reached on his mobile phone at 859 338-8438 or email him at SAcker4224@aol.com.

art for

November 6, 2005 The Mansion at Griffin Gate

1800 Newtown Pike Lexington, KY

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

\$25 for one ticket (includes one drink ticket)
\$40 for two tickets (includes two drink tickets)
Featuring gournet hors d'oeuvres, fine art, a live and silent auction,
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### The ACLU Comes Out

The American Civil Liberties Union has worked for GLBT rights for decades. But their "coming out" as an ally did evolve over a number of years. In honor of Coming Out Month, here are some of the first cases that the ACLU took on in behalf of GTLBT people.

#### Pre-Stonewall

1940 - Defense of *The Children's Hour* against censorship for lesbian content

1956 - Defense of San Francisco Bay Area gay bar (Hazel's Inn) raided by police

1957 - Defense of Allen Ginsberg's Howl against obscenity charges for gay content

1963 - Defense of gay man fired by U.S. Government (Scott v. Macy)

1963 - Sodomy law challenge (*Enslin v. Walford*)

1965 - Challenge to police raid on a San Francisco event sponsored by the Council on Religion and the Homosexual

One of the first gay rights rallies held at Independence Hall in Philadelphia to demand changes in policies that listed homosexuality as an illness and national security threat

1966 - Challenge to Florida law outlawing gay bars (Inman v. Miami)

1967 - Challenge to Los Angeles ordinance making it illegal for performers to "impersonate a person of the opposite sex"

Challenge to deportation of gay man (Boutilier v. INS)

Sodomy law challenge (*Delaney v. Florida*)

1969 - Demonstrations against a police crackdown at the Stonewall gay bar in New York City sparked the LGBT rights movement.

After Stonewall, the ACLU took more and more GLBT related cases. We encourage you to look over their web site (www.aclu,org) and consider becoming a card carrying member of the organization.

# Gay and Lesbian Parents

ACLU reports on the many studies that say we are doing a great job.

The last decade has seen a sharp rise in the number of lesbians and gay men forming their own families through adoption, foster care, artificial insemination and other means. Researchers estimate that the total number of children nationwide living with at least one gay parent ranges from six to 14 million.

Many states have moved to safeguard the interests of children with gay or lesbian parents. For example, at least 21 states have granted second-parent adoptions to lesbian and gay couples, ensuring that their children can enjoy the benefits of having two legal parents, especially if one of the parents dies or becomes incapacitated.

Recognizing that lesbians and gay men can be good parents, the vast majority of states no longer deny custody or visitation to a person based on sexual orientation. State agencies and courts now apply a "best interest of the child" standard to decide these cases. Under this approach, a person's sexual orientation cannot be the basis for ending or limiting parent-child relationships unless it is demonstrated that it causes harm to a child -- a claim that has been routinely disproved by social science research. Using this standard, more than 22 states to date have allowed lesbians and gay men to adopt children either through state-run or private adoption agencies.

Nonetheless, a few states -- relying on myths and stereotypes -- have used a parent's sexual orientation to deny custody, adoption, visitation and foster care. For instance, two states (Florida and New Hampshire) have laws that expressly bar lesbians and gay men from ever adopting children. Religious fundamentalists are planning to use gay lesbian adoption and foster parenting as a wedge issue that can pull voters to the polls to vote Republican. This is an issue that you should care about weather or not you ever want to be a parent. It is part of the larger picture of GLBT rights.

