



Connecting the Bluegrass Pride Community

**PRIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES ORGANIZATION
presents:**

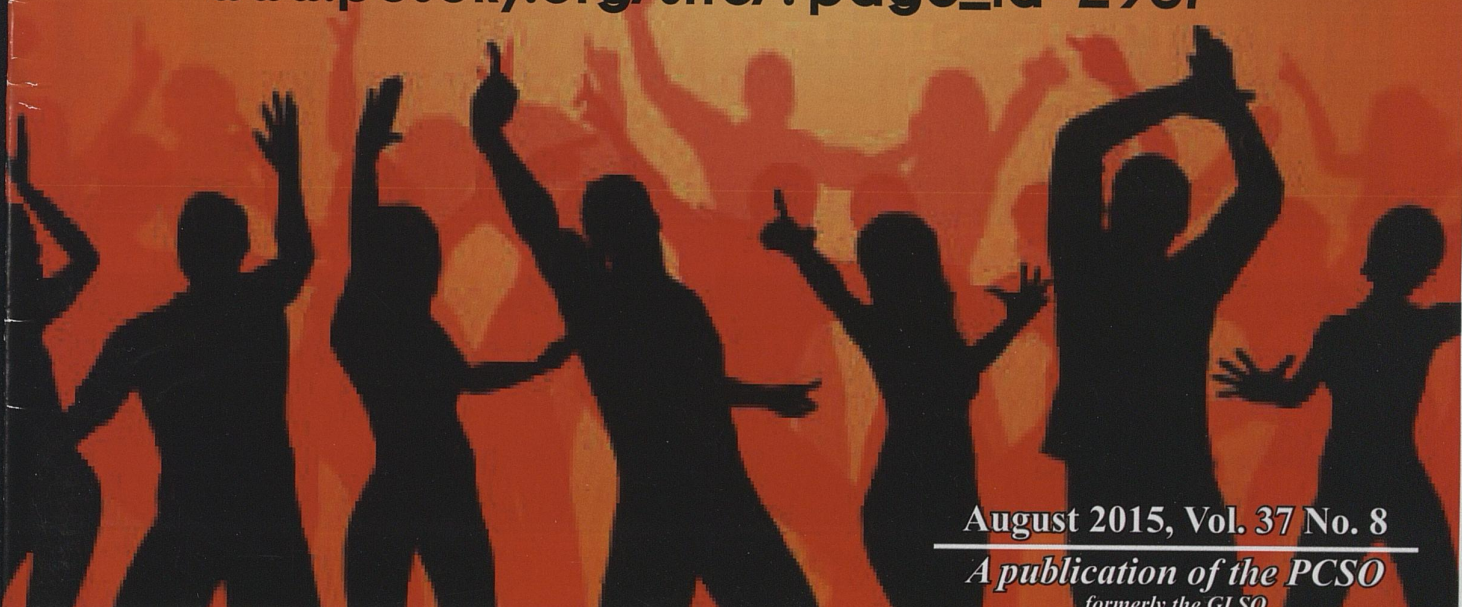
PRIDE COMMUNITY PROM

A prom for adults that didn't feel comfortable taking the date of their choice to prom, because love knows no gender.

August 28th • 8PM - 12PM

Lyric Theatre • 300 E Third Street

www.pcsoky.org/site/?page_id=2987



August 2015, Vol. 37 No. 8

***A publication of the PCSO
formerly the GLSO***

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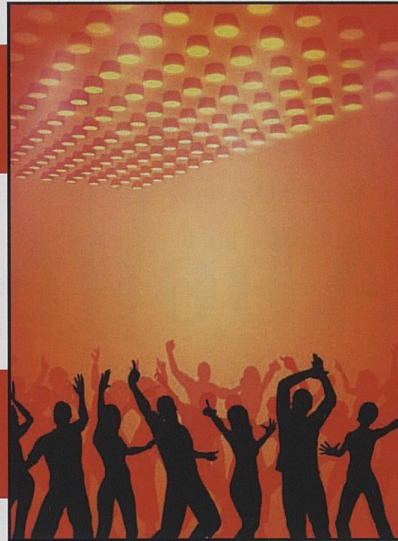
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Lexington Pride 2015

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The Pride Community Services Organization seeks to educate, enhance, and empower the community about sexual minority and gender expansive issues.

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That's What I'm Talkin' About

By Helena Handbasket



Well... it was bound to happen. You knew Mamaw would talk about God at some point, didn't ya? Why would I want to take on a subject that inspires so much debate? I guess it is because I just want to share my own experience. Many of y'all know that I go to church most Sundays, but that doesn't make me holier than thou. Truth be known, I am just trying to do my best on this journey, and what I get out of church on Sunday seems to help me find the strength to endure life's challenges. It helps me find my center so that I handle things from a place of peace rather than chaos. Does that mean I have my "stuff" together all the time? Don't be silly. I can freak out just as easily as anyone... but when I get to my quiet place and try to find my center, I can usually talk myself off of the ledge. Does that mean that I know and understand everything about God and spirituality? Yeah, right! Not a chance. But I have learned to trust my heart. I know sometimes I can get a little preachy, and I really don't mean to act like I know more

than anyone else. I just go from my own experiences and try to help people find their own way, and if they want to use my experiences as a gauge to base their own stuff on, then who am I to stop them.

You see, I always believed there was something bigger than myself out there somewhere that seemed to be watching over me. I have been in so many situations in my life that could have ended tragically but instead I came out okay. I've never been a person who claimed to have all the answers, but in my life, it has seemed that when I needed an answer about something, it was always there - right on time. Not always on my time but at least it was there when I really needed it to be. It was as if I heard or felt someone or something guiding me to where I needed to be or what I needed to do. Someone told me once that when you hear that voice in your head trying to get you to choose right over wrong, it is more than your conscience talking. Many people think that your conscience is the voice of God and if we listen close enough, then your heart - or

conscience - will never lead you wrong. Does that mean that I have always made the right choices? Don't make me laugh. I'm human, honey.

