

Lin



Connecting the Bluegrass GLBT community

**KENTUCKY SENATE PANEL APPROVES
DISCRIMINATORY BATHROOM BILL**

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March 2015, Vol. 37 No. 3

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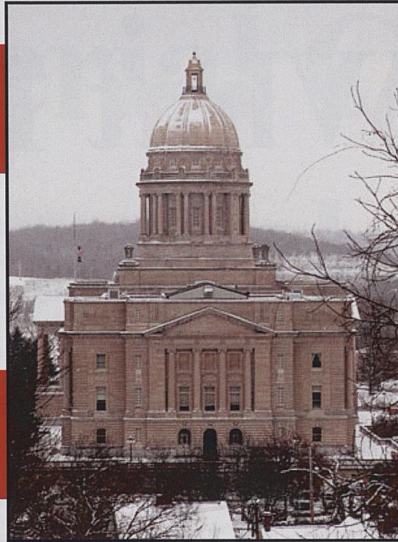
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The GLSO is conducting a climate survey in order to determine how we can better serve our community. Please take the time to fill one out! www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLSO



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The Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization seeks to educate, enhance, and empower the community about GLBTQQA issues.

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That's What I'm Talkin' About

By Helena Handbasket

WINNING! Charlie Sheen made it an almost comical word. And yet, it is something we all strive for. That triumphant moment when we get recognized for having done something better than anyone else did. I got something you didn't get. Look at me, world... I am being elevated to a superior level than anyone else is because I WIN. Well, that's nice and all, but it made me start to wonder. Did you really win? Is winning the only thing that makes doing something worth the effort? Sure, it is nice to be recognized for doing something that you worked on and are proud of, but what about those people who also worked hard to achieve something wonderful who didn't get the highest praise as the so-called WINNER?

I know what you're thinking... there goes Helena off on one of her tangents again. Mamaw is on her soap box once again (by the way, it is interesting how "on the soap box" became a commonly used phrase... look it up).

I recently watched the Oscars on ABC, as did many of you. That is something I try not to miss each year. I just love the glitz and glamour (surprised, aren't ya?) and watching all of the creative

people and how they all interact with each other. Actually, I am an award show whore. I watch them all... or most of them, anyway. And the winners of the awards get to go up on the stage in front of everyone else who worked equally hard on their projects and say why they are grateful for having won the award. So, my question is, are all of the people in the same category that didn't win considered losers? They didn't get an award. Well, I think not. After all, they still got to be involved in something that made a difference in people's lives—not to mention the usually outrageous compensation that they received for doing the project at all. They are AT the Oscars, an event that I would love to attend at some point in my life (whether I win one or not).

Now, don't get me wrong. I am not one of those people who think that everyone should get an award just for participating. I see Little League players getting trophies for just showing up. That seems a little much to me. Sure, reward them for following through and recognize when they gave it their best effort. But don't give out trophies just for being there. If there was no award for the top achievers, then what is the

motivation to do your best? I would want to think that the motivation is the need to satisfy that inner longing to know that you did the very best you had the ability to do.

We all need to be motivated/inspired. That leads me to my next thought. I think it should be part of WINNING that the winners be required or at least encouraged to motivate and inspire others to find their inner best. THAT is what defines a winner to me.

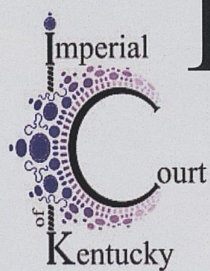
However, sometimes there are benefits to losing. Maybe sometimes the disappointment of not being the best can be the motivation to try harder next time. Don't just quit because you didn't win. Get up and try again. Winners never quit and quitters never win. Just be sure to define within yourself what winning looks like to you and for God's sake, be a gracious winner when you DO win and don't gloat. That doesn't look pretty on anyone. You know who you are! Until next month... love ya'll!!!

I would love any comments or suggestions you might have.