... Continued on page 14

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Kentucky Fairness Alliance Bluegrass Chapter	806-4114
Windy Knoll Farm Riding Lessons, Trail Riding, Boarding	299-7410
Quirk Café and CoffeeRailroad Street in Midway	859 846-4688
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#### **GLSO** Newsletter Calendar October 2005

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

Saturday Monday Wednesday Thursday Friday Sunday Tuesday 2p Narcotics Anonymous call for place 278-7103 More information about many of the events are in this newsletter. You may want to call or email the group to confirm the date and time, see the 7: 30 p LexDGA (Call for place) directory on back page. 9:30p Mr. KY Leather Pride Center may be abbreviated - PC Call for Place may be abbreviated- Call Contest @ Club Liquid sponsored by the ICK. 7:30 Lexington Insight
@ the Pride Center | 2p Narcotics Anonymous call for place 278-7103 9:15 & 11a UU Church 7p GSA (call for place 7p GLSO Discussion @ the Pride Center Discussion/Speakers 266-5904) Group-PC 26th Annual GLSO Camp Out for Info. call 259-0878 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA (call for place) 278-7103 8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 278-7103 (call for place) 278-7103 or 221-1415. 9p ICK Turnabout @ The Bar Complex for Location) 278-7103 9a-4p KFA Bluegrass Chp Seminar @ Public Library 2p Narcotics Anonymous call for place 278-7103 10a UU Church 10:30 a St. Mychal's 6p Bluegrass Fairness-PC 7p GSA (call for place 7p GLSO Discussion 7:30 p Gav/Lesbian AA 10a UU Church
10.30 a St. Mychai's
2p Women's 40 + GroupPC8p AA Open
4p Integrity @ St. Michaei's
6p Imperial Court Mtg.-PC
(call for place) 278-7103 (call for place) 278-7103 266-5904) Group-PC **National Coming** 8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 278-7103 Out Day! **Columbus Day** Newsletter Dead-line 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA (call for place) 278-7103 2p Narcotics Anonymous call for place 278-7103 7:30 p GLSO Board Mtg. 7p GSA (call for place 7p GLSO Discussion 10a UU Church 8p AA Open Discussion/Speakers Group-PC 8p Gay/Lesbian AA 10:30 a St. Mychal's 266-5904) SoulForce (call Jamie 230-Call for place 278-7103 5625) (call for place) 278-7103 9:30 ICK Divas of Hazzard Show @ Club 2p Narcotics Anonymous call for place 278-7103 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA 8p AA Open 7p GSA (call for place 7p GLSO Discussion (call for place) 278-7103 Discussion/Speakers 266-5904) Group-PO 6p Imperial Court Mtg.-PC 9:15 & 11a UU 278-7103 gn 8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 278-7103 Annual Sleaze Ball @ the Bar Complex. 8p AA Open 9:30p ICK Divas of Church 10:30 a St. xtravaganza @ the Bar Discussion/ Darkness Pageant @ the Bar Complex. Speakers (call Mychal

Daylight Savings
Time fall back. for place)



8pm - Gay/ Lesbian AA Discussion/Speaker(Call for Location) 278-7103

#### Tuesdays:

7pm - GSA (Gay Straight Alliance)

#### Wednesdays:

7pm - GLSO Discussion Group 8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA (Call

9pm - Rainbow Bowling League Southland Lanes

#### Fridays:

8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for Location) 278-7103

#### Saturdays:

3pm Narcotics Anonymous 278-7103

#### Sundays:

9:15 & 11am - UU Church Worship Services. 10:30 - Mass, St. Mychal The Martyr.

6pm - SisterSound Rehearsal @ Landsdowne Presby. Church.

#### Bi-weekly:

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

#### **Monthly Activities:**

Mondays: 7pm - GLSO Board Mtg. (3rd Mon.) 7:30pm - Fairness (2nd Mon.)

8pm-Lexington Lyons (2nd Mon-Every 3 months)

Tuesdays:

Wednesdays:

Thursdays:

Fridays:

7:30pm - Lexington Insight 7:30pm- LexDGA (1st. Sat.) (1st Friday)

#### Sundays:

2pm -Women 40+(2nd. Sun) 4pm- Integrity (2nd Sun)

GLSO Page 13

# Gay/Lesbian Parenting Continued from page 10

All of the research to date has reached the same unequivocal conclusion about gay parenting: the children of lesbian and gay parents grow up as successfully as the children of heterosexual parents. In fact, not a single study has found the children of lesbian or gay parents to be disadvantaged because of their parents' sexual orientation.