People have asked me how I can believe in this God thing when I can't see Him (or Her). I can't touch or hear God. Then why believe? (By the way, I do refer to God as Him, but in all actuality, I believe that God embodies the perfect mix of all that is both masculine and feminine and understands everything about us.) My answer is that I exercise my faith and just choose to believe. What is this FAITH thing anyway, you might ask? A cousin of mine recently defined it as well as I have ever heard it. He said, "Faith is walking around corners." Think about it. That is exactly what he said, and he was right. We walk around corners metaphorically and literally everyday not knowing what is around that corner, but we do it. We walk around that corner, and we believe that whatever we encounter, we will be able to deal with. And what does it mean to "exercise"

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

my faith? For me, I exercise my faith by thanking God for the answer even before I know what the answer is. I believe or “have faith” that what I need will be there when I need it. That doesn’t mean I can just sit around and wait for God to work miracles. Sometimes those miracles happen through my own efforts, and I am guided by the force that lives within me. Could that be God?

Would I dare to try to get everyone to believe just like I do? Well, NO. Your faith and your beliefs are yours. They are what you feel and what you sense and what you choose to believe in inside your

own heart and soul based on your own life experiences. The only thing I would try to get everyone to do is to find your quiet place and truly listen to what is inside you. Search your heart and be brutally honest with yourself. Don’t try to convince yourself one way or the other. Listen to your heart and listen to that voice in your head. Then and only then will you find your truth.

Anyway, this is what works for me. I leave you with this, my prayer: that everyone who reads this article will find that force within him or her that leads to a place of true joy. Lastly, consider this your invitation to join me any Sunday morning

at 10am at our church: Bluegrass United Church of Christ, 500 Don Anna Drive. You don’t have to drink any Kool-Aid or bite the head off any chicken (not the first visit anyway). Just come and check it out. I like to say that we don’t love you in spite of who you are; we love you BECAUSE of who you are. We embrace all of the differences and we celebrate diversity. We live this motto, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey... you are WELCOME here.” See ya Sunday?

(Send comments or suggestions to HelenahandbasketKY@gmail.com)



Relationships Are Everything

To learn about the solutions we can offer to meet the financial needs of the LGBT community, call a financial advisor today.

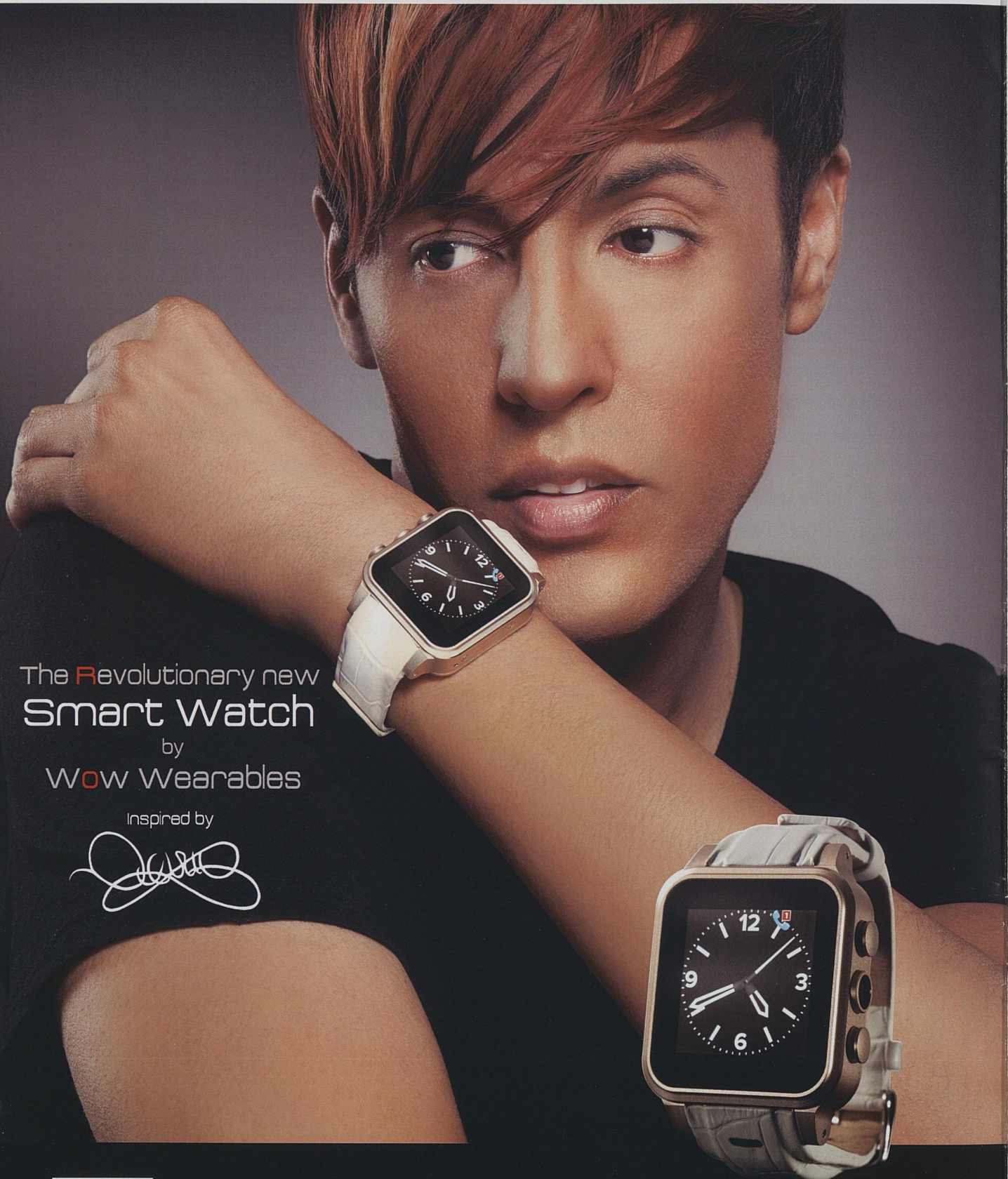
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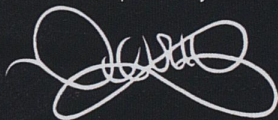
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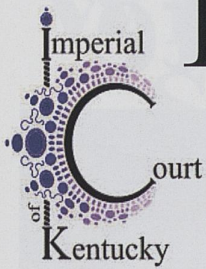
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Dario's new album "Revolution" is available on iTunes now!