Please send to:

HelenahandbasketKY@gmail.com





Imperial Court of Kentucky News

By Christina Puse

Hello, everyone! With winter beating down on us, I hope that you've all been able to stay warm and safe during this bitterly cold season. I don't know about you, but I'm anticipating Spring as soon as it can get here! While the weather outside may be frigid, the Imperial Court of Kentucky has been keeping things hot inside with each and every event. Here's a look back at everything the community and the ICK have done over the month of February.

On Wednesday, February 4, the ICK presented its annual Miss Gay Valentine pageant at the Bar Complex. Thank you to everyone who came out to attend such a crowd favorite. Congratulations to Eve St. Michael, your winner for Miss Gay Valentine for Reign XXXIII!

Friday, February 13, the ICK traveled back to Frankfort, KY, for another "Draggin' at the Dragon" event. Again, the crowd was phenomenal and great times were had by all. Thank you to all of our Lexington family who traveled up to help make this event possible.

This year, Emperor 29 and Emperor 30, Clayton Burchell and Fred Worsham, did a little something different for their annual event entitled, "Single & Bitter."

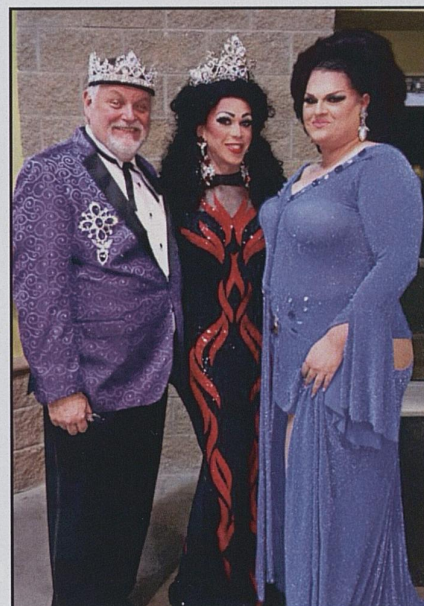
It was held at Crossings on Saturday, February 14, at 3:30 p.m. for the Happy Hour crowd. Another successful event for them and the community! We all look forward to seeing what they come with next year!

The ICK's annual Mardi Gras Ball was held on Tuesday, February 17, at Crossings Lexington. Although the weather took its toll on Lexington with a record breaking 12" of snow (that beat out 1998's record!), the community and the ICK still had a great time!

Thank you to everyone who braved the elements to come out and spend an evening supporting the charities of the ICK.

Even more events took place toward the end of February, and the ICK would like to thank all who were in attendance to make those events possible. Without your love and support, the Imperial Court of Kentucky would not be able to continue its efforts in raising money for our local charities.

Remember to mark your calendars for one of the ICK's special events. Coming up on March 8, the Imperial Court of Kentucky presents, "Falsie Awards & the Annual Elections." This year, not only will you get to enjoy the



ever-popular awards ceremony in which the ICK presents awards to individuals within our community, but YOU will get the opportunity to vote and elect the ICK's next Monarchs! That's right, instead of voting at Coronation XXXIV this year, all voting takes place at the Falsies! You will not want to miss out on this amazing event. Voting begins at 6 p.m. and the ceremony begins at 7 p.m. We hope that you will join us for a very special evening!

If you have not done so already, please take a moment to join the ICK's fan page on Facebook and visit www.imperialcourtkentucky.org for further information about the organization and upcoming events.



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Kentucky

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the academy of drag arts & sciences

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

TransKyAdvocate



By Tuesday G Meadows

A Positive Transgender Experience

“Wait, I’m wrong, should have done better than this...” *Show Me What I’m Looking For*, Carolina Liar

Everyday, we are bombarded with negative images and messages about transgender people. Throughout my life, and especially as I transitioned, I struggled with many of these negative messages and concepts about myself. However, in November, I attended a seminar entitled “Positive Aspects of a Transgender Identity” at the University of Kentucky. Even when I signed up, I immediately thought of all the negative aspects of being transgender and was not sure what I would get out of participating.