Good parenting is not influenced by sexual orientation. Rather, it is influenced most profoundly by a parent's ability to create a loving and nurturing home -- an ability that does not depend on whether a parent is gay or straight.

There is no evidence to suggest that the children of lesbian and gay parents are less intelligent, suffer from more problems, are less popular, or have lower self-esteem than children of heterosexual parents. The children of lesbian and gay parents grow up as happy, healthy and well-adjusted as the children of heterosexual parents.

As noted in the "Leave No Child Alone" article last month there is a critical shortage of adoptive and foster parents in the United States. As a result, many children have no permanent homes, while others are forced to survive in an endless series of substandard foster homes. It is estimated that there are 500,000 children in foster care nationally, and 100,000 need to be adopted.

There is much evidence documenting the serious damage suffered by children without permanent homes who are placed in substandard foster homes. Children frequently become victims of the "foster care shuffle," in which they are moved from temporary home to temporary home. A child stuck in permanent foster care can live in 20 or more homes by the time she reaches 18. It is not surprising, therefore, that long-term foster care is associated with increased emotional problems, delinquency, substance abuse and academic problems. These children need parents

But negative beliefs about gay and lesbian parenting still plague us. Knowing what the arguments will be in advance, we can prepare answers that will convince at least some people. For example: Those arguing for a ban on gay lesbian adoption and fostering say that children need homes with a mother and a father that are married to each other.

Children without homes do not have the option of choosing between a married mother and father or some other type of parent(s). These children have neither a mother nor a father, married or unmarried. There simply are not enough married mothers and fathers who are interested in adoption and foster care. Our adoption and foster care policies must deal with reality, or these children will never have stable and loving homes.

Another argument for a ban: Children need a mother and father to have proper role models. Children without homes have neither a mother nor a father as role models. And children get their role models from many places besides their parents. These include grandparents, aunts and uncles, teachers, friends, and neighbors. In a case-by-case evaluation, trained professionals can ensure that the child to be adopted or placed in foster care is moving into an environment with adequate role models of all types.

There are of course people who believe that gays and lesbians do not have stable relationships and therefore should not be trusted with children. Like other adults in this country, the majority of lesbians and gay men are in stable committed relationships. Of course some of these relationships have problems, as do some heterosexual relationships. The adoption and foster care screening process is very rigorous, including extensive home visits and interviews of prospective parents. It is designed to screen out those individuals who are not qualified to adopt or be foster parents, for whatever reason.

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Others believe that children who are raised by gay and lesbian parents will be subjected to harassment and will be rejected by their peers. Harassment does happen. But children are made fun of for many reasons,: being too thin or too tall, for being shy or awkward, for being of a different race or religion. All parents have to be prepared to help their children deal with these issues. Children in stable and loving home environments show remarkable resiliency,

Children who are in foster care are more likely to have self-esteem issues that make them particularly vulnerable to harassment. Certainly leaving children parentless within the foster care system will not make them psychologically stronger. Agencies that evaluate potential parents often work with families to help meet the needs of these children.

Of course people say that children raised by gay and lesbian parents will grow up to be gay. This is obviously not true. Most of our children grow up to be

heterosexual. The percentage that grow up to be gay in our families is about the same that grow up to be gay in families of heterosexual couples.

All of the evidence shows that lesbians and gay men can and do make good parents. The American Psychological Association, in a recent report reviewing the research, observed that "not a single study has found children of gay or lesbian parents to be disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents," and concluded that "home environments provided by gay and lesbian parents are as likely as those provided by heterosexual parents to support and enable children's psycho social growth."that is why the Child Welfare League of America, the nation's oldest children's advocacy organization, and the North American Council on Adoptable Children say that gays and lesbians seeking to adopt should be evaluated just like other adoptive applicants

### How Straight Thou Aren't: Southern Baptist Sissies Act Out A guest review by Candace Chaney

Sex and religion are interminably entwined. Don't believe me? Consider my old friend, a Baptist preacher's daughter, who sat smack in her pew one Sunday morning while some boy (not a boyfriend, literally "some boy") fingered her from hymns to invocation! If memory serves me she also gave another "some boy" a blow job in one of the empty Sunday school rooms in the basement.