Imperial Court of Kentucky News

By H.M.I.M. Empress XXXIV of
the Imperial Court of Kentucky
Kali Dupree

Summer is in full swing and I hope everyone is enjoying themselves. During the summer, we find ourselves traveling, hanging out, and typically, just socializing more with our friends and loved ones. We have late evenings, warm weather, vacation times, and there's typically lots to do. With our relationships with friends and loved ones in full bloom and stronger than ever, I find myself looking at the strong community that I live in and that I consider my family.

The multitude of wonderful organizations in Lexington, KY and the surrounding areas that do incredible things in the community is outstanding. All of these organizations have a relationship with the community and the community depends on them. Since becoming Empress 34, I have personally taken an interest in these relationships - an interest not only in The Imperial Court's relationship with our members or any individual organization's relationship with its members and clients, but in the relationships between the many organizations within our great community.

Two months have already passed into reign 34, and The Imperial Court of Kentucky has already been moving forward with our fundraising endeavors.


All of the events that the Imperial Court plans and hosts are for the community. We are unique in the fact that we raise money, \$1 at a time, to give to our other local charities so that they can continue the work that they do. Our relationships are very important because of this.

Throughout the many years that the Imperial Court has been established, we have been able to put hundreds of thousands of dollars into our charities. This success comes from the hard work of many people and many organizations. The participation and collaborations between the different organizations and even some businesses giving back to community is key to bettering and lifting up our community.

Recently our organizations' relationships have been stronger than ever, and the plan is to make them even stronger. The Imperial Court was given the chance to represent at the Pride Festival where I was able to perform to raise some money through tips. We were at the Fairness Awards where I was, again, able to raise some money through the opportunity to perform, and again, walking in the Fourth of July Parade with all my brothers and sisters from the different organizations. Simply amazing is the feeling of unity.



On August 29 the Imperial Court will raise money to help gather school supplies for children in need. We have been working with AVOL, Fayette County School systems, and the Big Brothers Big Sisters to make sure we are able to help as many of these families as possible. Also in the works is Dragging Out For Life on September 16 at Crossings Lexington, which is a kick off to AVOL's Dining Out For Life on the 17th. There will be many participating restaurants throughout Lexington. This is a great opportunity for any of you to get out and witness the amazing team work that goes into the events that raise money for this community.

For any information for upcoming events, questions, or to donate, feel free to contact me, any board member, follow the Imperial Court of KY on Facebook, or go to imperialcourtkentucky.org. 

TransKyAdvocate



By Tuesday G Meadows

Where Do We Go From Here?

“Slip Kid, slip kid, realization... There’s no easy way to be free... It’s a hard, hard world... I am a solider at sixty-three... No easy way to be free.” *Slip Kid*, The Who

The Supreme Court of the United States has made marriage equality a reality. The law is now on our side despite any resistance. Now a burning question remains: Where does the LGBTQ+ community put its collective advocacy emphasis next? My answer is, to paraphrase a bartender or two, “You don’t have to go home, but you can’t stay here.” We still need to move forward.

Many battles remain in the fight for equality. Marriage is just one piece of the puzzle. We are all aware of the backlash of recalcitrant county clerks who are virtually daring Governor Beshear to fire them for not doing their jobs. However, instead of focusing on the small-minded folks, who history is in the process of leaving behind, let us continue to bring the fight forward to make a more equal, just, and fair world for all LGBTQ+ individuals. Let us focus on better and more accessible healthcare. Let us tackle workplace discrimination. Let us challenge the rampant violence against LGBTQ+ people of color. Let us help undocumented LGBTQ+ people who may be fleeing persecution.

My personal quest will be to advocate for LGBTQ+ children, especially transgender

children, who may be subject to harmful conversion therapy. Let us make Leelah’s law to ban conversion therapy a reality. The law is named for Leelah Alcorn, a transgender teen from Ohio who killed herself last winter after experiencing conversion therapy. Banning conversion therapy would benefit not just transgender children who are subject to the practice, but also those children whose families may not accept their sexual orientation. In fact, many mental health professionals (including most major associations of physicians and psychologists) believe that conversion therapy is harmful. Not only is it ineffective, it also can cause harm to the victims tantamount to child abuse. It can lead some to depression, substance abuse, self-harm, or even, like in Leelah’s case, suicide.

New Jersey, California, Oregon, and Washington DC have banned conversion therapy. Those bans have held strong in the face of challenges in federal courts. A New Jersey Superior Court noted, “Saying that homosexuality is a disorder is not novel, like the notion that the earth is flat, it is outdated and refuted.” The American Psychiatric Association (APA) removed homosexuality

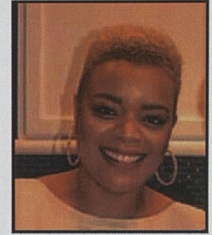
from its list of mental illnesses in 1973. Gender Identity disorder was removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Disorders when the DSM - 5 was published in May 2013. The people still practicing conversion therapy ignore what the APA has said and act as if being LGBTQ+ were something that needs to be cured.

Unfortunately, our state Senate has already proven that they are more than willing to use our children as cannon fodder for their own political pandering to the far right. It will be an uphill battle to break their habit of picking on LGBTQ+ children when they reconvene. Of course, there is always push back from progress, be it child labor laws or interracial marriage, but we owe it to the next generation to protect them and help them flourish.

I think that a law banning conversion therapy can be accomplished here in Kentucky. Then again, we do have a group that wants to use our tax dollars to build Noah’s Ark right up the road from Frankfort. To me, passing Leelah’s law is not only a worthy endeavor but it should be a top priority. You may write me at tmeadows828@gmail.com or follow me on Twitter [@trishgigi](https://twitter.com/TuesdayMeadows). Now Tuesday is gone with the wind. 🏳️‍🌈

What I Learned At Summer Camp

By Carol Taylor-Shim, MSW



Growing up I thought I was missing out on the rite of passage that is summer camp. Hearing kids brag about all the new friends they made, who they made out with, and all the cool friendship bracelets they got, made me feel like I was missing out on something. Last summer I made up for my lack of childhood camp experience, and I went to Camp Pride and GOT MY ENTIRE LIFE. Camp Pride is the premiere leadership academy for LGBTQQIA students and higher education professionals. My life was completely changed last year thanks to Camp Pride. They showed me how being a woman of color and a lesbian intersect. They gave me a sense of pride as a queer woman of color that I never had before, and I am forever grateful for that gift.