Once I sat down and settled in, Dr. Ellen Riggle and Dr. Sharon Rostosky spoke about research of transgender people living in Appalachia from a survey conducted by Angie Aaron. Since Appalachia is not known as being the most open-minded section of the country, I expected even more

negative experiences associated with being transgender. To my surprise, their research found that even in deep Appalachia, transgender people had positive experiences. Further surprising me, the instructors asked each of us to write about our own positive experiences. I stared at the blank piece of paper for a while. Here I have always been transgender and never thought about what parts of my experience made me happy. When we read our list out loud, I felt like I had not quite gotten it right, so I spent some time thinking and made the following list of why I am glad that I am transgender.

I care deeply about others and want to educate all people on transgender issues, to make the world a better place for the next generation.

I have empathy for others, and I continue to learn about the

struggles of many different or disadvantaged people.

I feel like I am free to express my own gender however it suits me.

I feel free to express a range of emotions. I can cry with the best of them. I appreciate my friends and family and I am free to tell them that I love them as often as I can. I have always been a hugger and a kisser.

I am glad that I survived long enough to live my life openly.

Number one, I am glad I married my best friend and have her support.

Thinking about positive experiences was eye-opening for me. Perhaps we can all find the positives in our own lived experiences. Write me at tmeadows828@gmail.com or follow me on twitter [@trishgigi](https://twitter.com/TuesdayG_Meadows). Now Tuesday is gone with the wind.



PrEP: Is It The Right Choice For You?

PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) is an exciting new prevention tool, but it's not for everyone. If you are at high risk for HIV infection, it's a conversation you definitely want to have with your healthcare provider. You need to know as many facts as possible so you can make the best decision for yourself.

*PrEP is a single pill taken once daily to prevent HIV infection in people who are at high risk for it.

* PrEP is used along with other prevention methods, such as condoms.

*Do not take PrEP on your own. It must be prescribed by a health provider.

*Since PrEP was recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), some providers may not know about it or may not be knowledgeable or comfortable discussing PrEP or your sexual health.

*Taking PrEP includes getting routine blood tests done.

* You may have side effects from taking PrEP.

* When taken as prescribed and with other prevention options, PrEP is highly effective at blocking HIV

infection.

Three clinical studies show that HIV-negative people who take the single pill for PrEP everyday—and who combine it with condoms (and other HIV prevention methods)—may see their risk for HIV cut by up to 92%. This is true in both men and women and for both vaginal and anal sex.

PrEP is not just about taking a pill every day. If you decide to take PrEP, you'll need to see your provider at least every three months for routine care and testing. You'll need to talk about your current sexual activity, your level of risk, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), your routine test results, and any side effects.

If you're HIV-negative and are trying to stay that way, then PrEP might be right for you. Here are some questions to consider. If you answer "yes" to any of them, then PrEP might be a good thing to discuss with your provider.

*Is your main sexual partner HIV-positive?

*Has a man—especially an HIV-positive man or a man whose status you're not sure

about—penetrated you during anal sex ("topped" you) with a condom recently?

*Have you been treated recently for an STD in your butt, such as rectal gonorrhea?

*Have you or your partner been in prison?

* Do you use alcohol and/or drugs heavily; or, does your sex partner(s)?

*Do you exchange sex for money, housing, drugs, or alcohol or other needs; or, does your sex partner(s)?

*Has your partner ever threatened or forced you to have sex against your will?

The following websites may also be helpful in your search for information:

PrEP 101 – www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/prep.html

Talking to Your Doctor – www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk_PrEP_TalkingtoDr_FINALcleared.pdf

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) – www.projectinform.org/prep

PrEP Facts – <http://prepfacts.org>

YOUR LIFE MATTERS!



Know your Status – Get Tested!