Hell, even my own first experience with tangible lust occurred at Church Camp (which smells like sex and god and every degree of godly and ungodly sex in between). After getting "saved" in this cattle-call-hysteria-twinged service, some hard-bodied, seventeen-year-old Jesus freak gave me a whopping loin-to-loin, welcome-to-the-fold hug. Damn! I thought (ok probably not but I think Damn! in retrospect cause I still want that boy), that feels GOOOD!

So, were my friend and I sinning in the eyes of the Church what with all our lusting and fornication-leaning tendencies? You bet. Evidently though, some sins are more palatable than others.

Namely, straight ones are better than gay ones. For instance, you wanna spank it to Pam Anderson's tits? Not a problem, just ask for forgiveness, in private. You want to suck a wiener (and you also happen to have a wiener)? Uh, hold still while we cart you off to conversion therapy and pray for you to be cured of the devil's sickness. What does any of this have to do with theater?

Enter Act Out theatre group and their recent production of Southern Baptist Sissies, a play by Del Shore. Nestled into the cozy theater in the downtown public library, Southern Baptist Sissies centered on the plight of four young boys struggling to understand their sexual identity within a myopic church culture that charged the boys with the least palatable sin of all - the sin of being born...queer.

Peppered with alternating moments of cantankerous humor and bittersweet poignancy, this production held nothing

back. Under David Sentore's direction, it explored each of the boys' individual struggles, and ultimate fates, with rare gusto.

The audience loved the young, flaming Benny Watson turned drag queen Iona Traylor (exuberantly played by Troy Johnson) so much that they marched up to the stage and tipped! They cracked up at "Peanut", Michael Thompson's over-the-top, over-thehill barfly. His outrageous, gay-bar-hoppin' scenes shared with church-girl-turned-alchy, Odette Annette Barnette (Juanita Jeter) had folks catching their breath in between belly laughs. Yet beneath all the hilarity lurked a sense of emptiness, of decay, of the sad fate of the outcast. Moments like when Odette Annette talked about the church and lamented, "I miss the music," I thought yeah, so do l.

Then there was poor Andrew (played by the truly adorable Miles Meehan), the first to 'accept Jesus as his personal savior' and also the first to self-destruct once he was outed by his mom. His suicide punctuated the gravity and seeming futility of the boys' ultimate question how can you survive in a world where your very nature condemns you to hell, where you are guaranteed 'weeping and gnashing of teeth'?

Mark and TJ, once lovers, took bitterly opposite stances in attempting to answer this question. A spurned Mark (Marc Roland) fiercely questioned and ultimately rejected the church, but felt strangled by hatred and self-loathing. Shayne Brakefield's character, TJ, went the other way. He accepted that his homosexuality was a sin and he supposedly got 'converted' to straightdom. The fiercer TJ insisted on his newly-minted hetero status, the greater his desires for Mark seemed to rage. Brakefield's performance as a man wavering between his beliefs, his identity, and his true love was utterly heart-wrenching.

As a recovering Baptist myself, this show hit me in the gut, where sex and music and god all intermingle. It reminded me of this night I was hanging out at Mia's. It was a slow night, and a bluegrass band from Eastern Kentucky auditioned. I don't know what possessed them to play gospel songs in a gay bar, but they did. As I scanned the eclectic crowd during "When They Ring Those Golden Bells", I couldn't help but notice everybody knew the words.

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# St. Mychal The Martyr

St. Mychal The Martyr Parish invites you to our services on Sundays at 10:30 am. with Rev Ken Waibel performing mass. We are located at 1350 Eastland Dr., Suite #5, off Winchester Rd. St. Mychal is a member of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America, a national denomination that is gay supportive, performs blessing of gay unions, welcomes divorced people, and ordains women into the orders of Deacon, Priest and Bishop.

The Orthodox Catholic Church is one of about three dozen offshoots of the Roman Catholic Church and is open to married, divorced and single people, welcoming all regardless of the blessings or problems of their lives.