This summer I came back as part of Camp Staff, and I am still reeling and reveling from the beauty of it all. This year camp taught me a lot of things like North Carolina humidity is oppressive, it is possible to sweat your eyebrows off, and sometimes bees come in dinosaur sizes. The best thing I learned at summer camp was the beauty and necessity of solidarity within and across marginalized populations. Our community is in desperate need of solidarity not yesterday, not next week, not after the next big thing, but RIGHT NOW!

We shared so many experiences together. Some beautiful, some challenging, and some that were downright frightening. We all got a real life lesson on the need for solidarity when the campus police showed up to engage in state policing of Black and Brown bodies. In those moments, the fear of death of some of our own was palpable. They dared to exist in their identities as people of color, as trans women of color, as queer people of color. The white officers, with their state-sanctioned power, had complete and total control over the lives and bodies of people I cared deeply for. The thought of them becoming a hashtag brings about an overwhelming sadness, fear, and frustration that is hard to explain, but I feel it deep in my soul. The need for solidarity presented itself again as our campers were harassed by a group of misinformed, misguided, and completely obnoxious middle-schoolers who threw food and ice and called some of our campers “disgusting.” Once again, our campers were merely existing in their own glorious kaleidoscopes of identities and living their lives out loud. Some folks just can’t handle all that fierceness and power.

After both incidents, we came together in community as a family to process all that we had experienced and all that

we were feeling. The thought of losing one of our own became a reality to so many people that night. Some campers couldn’t understand the concept of intersectionality until they realized the reason their fellow campers could’ve died right in front of us simply for being black. Being anything other than white in America automatically puts a target on your back. But it shouldn’t take seeing it up close and personal to believe that our lives are at risk. If you are a person of color in America, your life is at risk. If you are a queer person of color, your risk is even greater. If you are a trans woman of color, you are at the greatest risk for death, which is the ultimate price to pay for daring to exist as a full, 100% authentic person.

For me Camp Pride was the first time I’ve seen my entire LGBTQQIA community come together in the truest form of solidarity. When I look back, I am so thankful for the time I spent with some of the most powerful and courageous social justice activists you could ever bring together. They gave me so much hope for our future. We cried out of shared pain, fear and utter exhaustion, celebrated one another with love and admiration, and committed to each other to work in solidarity with all oppressed identities. It is solidarity NOW or nothing at all. That’s what I learned at summer camp.



Be Proud

Be Tested

Know your Status – Get Tested!

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Lexington-Fayette County Health Department 859-288-2437

Moveable Feast 859-252-2867

Being Locally Proud!

By Ranada West-Riley

As a business owner and chef, I find our diner is perfectly located near the Saturday Farmers' Market in downtown Lexington. This gift has opened my eyes to the beauty of keeping my buying as local as possible. A sad statistic is that there are fewer than a million farmers left in our nation, yet it was what our nation was built upon. We have lost nearly 5 million farms in less than 75 years.

Buying locally is fun, promotes sustainability of your community and neighborhood, and stimulates the growth of an essential business. Farmers' markets are easy to find in cities, and keeping it local benefits the community as a whole. Farmers give consumers access to foods they normally would not get at local stores for a lesser price than you'll find elsewhere.

Some other benefits include SNAP, and WIC cards are accepted at many locations. Beyond those things, farmers usually have incredible recipes to use with their produce and products. You'll also have an opportunity to try new fruits and vegetables normally not available at chain grocery stores. Fresh fruits, in turn, are filled with antioxidants and phytonutrients - a hidden benefit.

Most importantly, farmers' markets boost the local economy as well as educate the community about healthy factors of fresh foods and the impact farming has on our environment. They are essential.

Local goes beyond just food and farmers' markets and restaurants. Seek out local printers for printing needs, local breweries for some of the best beers around, local salons



instead of the cookie cutter chain salons, and even local boutiques with locally made clothing and accessories.

Since it's the middle of summer, I figured a nice fruity and cool treat would be the best recipe.

RASPBERRY POPS

- 2 1/2 cups fresh raspberries
 - 1 cup raspberry juice drink, such as Welch's
 - 2 tablespoons light corn syrup or creme de cassis
 - In a blender, puree 1 1/2 cups raspberries, raspberry juice drink, and corn syrup (or crème de cassis) until smooth. Fold in the remaining cup of raspberries.
- Divide among the molds or paper cups. Cover and freeze until firm, 3 hours.



Happy Being Healthy

By Angel Algarin



Agua-Fit

Water is an essential part of our everyday diet, but ironically many Americans today are not drinking as much as recommended. Since water is so important in weight loss, not drinking enough could be a contributing factor as to why the obesity rate in our country is so large. Here are three different ways you can add water to your diet without feeling waterlogged:

1. Start carrying a water bottle. Not only does this cut down on

plastic waste, but this also allows you to count how many full bottles you need to drink in any given day. When you find that number, make sure to spread the intake throughout the day so you maintain a consistent hydration level.

2. Eat your way to hydration. Some foods like melons and citrus contain very high amounts of water. By adding these foods to your diet, you increase your fluid intake without having to drink it all.

3. Flavor your fluids. Adding

a lemon wedge or a low calorie flavor shot into your water not only changes up the flavor of plain water but it may also satisfy some hunger cravings.

If you want your lifestyle to continue on a healthy path, make sure to drink plenty of water. Not only does it decrease your appetite but it also helps rid your body of the waste of the fat that you are burning. So go turn on your tap for your free weight loss supplement!



Coach's Corner

Coach's Corner will be featuring the Captains and Coaches from our various leagues as a chance for you to reach out if you have any questions or would like to get more involved. This month, the Volleyball League!



Coach's Name: Ben de Jesus

Sport: Volleyball (sand and indoor)

Why You Became Involved: For

me, volleyball was a very exciting sport to watch. The way it combined speed, strength, and teamwork was something I wanted to learn more about and be a part of.

Favorite Sport Memory So Far: Playing in the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland, Ohio

Team Lex Volleyball is available for both beginners and intermediate players.

For more information on TeamLex Volleyball: email teamlexvb@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/groups/teamlexvb/

The Lexington Gay Sports Commission is a non-profit 501(c)3

that supports the acceptance, visibility, and participation of members of the LGBT community in professional, amateur, and recreational athletic programs without regard to race, gender, orientation or age. The Lexington Gay Sports Commission creates and promotes programs that educate members of the LGBT community about the sports and recreational resources available to them. Although the Lexington Gay Sports Commission serves the interests of the LGBT community, all persons are welcome in the true spirit of humanity and sportsmanship.