**The future is
not set,**

**there is no fate
but what we
make for ourselves.**

AVOL 859-225-3000

Lexington-Fayette County Health Department 859-288-2437

Moveable Feast 859-252-2867

Around The Library:

Transamerica, by Duncan Tucker

By Kristy Nowak

Transamerica, a film written and directed by Duncan Tucker and starring Felicity Huffman, tells the story of Bree, a middle-aged transgender woman who finds out that she has a seventeen year-old-son, Toby, she has never met. She has to fly from Los Angeles to New York to bail him out of jail, and discovers he has been selling drugs and working as a prostitute. Then, after Toby reveals that he wants to live in L.A., and because Bree has to make it back home in time for her sex reassignment surgery, the two start out on a cross-country road trip. The trip involves a series of bizarre twists—including visiting Toby's abusive stepfather, their car getting stolen, visiting Bree's unsupportive parents, and some tentative bonding between Bree and Toby. However,

since she is uncomfortable admitting to Toby that she is his father, she initially says that she's a Christian missionary who wants to help him for the sake of the church. As they travel together, she learns that he has built up many expectations of the father he has never met, and she keeps up the lie for far too long. Overall, this is an excellent film about two people with difficult histories and conflicts who are struggling to make a meaningful connection and move forward with their lives. In particular, Bree is torn between her responsibilities as a father and her desire to leave behind everything about her former life as a man—a conflict that is both compelling and never fully resolved. This film also provides a compelling portrayal of many of the challenges Bree encounters

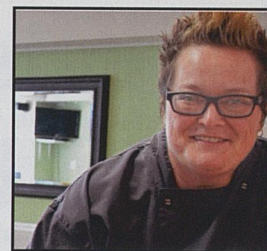


in her struggle to blend in and be accepted—including relearning to speak, completing rigorous dress and makeup routines, trying to convince medical personnel to give her permission to get her surgery, and struggling to convince her family to accept her as a woman. The film does contain some problematic clichés—including an unfavorable portrayal of a rural Kentucky character that basically amounts to a hillbilly stereotype—but the strong and complex performance of the two leads, particularly Bree, carries the movie as a whole. This film can be found in DVD format, along with other multimedia items, in the audio-visual section of the GLSO library. Come check it out!



Where's The Next GAY Food Network Star?

By Ranada West-Riley



I've been trying to figure out what to write as my March article. I tossed around March Madness food... but there's only so many ways to make wings and potato skins. Of course, I could come up with a million other recipes that are not as traditional... but, then I figured why not just do a stream of consciousness sort of article and spice this column up a bit?

Things have been more than exciting in my world, with the diner and catering for anyone from the undefeated UK Wildcats to Pat Benatar and Melissa Etheridge. Life is full. But, I still have time for Food Network in my down time. Don't we all? My day could be overfilled with food and everything that surrounds it, but I somehow find the time to watch that channel.... It's just missing something, in my opinion. I won't be so confident as to say it's missing ME... but it's missing something.

We have Ina Garten with her wide array of gay male friends decorating and helping pick out things at the local butcher or flower shop. We have Ted Allen. *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* certainly landed him the roll as commentator on *Chopped*. We have Anne Burrell and Cat Cora, but they aren't "out" like I'd love

to see on the network. What this world needs is an OUT and PROUD representative on the channel that is tuned into more than any other in the LGBTQ community.

I flew out to California in March of last year for the taping of *Guy's Grocery Games* with Guy Fieri. He's had a reputation for not being too keen on gays and lesbians, but I'll say he treated me just fine and loved my hair, so obviously he has fantastic taste. He also just helped facilitate a ceremony for 101 gay weddings in Florida last week. But... the whole experience of being on set and taping for a show that didn't air until the following November was quite an experience. I flew back home with my tail between my legs, swearing I'd never do it again. That was a lie.

In October I was asked to come back for another round of interviewing for *Next Food Network Star*. I passed the initial interview, and then went to Atlanta to do a 45 minute on-camera presentation and food demonstration. I was asked to submit a portfolio of 5 pics as well as some other information. Then, the "don't call us, we'll call you." I didn't hear back, unfortunately.... But, the absolute coolest thing happened....