The church is named for Rev. Mychal Judge, an openly gay priest and a chaplain for the New York Fire Dept who was killed on Sept. 11, while trying to rescue victims at the world Trade Center. He was made a Saint by the Orthodox Catholic Church in 2002.

St. Mychal's has space available for meetings and receptions. Call 859 389-9418 or email kypadre@aol.com for information.

# Jubilee Fellowship

The Jubilee Fellowship continues to meet every Sunday for Worship at 11 am, at 713 East Loudon Avenue. We will serve the community as a safe place to come and receive the love of Jesus through a variety of resources. We have a big vision and a big God. If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of please contact Pastor Cori Wood @ 859-514-5518 or e-mail us @ jfellowship@aol.com.

We have also started a support group. Koinonia, that is meeting every Friday night from 7 to 9 pm. This is a place you can come to discuss spiritual abuse issues, addictive behaviors and how to overcome them. It is a safe place to come to begin to re-discover your spirituality. The group is facilitated by Rev Sandy Nabozny who has a Masters in Human Services, over 20 years in drug and alcohol counseling and is experienced in dealing with battered persons. Her co facilitator is Karen Taylor who has a Masters in Education and a BS in Psychology and Sociology. Karen has three years experience in leading similar support groups. She is also an ex-ex gay group leader. For information call 514-5518.

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The Orthodox Catholic Church of America

# Religious/ Spiritual Resources

Integrity

Integrity a support group for GLBT Episcopalians and friends meets the second Sunday of every month. A ministry of Saint Michael's Episcopal Church on Bellefonte Dr. In October we will meet Sunday 1 in the Chapter Room of the church. All are welcome to attend. To contact Integrity email us at stmintegrity@yahoo.com or call Markus at

Unitarian Universalist Church

The Unitarian Universalist church is a welcoming congregation. We invite you to attend our worship services, Sundays at 9 and 11 am,. Wednesday night discussion groups, or participate in our social justice activities. We also have an active teen program that usually has sons and/or daughters of GLBT parents.

Interweave, our GLBT and friends support group, will be getting together to go out to lunch on the fourth Sunday of the month. Meet in the lobby after church. We would like to make plans to sponsor a few movie nights or other activities this coming year.

Lexington Friends Meeting

The Lexington Friends (Quakers) invite you to our Sunday Service at 10:30 am. We are located at 649 Price Ave. Between 6th and 7th streets parallel to N. There is singing for 15 minutes before the service and adult discussion between 9 and 10:15. Child care is available during the discussion period and religious education for children is held during the service.

Our services are unprogramed meetings which means we sit together in silence until someone is lead to speak from the silence. Such spoken words are usually brief, and there may be several messages or occasionally none. Our form of worship is similar to meditation but is definitely a shared experience.

We have no clergy or sermons and we believe that all of us have access to spiritual truths within ourselves. believe in the equality of all people and work for social justice on a number of fronts. Visit us and learn more about our varied beliefs.

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# The Great European Witch Hunt Summarized from an article by Jenny Gibbons

Feminists and Pagans are often interested in the centuries of witch burnings in Europe. Since it is the season we think of witches, I decided to update my information on The Burning Times by checking what was new on the Internet. I found a very well researched article by Jenny Gibbons, a neo-pagan, that totally changed my understanding about this period of history. Jenny Gibbons has an M.A. in medieval history and minored in the history of the Great Hunt. This is a brief cut and paste of her well reasoned article. Please go to www.cog.org/witch\_hunt.html to read the full text.

Since the late 1970's, a quiet revolution has taken place in the study of historical witchcraft and the Great European Witch Hunt. Unfortunately, little of the new information has made it into popular history. If your knowledge of the "Burning Times" is based on popular literature or Pagan writings nearly everything you know may be wrong. This is primarily because we rely so heavily on out-dated research.