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Please visit us at
Bridal Bliss Classic
August 30, 2015 at
the Hilton Lexington.



SisterSound's 20th Anniversary Season Begins with Picnic/Rehearsal Startup

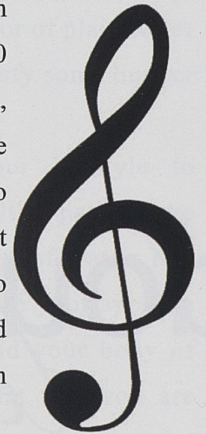
You've heard us sing and visited our booth at the Pride Festival in June. Now, it's time to plan to join SisterSound, the Lexington Women's Chorus, and help celebrate our 20th anniversary! Kicking things off will be a Prospective and Returning Members Picnic on Sunday, August 23, 6 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Pavilion, 3220 Lexington Road, Nicholasville (on left side of outbound Nicholasville Road between Brannon

Crossing and Kohl's Shopping Center). If you are female, at least 18 years old, and have thought about singing with SisterSound, come to the picnic and meet other SisterSound members. We are a non-audition chorus, and if you can match pitch with those around you, we want you singing with us.

If you can't join us for the picnic, rehearsals for our 2015-2016 season begin on Sunday, September 13, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Centenary United

Methodist Church Choir Room, 2800 Tate's Creek Road, Lexington. We are looking forward to this special concert season and hope to see many new and returning members in September.

Need more information? Give Patti a call at (859) 806-0243.



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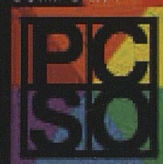
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or online at: www.pcsoky.org/site/?page_id=2987

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Estate Planning Basics For Same-Sex Couples - Part 1

By Michael T. Palermo
Attorney At Law

As an ally of the LGBT community, I share your joy over the recent Supreme Court decision. Finally, marriage is an option in life for same-sex partners. For those who choose to tie the knot, estate planning will now be much the same as for straight couples. Regardless, the need for proper estate planning remains – especially for committed partners who choose not to marry. In this article, and ones to follow, we will explore a few key issues that middle-aged and seasoned partners should consider, and the legal tools that address those issues.

What is estate planning?

When a person who owns property dies, that property has to go to somebody, somehow. Any competent adult can arrange his or her affairs to decide, “Who gets what?” The process of making those decisions is a minimal definition of estate planning. A good estate plan provides a legal and practical mechanism to dispose of your property in a way that acknowledges your wishes and the needs of your spouse or committed

partner, and perhaps your children or other loved ones.

An estate plan almost always involves a will, but there are other aspects to it as well, such as the manner in which you hold title to property and beneficiary designations forms on which you specify to whom some kinds of assets will pass. Additionally, people should make arrangements to handle their affairs in the event they become disabled. The planning process should also involve the deeply personal medical choices that might have to be made as life nears its end.

This month we will look at property and how to plan for it in the event of death.

Different kinds of property and the law: probate and non-probate transfers

There are two classes of property you need to be concerned about: probate and non-probate. The district court of every Kentucky county has a probate division responsible for handling (i.e., “probating”) wills and overseeing distribution of your probate property

only (or “estate”), whether you have a will or not. Your probate estate consists of everything you own that is not distributed via a non-probate method. This month we’ll review four non-probate techniques for transferring property.

Lifetime gifts: Remember the obvious: if you don’t own something when you die, it’s not part of your probate estate. Gifting some of your assets to others before you pass takes it completely out of the realm of probate. Just remember to keep enough for you to live on.

Property owned jointly with right of survivorship: When the first of two joint owners dies, his or her share automatically passes to the survivor. This is traditionally how spouses take title to their first home, for example. As for joint bank accounts, make sure that it is truly jointly owned, i.e., that your spouse or partner does not merely have signing privileges.

Property titled in the name of your living trust: We’ll talk more about trusts later. For now, just think of a living trust as a legal “pot” created while you are alive that holds

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property under your control until you die, and then passes control to your designated trustee.

Assets that have beneficiary designations

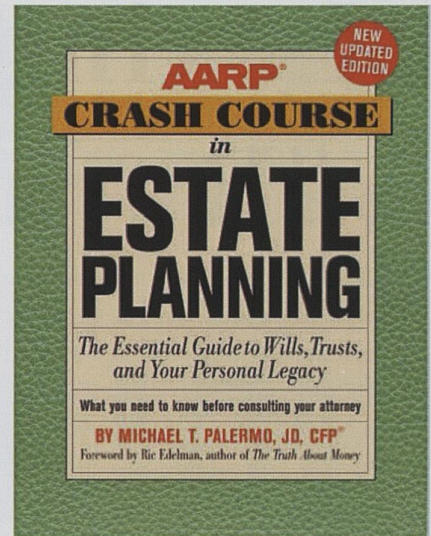
These include life insurance policies, retirement accounts, pay-on-death (POD) bank accounts and transfer-on-death (TOD) brokerage accounts. Be sure you name a loved one(s). Don't name "my estate" or leave the designation forms blank.

As you can see, almost everything in one's estate can be transferred without a will, via non-probate means. Furniture, vehicles, and

household items, however, require a will to pass down as you wish. That said, non-probate transfers can serve you well. No muss, just a little fuss, and, except for real estate, no lawyer.

In future articles, we'll look more closely at the will and the law that applies if you don't have one as well as other estate planning tools such as the Durable Power of Attorney and Living Will Directive.

Mike is a general practice lawyer in Lexington and author of the 2005 book, *The AARP Crash Course in Estate Planning*. For more information and advice on estate planning, he can be reached through the PCSO Pride Center.



This article is presented for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. You should contact your attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem.



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Lexington Hosts Next #RuralPride Summit

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) will host the next #RuralPride summit in Lexington, Kentucky on August 12. The day-long event, co-hosted by the True Colors Fund and the Pride Community Services Organization (PCSO) will be held at PCSO's office, 389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100, Lexington, Kentucky, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

#RuralPride is an afternoon-long summit being organized across the country to elevate the voices of LGBT people and families in rural communities, explore how these communities are particularly vulnerable, and discuss proposed and enacted federal

policy changes that can increase equality and access for rural LGBT people and their families.