One of the hosts for *Next Food*

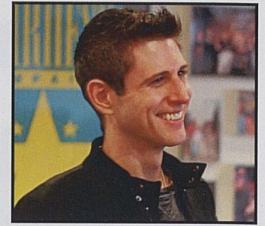
Network Star is my idol: Alton Brown. That man, the Elvis of the culinary world, waltzed right into my diner. I nearly had to pick myself up off the floor before mustering the nerve to actually talk with him, let alone cook for him. It went well. His Facebook and other social media posts reached over 905,000 people concerning the Kentucky Nachos, a favorite at Lexington Diner. Not too shabby for a little corner diner in Lexington, Kentucky. But, some valuable advice from him ... do not give up. I'm on their radar, which is more than most can say. His visit instilled the drive to try again.

So, with that, perhaps if we are all to rally together and demand an OUT and PROUD host for a show... whether it be through winning *Next Food Network Star* or just making it on shows such as *Chopped* and *Cutthroat Kitchen*, someone needs to represent. I mean, hell, we as a community are so saturated in the food and beverage industry, the hospitality industry and everything that says "dinner party," I'd think we would have more exposure. Well, I guess I will keep trying. Simple and good food, sincere smile... and memorable hair.



Legislating Priorities: Where People Pee

By Chris Hartman



This year marks my seventh Kentucky General Assembly Session as director of the Fairness Campaign, and through all the good and bad I've seen, I never thought this year we'd be busy legislating where people pee. But that's the Kentucky Senate for you.

Freshman Senator C.B. Embry, a Morgantown Republican, has sought to make a name for himself with what he calls "the most popular bill I've ever introduced"—an anti-transgender "Bathroom Bully Bill," Senate Bill 76.

Thanks to public outrage, the bill is slightly less egregious than its original manifestation, which we called the "Bathroom Bounty Bill," for the \$2,500 bounty it placed on transgender kids in Kentucky. If you caught a trans kid in a bathroom that didn't match their biological or chromosomal gender, you could have collected C.B.'s \$2,500 bathroom bounty—for each and every instance—and sued the school even more for "psychological, emotional, and physical harm suffered."

Adding insult to injury, the original legislation declared a state of "emergency," meaning the law would go into effect immediately upon passage, should it report favorably out of both the Senate and House and win the Governor's signature.

In the three weeks leading up to the bill's first hearing, however,

some slight sense of reason must have penetrated the seemingly impervious igloo of ignorance Senator Embry calls home, because he eliminated the \$2,500 penalty and "emergency" status moments before the Senate Education Committee considered the legislation.

The bill should never have seen the light of day, but very little light—or logic—is ever shed upon issues of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights in Kentucky's General Assembly. Not only did the Republican-controlled Senate Education Committee schedule a hearing on the measure, they did so with less than 24-hours' notice in the midst of the state's snow emergency. Most all the schools in the Commonwealth and even the Kentucky House of Representatives had called off for the day, but not the State Senate, which had gravely important matters to attend, such as the place people pee.

The hearing went as well as could have been expected. The bill's sponsor and policy wonks from the Family Foundation, who actually wrote the bill, testified in favor of the legislation by touting the dire importance of decorum and fear that trans folks will go about flashing their privates to minors.

Though we had such short notice, we still had a full panel of testimony opposing the bill. I highlighted the simple fact that the proposed law

would violate Title IX, the federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sex in schools, according to April 2014 guidance from the U.S. Department of Education. The meat of our testimony, however, came from three others: Henry Brousseau, a 16-year-old transgender high school Junior; Dr. Karen Berg, Henry's mother; and Dr. Tom Aberli, principal of Atherton High School in Louisville.

Henry spoke simply and compellingly, letting legislators know how embarrassing it was to be before them talking about where he goes to the bathroom, and explaining that, above all else, he's just a normal kid and wants to be treated like one. Henry's mother shared the same, and added the fears she's experienced as the mother of a trans child, including the incredibly high harassment and assault rates against trans teens, and worst of all, that 50% of all trans kids attempt suicide because of the rejection and isolation they fear.