As new data appeared, historians altered their theories to account for it. We Neo-Pagans have not. We continue to use of outdated sources, we avoid the somewhat dry academic texts that present solid research, preferring sensational writers. We owe it to ourselves to study the Great Hunt more honestly, in more detail, and using the best data available. We say "Never again the Burning!" But if we don't know what happened the first time, how are we ever going to prevent it from happening again?

Before the 1970's, historians and writers of popular literature based their work on documents written by witch-hunters and a few records of sensational trials. These individuals wrote to convince people that witchcraft was a grievous threat to the world. They often exaggerated the number of deaths and spread wild estimates about how many witches existed.

Courts that tried witches kept records,

but the huge number of trial records (millions) made it difficult to pull out the relevant data. Historians have recently made careful examinations of trial transcripts. As a result, we now have a good idea of the dimensions of the Witch Hunts: where the trials occurred, who was tried, who did the killing, and how many people lost their lives. There definitely were some times and places of "witch hysteria where many women were tortured and killed. But the new data does change some of our understandings.

Modern research challenges theories that blame the spread of Christianity for Witch Hunts. All pre-modern European societies believed in magick and passed laws prohibiting magickal crimes. Pagan Roman law and the earliest Germanic and Celtic law codes all contain edicts that punish people who cast baneful spells. This is only common sense: a society that believes in the power of magick will punish people who abuse that power.

There is evidence that early Christian missionaries encouraged laws protecting men and women from charges of witchcraft -- charges, they said, that were impossible and un-Christian. For example, the 5th century Synod of St. Patrick ruled that "A Christian who believes that there is a vampire in the world, that is to say, a witch, is to be anathematized; whoever lays that reputation upon a living being shall not be received into the Church until he revokes with his own voice the crime that he has committed."

Pagan practices continued in all the countries we now consider Europe for many centuries after Christianity had become the dominant religion. Although often tolerated as the beliefs of the country people, attitudes towards witchcraft began to change in the 14th century. After the terrible devastation of the Black Death (1347-1349), Jews, Moslems and witches became feared as "plague-spreaders".

The first mass witchcraft trials appeared in the 15th century. What we

... Continued on next page

think of as "the Burning Times" -- the crazes, panics, and mass hysteria -- largely occurred in one century, from 1550-1650. In the 17th century, the Great Hunt passed nearly as suddenly as it had arisen.

When all trials are plotted on a map, surprising patterns emerge. The rate of executions varied dramatically throughout Europe, ranging from a high of 26,000 deaths in Germany to a low of 4 in Ireland.

For years, the responsibility for the Great Hunt has been dumped on the Catholic Church's door-step. But when the Church was at the height of its power (11th-14th centuries) very few witches died. Persecutions did not reach epidemic levels until after the Reformation, when the Catholic Church had lost its position as Europe's indisputable moral authority.

The worst horrors occurred where central authority broke down, such as in areas of Switzerland and Germany, where rival Christians sects fought to impose their religious views on each other. England, which had a strong government, had little witch hunting.

For many, the "Inquisition" and the "Burning Times" are virtually synonymous. The myth of the witch-hunting inquisition was built on several assumptions and mistakes, all of which have been overturned in the last twenty-five years. For example, many records said that a witch was tried "by inquisition". Some writers assumed that this meant "the" Inquisition. And in some cases it did. But an "inquisition" was also the name of a type of trial used by almost all courts in Europe at the time.

As historians examined the records in greater detail, they found that the majority did not involve the Inquisition, merely an inquisition. In countries like Italy and Spain, where the Catholic Church and its Inquisition reigned virtually unquestioned, witch hunting was uncommon.

Moreover most of the killing was done by secular courts. Church courts tried many witches but usually imposed non-lethal penalties. A witch might be excommunicated, given penance, or imprisoned, but she was rarely killed.

Consider the case in York, England, at the height of the Great Hunt (1567-1640) one half of all witchcraft cases brought before church courts were dismissed for lack of evidence. No torture was used, and the accused could clear himself by providing four to eight "compurgators", people who were willing to swear that he wasn't a witch. Only 21% of the cases ended with convictions, and the Church did not impose any kind of corporal or capital punishment.