The speakers for the Lexington #RuralPride summit include: Michael Aldridge, Director, ACLU of Kentucky; Dan Canon of Clay Daniel Walton Adams PLLC; Ashlee Davis, Director, LGBT Rural Summit, USDA; Dawn Elliot, Fauver Law Office; Chris Hartman, Director, Fairness Campaign; Ming Wong, Supervising Helpline Attorney, NCLR; and Pride Community Services Organization Board Member Roberto Abreu, a counseling-psychology doctoral student with research focused on LGBT youth, especially in communities of color.

The #RuralPride summits center on LGBT experiences in rural America, including increased rates of economic insecurity, lack of family and nondiscrimination protections, the relationship between LGBT and faith communities, and the heightened challenges facing rural LGBT youth and rural LGBT people of color.

The #RuralPride summit series is a partnership between NCLR and USDA that challenges the stereotype that LGBT people only live in metropolitan areas by raising awareness of the particular issues faced by LGBT rural communities.

This event is free and open to the public.



A FRESH BUZZ!

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IN THE WOODLAND TRIANGLE

OVER 100 ARTISTS REPRESENTED:

JEWELRY, ART, SCULPTURE, WINE ACCESSORIES,

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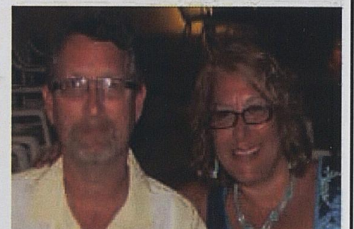
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Jim is the coffee guy and Ellie is an artist. Together they are living the dream of sharing beautiful art, and fabulous coffee & food with everyone. The inventory is hand made by over 100 artists, near and far. 98% of the items are made right here in Kentucky.. All coffee and tea is Fair Trade, Organic. Local goods are used whenever possible.

Owned by Jim & Ellie Hartman





NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS



#RURALPRIDE

LGBT RURAL SUMMIT SERIES

THE KENTUCKY LGBT RURAL SUMMIT

Pride Community Services Organization
389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100
Lexington, KY

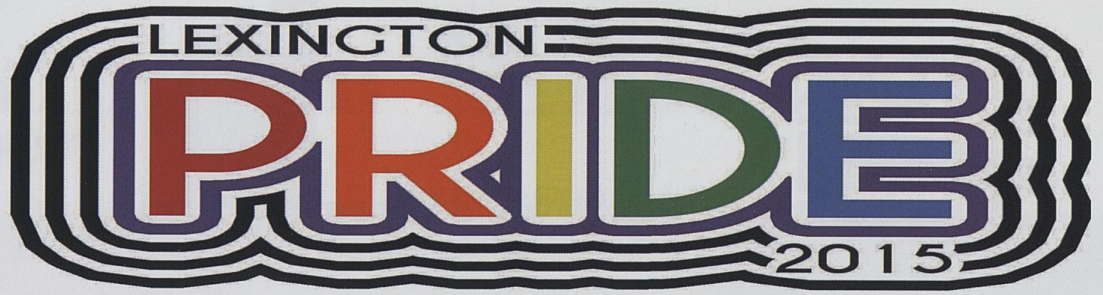
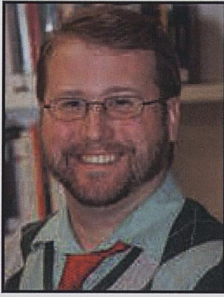
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2015

1:00 PM - 4:45 PM

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

*Registration Opens at 12:30 PM





By Chad Hundley

2015 Lexington Pride Festival Chair

Another Great Year of PRIDE!

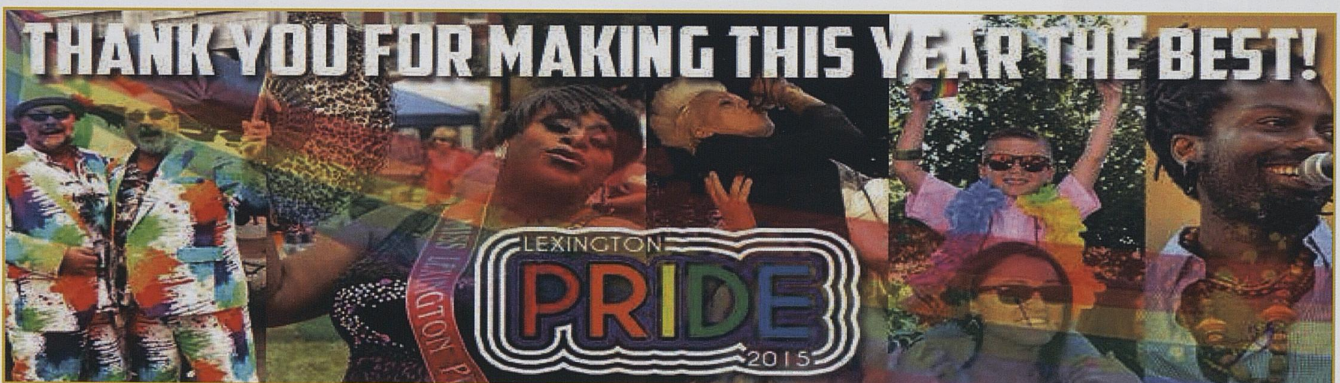
Well, what can I say except WOW! What a grand event the 2015 Lexington Pride Festival was this year! First Marriage Equality passed across all 50 states the day before Pride and then led us into the grand celebration on Saturday June 27. We had a record number of attendees estimated at 25,000 individuals in the downtown courthouse plaza. We had a little rain shower while setting up for the festival, but I must say that in all eight years of having the Pride Festival downtown, this had to have been the best weather we have ever had for our event. With an overcast of clouds and a light breeze, the weather was phenomenal!