Finally, Dr. Tom Aberli addressed the committee, and it was appropriate that he did, because his school was the one that started it all. Last year, Dr. Aberli made a decision to allow a transgender student to use the restroom facilities that matched her gender identity. His decision came after countless hours of research and consultation with

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

parents and students. His decision was thoroughly vetted through multiple public hearings, public surveys, and public testimony, and was ultimately supported in two separate public votes by the school's site-based council, which included representation from students, parents, and faculty. Most recently, the school's decision was upheld by a vote of the Jefferson County Public Schools Appeal Board. He testified there have been no problems in his school since the implementation of the policy and that, above all else, he saw this issue as one of basic human dignity.

Moved by Henry's testimony and the reason we presented, the Senate Education Committee failed to achieve the votes necessary for passage. With bi-partisan

opposition, the measure failed.

But then it didn't.

Less than one week later, Senate Education Committee Chairman Mike Wilson called a special meeting of the panel with no agenda posted. For days, the agenda was "pending." We had our suspicions, but couldn't confirm them. No agenda was ever posted. Rather, we knew the bill was up on the chopping block again when Senator Embry strolled into the committee room with new testifiers, a father and daughter from Atherton High School opposed to trans folks using the restroom alongside everyone else.

So late on a Monday night (there was no definite time for the committee meeting posted either), the Senate Education Committee heard testimony from proponents

of the "Bathroom Bully Bill," but accepted no further testimony from opponents. With several members of the committee missing, they re-voted on the bill: 8-1 in favor. And that's just how things go in Frankfort.

Now, we wait for the Republican-controlled Senate to vote on, and presumably, pass the "Bathroom Bully Bill." Next stop: the House.

Call 800-372-7181 today and urge your State Senator, State Representative, and Senate and House Leadership to oppose "Bathroom Bully Bill," Senate Bill 76.

Chris Hartman is director of the Fairness Campaign, Kentucky's LGBT advocacy organization.



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Donating Blood In Central Kentucky

By Blake Flaugher
& Tuesday G Meadows

In December 2014, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended a change in the widespread policy of permanently deferring men who have sex with men (MSM) from donating blood. Beginning this year, MSM will be able to donate blood, but only if they have remained celibate for 12 months (and yes, that includes oral sex!). Cisgender women who have had sex with an MSM are also deferred for one year.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), MSM represent 2% of the United States population, but 66% of new HIV infections. In fact, MSM represent the only demographic in which HIV rates are increasing. Because of such public health data, MSM are considered by policymakers to be at a very high risk for contracting (and transmitting) HIV. With that said, while the new policy of deferring MSM for one year from donating blood is a step in the right direction, it is still discriminatory in that it punishes MSM who engage in safer sex practices (i.e., using condoms and lubricant, taking PrEP as prescribed, etc.) and get tested for HIV regularly (every 3–6 months). Straight people are deferred because of sexual behavior in some

instances, but—unlike MSM—they are not deferred for simply having sex. Therefore, such policies become based on the donor's sexual orientation rather than their actual risk behaviors.

One of the subjects that the FDA did not broach in their policy discussions was transgender (TG) women. The FDA currently lumps TG women in the same category as MSM, even though the TG woman may only have sex with other women, or men who only have sex with women. While TG women experience high rates of HIV as a population—much like MSM—current deferral policies are, once again, not considering individual risk, and are essentially rendering TG persons invisible. Questions used to screen potential donors need to be more inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity, while considering advances in HIV prevention and testing. Additional public health research needs to be conducted among MSM and TG donors—separately—that deals with specific factors that affect individual risk (i.e., taking PrEP, condom usage, HIV testing behavior, etc.). Such data would inform the creation of new screening questions to assess a person's risk regardless of their sexual orientation

and/or gender identity.