The vast majority of witches were tortured and condemned by secular courts. These community-based courts were often virtual slaughterhouses, killing 90% of all accused witches. National courts condemned only about 30% of the accused.

Why were the execution rates so vastly different? Civil courts tended to handle "black" witchcraft cases, trials involving charges of magickal murder, arson, and other violent crimes. Church courts tried more "white" witchcraft: cases of magickal healing, divination, and protective magick. Courts treated healing more leniently than cursing.

Additionally, secular and religious courts served two different purposes. Civil courts "protected" society by punishing and killing convicted criminals. The Church's court system was designed to "save" the criminal -- to make him or her a good Christian once more. "Community-based" courts drew their officials from the community, the group of people affected by this panic. National courts also had more distance from the hysteria.

Court records show there was no characteristic that the majority of witches shared, in all times and places. Not gender. Not wealth. Not religion. We can isolate certain factors that increased a person's odds of being accused. Most witches were women. Many were poor or elderly; many seem

to be unmarried. Most were alienated from their neighbors, or seen as "different" and disliked.

Healers made up a small percentage of the accused, usually between 2% and 20%, depending on the country. Diane Purkiss (The Witch in History) pointed out that "midwives were more likely to be found helping witch-hunters" than as victims of their inquiries. Feminist authors rightly lambasted male doctors who blamed unexplained illnesses on witches. Trial records suggest that this did happen, though not terribly often. Traditional healers and "white" witches routinely blamed diseases on other healers and offered counter-spells to cure their patients. Many were even willing to divine the name of the cursing witch, for a fee.

One basic fact about the Great Witch Hunt stands out: most of the people accused were women, approximately 75% -80%. However there were some area where men and women were equally accused rand in Iceland over 90% of the accused were men. Given the sexism of the times, it's not difficult to find shockingly misogynist witch trials. But misogyny was not the basis for all witch hunts.

The most dramatic changes in our vision of the Great Hunt centered on the death toll. To date, less than 15,000 definite executions have been discovered in all of Europe and America combined. Even though many records are missing, it is now clear that death tolls higher than 100,000 are not believable.

Today there is perhaps 20 times as much information available about Witch Hunts then we had two decades ago. Once the domain of historians alone, the study of Witchcraft now attracts anthropologists and sociologists who offer radically new interpretations of the Great Hunt. Anthropologists point out the ubiquity of witchcraft beliefs, demonstrating that the Great Hunt was not an exclusively European phenomenon. Sociologists draw chilling parallels between the Great Hunt and recent panics

over Satanic cults, evidence which hints that we're still not out of the shadow of the Burning Times.

As a Pagan, I encourage you to look at the current research and discover what the evidence is now saying about the Burning Times. Dualistic fairy tales of noble witches and evil witch hunters have great emotional appeal, but they blind us to what happened. And what could happen, today.

# The Bar

The Bar has two great evenings planned for the Halloween Weekend. On Friday, October 28th join us for our annual Sleaze Ball. Find something fun and outrageous to wear and join us. There will be a prize for the best sleazy costume.

The next night, Saturday, Oct 29th, we will have our 25th Anniversary Halloween Extravaganza Ball. If you have never been, to this annual event, you need to come and experience it yourself. There will be Prizes for the best costumes.

You are invited to drop by and see us at the bar any night of the week. Or come by after work, Happy Hour is from 4 to 7, Monday through Saturday.

### Volunteer at the Pride Center

Are you sitting at home wondering what you could do to help your community and at the same time have some fun and maybe meet some new friends? Come and volunteer to help fold, assemble, and maybe deliver a few Pink Pages. We will be meeting at the center on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 11 am.

Jackie, who is one of the volunteers who helps keeps the center open every Saturday, will be organizing this effort. The **Pink Pages** is a directory of gay friendly businesses in the local and surrounding area's. We have run out of copies so come help us put some more together. If you can not come that Saturday, but want to help out in some way, please call the Pride Center at 253-3233 and leave your name and how we can reach you.

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# October 15

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