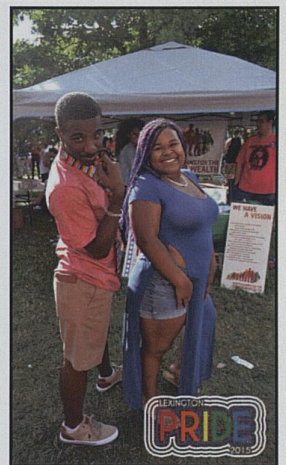
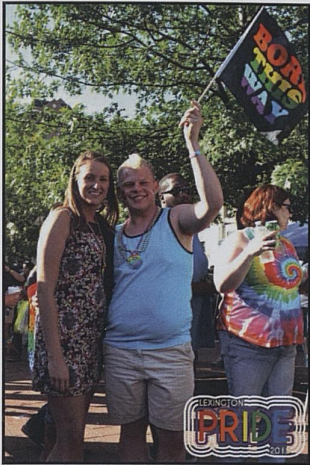
The celebration kicked off with the proclamation from Mayor Jim Gray announcing to the city of Lexington that it was "Pride Day!" We also had a couple of other special announcements

consisting of the GLSO rebranding and unveiling their new and inclusive name of the Pride Community Services Organization (PCSO) and the announcement of the PCSO Pride Center becoming an official "Safe Place." The committee, PCSO Board, and community really showed up and out for this grand occasion, and I am honored to have been part of it. We also raised a record breaking \$38,000+ to help the PCSO Pride Center with it's operating expenses and help to continue all of their programs and services they offer to the whole community! Without the monies raised at Pride, we would find ourselves without a Pride Center in the state of Kentucky and would not be able to help out the community effectively like we have been able to do for 38+ years. THANK YOU EVERYONE!

I encourage you to get involved with our community and programs as much

as you can. I guarantee you will find it fulfilling, and you will feel like you are having an active part in all of our causes! With that being said, I want to invite any and all who wish to be a part of this exciting committee to come out for the annual Pride Festival committee elections on Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the PCSO Pride Center located at 389 Waller Avenue, Suite #100, Lexington, KY 40504. For those who volunteered with the PCSO and Pride Festival as official volunteers, we invite you to come earlier that evening at 5 pm for a Volunteer Appreciation Cookout there at the same location! It takes an army to lead this revolution, and I am so thankful that you all entrusted me to help lead this charge this year! Thank you, and I Hope to see you at the elections!







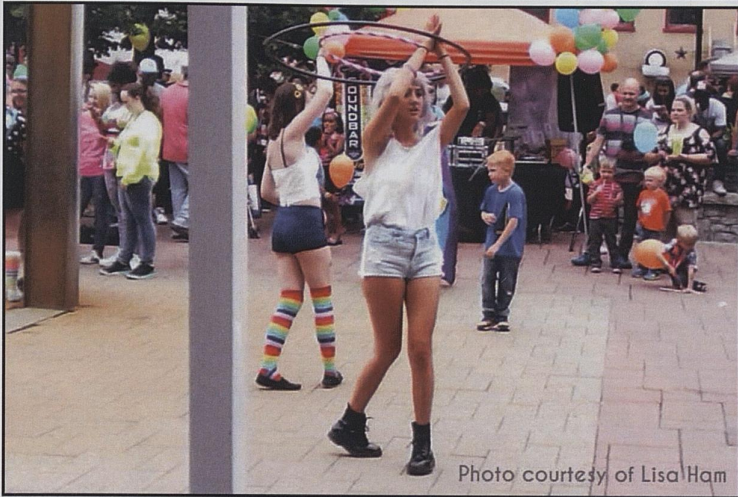


Photo courtesy of Lisa Ham

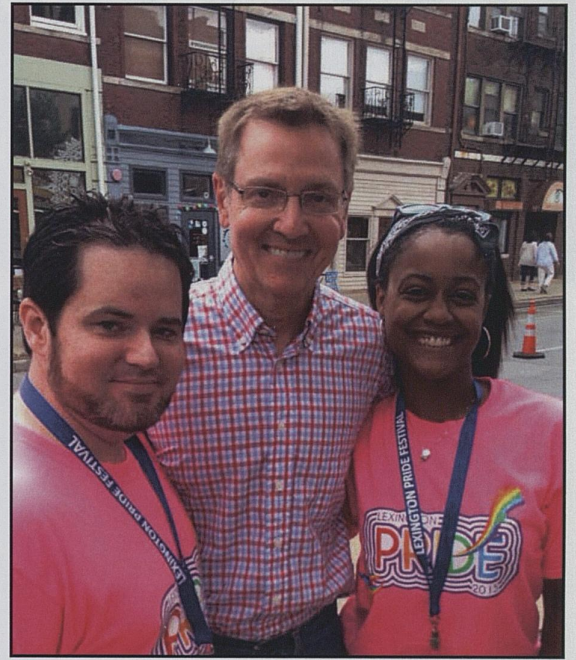
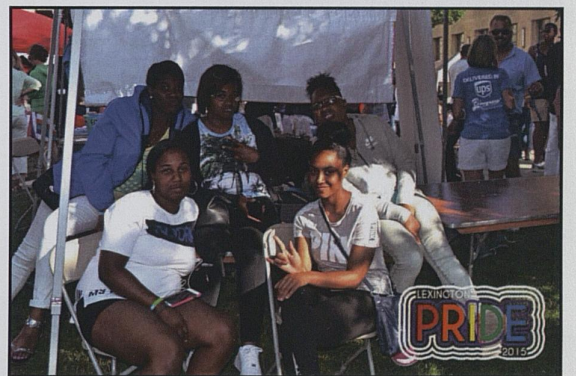


Photo courtesy of Lisa Ham



PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

from harmful toxins in cigarette smoke & strong scents

DID YOU KNOW?



Thirdhand smoke is left behind in places where people have smoked cigarettes.

Thirdhand smoke and strong scents increase the risk of SIDS for infants and can cause other health problems in children (asthma, respiratory problems, ear infections, bronchitis).

Dangers of exposure for adults include: higher risk for heart disease, stroke and other smoking-related diseases.

Exposure aggravates existing asthma and allergies.

For more information about smoke-free & scent-free child care, contact 859-288-2457 or visit www.lexingtonhealthdepartment.org.

Find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @LFCHD.



PFLAG Central Kentucky

Tuesday, August 11 @ 6:30 to 8:30


St. Michael's Episcopal Church

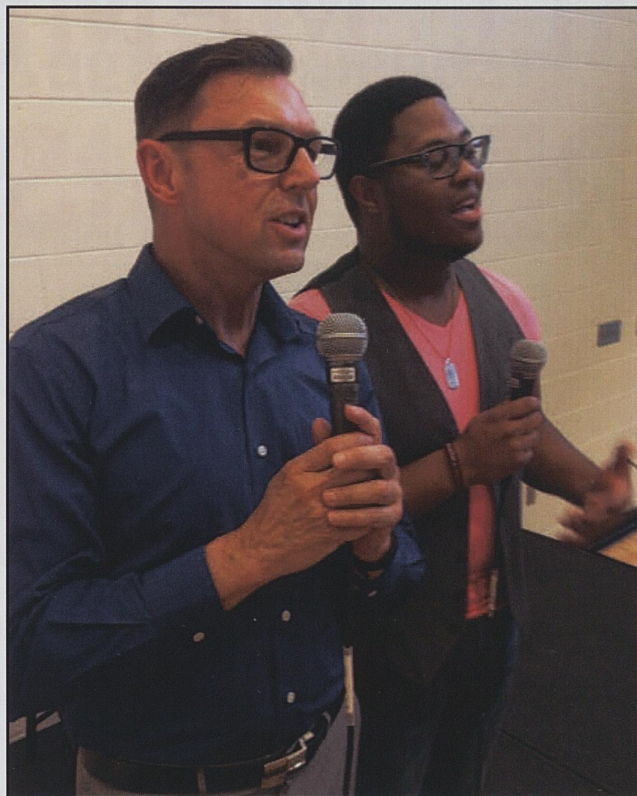
2025 Bellefonte in Lexington

Our speaker is from TransYouth Family Allies. She has been a life-long advocate for her son who is now in his twenties. Learn what it means to advocate for your trans child, friend, or loved one within your family, in the school system, and in the community.



Support group discussion will follow.

We welcome LGBTQ persons, friends, families and allies to our confidential group meetings. For more information, go to www.pflagcentralky.org 



Kene Bishop and Daniel Beasley provide a stirring duet during "Draw the Circle Wide" an interfaith blessing of couples at the Lyric Theatre.

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BUT NO FLOWERS GROW ON IT."
~ VINCENT VAN GOGH

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You'll start earning rewards for our organization right away on qualifying purchases made using your Kroger Plus Card! Learn more at www.kroger.com/communityrewards and thank you for your support.

*Remember, you'll need to re-enroll every August.



ORGANIZATION NAME: PRIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES ORGANIZATION
ORGANIZATION NUMBER: 11741



August Calendar & Telephone Directory

All meetings are hosted at the PCSO Pride Center unless noted with *

Saturday, August 1

7:30 p.m. TransKentucky Meeting

Sunday, August 2

6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, August 3

7:00 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group

Wednesday, August 5

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"

LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, August 6

7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Saturday, August 8

12:00 p.m. Entre Nosotros (Between Us)

9:00 p.m. Kentucky Bourbon

Bears Board Meeting*

Sunday, August 9

6:00 p.m. Imperial Court Meeting

6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, August 10

7:00 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group

Tuesday, August 11

6:30 p.m. PFLAG Meeting*

Wednesday, August 12

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"

LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, August 13

7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Sunday, August 16

6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, August 17

7:00 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group

Wednesday, August 19

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"

LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, August 20

All Day Editorial Deadline

for LINQ Magazine*

6:30 p.m. PCSO Board Work Session

7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Friday, August 21

7:00 p.m. Senior's Bistro (Potluck)

Sunday, August 23

6:00 p.m. Imperial Court Meeting

6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, August 24

7:00 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group

Wednesday, August 26

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"

LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, August 27

6:30 p.m. LexPrideFest 2016 Elections

7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Friday, August 28

8:00 p.m. Pride Community Prom*

Saturday, August 29

7:00 p.m. A Night For the Nest*

Sunday, August 30

6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, August 31

7:00 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group

Community and Social Groups

24-Hour Crisis Line	1-800-929-8000
24-Hour Teen Crisis Line	1-800-999-9999
Alcoholics Anonymous	859-967-9960
Arbor Youth Services	859-254-2501
AA/Alcoholic Teens	859-277-1877
Council for Peace and Justice	859-488-1448
"Heart to Heart" Discussion Group	859-253-3233
Fairness of Louisville	502-893-0788
Gay-Straight Alliance, Teens	859-266-5904
PCSO Pride Center	859-253-3233
Imperial Court of Kentucky	859-619-7521
International Gay Bowling	859-539-3058
KY Survivors Area of Narcotics Anonymous	859-253-4673
Lexington Fair Housing Council	1-866-438-8617
Lexington Fairness	859-951-8565
Lexington Human Rights	859-252-4931
Lexington Pride Festival	859-253-3233
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1-800-273-8255
PFLAG Central Kentucky, Inc.	859-338-4393
PFLAG Louisville	502-223-1323
SisterSound	859-806-0243
Social Services, Lexington	211

Community and Social Groups

Speaker's Bureau	859-266-5904
TransKentucky	cassiemt@yahoo.com
Transgender Youth Family Allies	1-888-462-8932
Trevor Lifeline 24/7	1-866-488-7386
United Way	859-313-5465

College Student Groups

Berea College ACE	859-958-3633
BCTC Gay-Straight Alliance	859-246-6365
Centre College BGSA	859-238-5332
EKU Alphabet Center	859-622-5041
EKU Pride Alliance	859-622-1027
Morehead State University	606-783-2071
TUnity (Transy)	859-445-3822
UK Gay-Straight Alliance	859-257-8701
UK OutSource	859-323-3312

**Don't see your group's events or contact information?
Email it to editor@pcso.org and we will add you to our calendar!**

HIV/STD Testing, Services & Information

AIDS Volunteers of Lexington (AVOL)	859-225-3000
Health Department, Fayette County	859-288-2437
Health Department, Woodford County	859-873-4541
HIV/AIDS Legal Project	502-584-1254
Moveable Feast	859-252-2867
Northern KY Region	859-341-4264
UK Adolescent Medicine	859-323-5643

Religious Groups

Ahava Center for Spiritual Living	859-373-8910
Bluegrass United Church of Christ	859-233-0208
Embrace Fellowship	859-358-0580
Faith Lutheran Church	859-266-7621
First Presbyterian Church	859-252-1919
Hunter Presbyterian Church	859-277-5126
Lex Friends, Quakers	859-254-3319
Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church	859-255-1075
St. Martha's Episcopal Church	859-271-7641
Unitarian Universalist Church	859-223-1448
Woodland Christian Church	859-266-3416

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