Blood centers, such as our own Kentucky Blood Center (KBC), still make their own policies using data driven FDA rules and guidelines. While all blood centers must follow the strictest FDA regulations, each one is allowed to make stricter rules if they so desire. As of February 2015, KBC still had the rigid permanent deferral on MSM blood donors in place. Dr. Dennis Williams, the medical director for KBC, will have much say in whether or not they adopt the new FDA guidelines—so consider writing him an informed letter to voice your concerns about keeping the policy of permanently deferring MSM from donating blood.

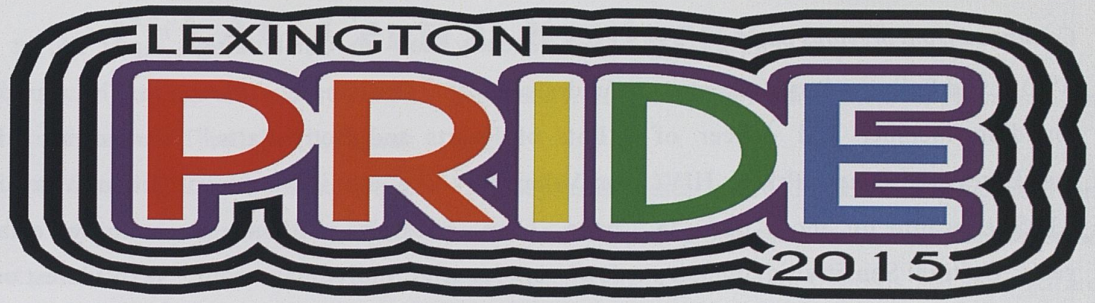
PS: Let's change the statistics! The only way to know your HIV status is to get tested. Studies have

shown that people who find out they are HIV-positive, stay in medical care, and are undetectable live

just as long as people who are HIV-negative. Their risk of transmitting HIV is also greatly lowered, as

most people who transmit HIV are the ones who think they are HIV-negative. Know your status!





By Chad Hundley

2015 Lexington Pride Festival Chair

Well, March is here, which means the 2015 Lexington Pride Festival is only 3 months away! How is that possible? It seems like only a couple of months ago that we were dancing in the streets of downtown Lexington in the rain and heat. But with the winter storm that recently passed, it almost seems unimaginable that plans for the summer festival might be right on track! In fact, this year's committee continues to astound me with their progress.

The sponsorships and vendors continue rolling in and I honestly believe that we are going to sell out in record time for this year's festival. I encourage everyone to tell their favorite restaurants, retail stores, corporate executive friends, independent contractors, and everyone else you see daily to come be a part of this festival and to contact us today before spaces sell out.

We have amazing sponsorship packages available that Kat Wilkie and her committee have been spearheading. West Sixth Brewery will continue to support our community and festival at the

Rainbow Level. We are also pleased to welcome aboard Raising Cane's as a new sponsor this year, and they are coming in at the Green Level. Raising Cane's has also already held a fundraiser for Pride and has three more scheduled before the Festival in June!

Third Street Stuff will be sponsoring at the Yellow Level, and has also teamed up with our merchandising committee to create and sell some amazing Pride themed coffee mugs, which will be available soon. There is a limited quantity of these mugs, so when you see them go on sale, grab one or two while you can! Two of our long time sponsors, Lexington Real Estate Company and Tate Hill Jacobs Architects, are returning as Orange Level sponsors. And rounding out the sponsors at time of publication is The Change Project, coming in as a Red Level sponsor. Many more local and corporate sponsors are finalizing their paperwork and will be announced as they come in.

Kira Goldade and the Logistics committee have been getting a great response from vendors and we are anticipating a wide variety of

vendors participating. Kira and the rest of her sub-committee have some great interactive things planned with our vendors for the day of the festival and are working on getting some great prizes to give away at the festival as well! Sarah Brown and the Marketing committee have plans to make our Pride Guide more interactive as well. Games and special interest pieces are being planned for the Festival guide.

Jess Garner and her Merchandising committee have everything lined up to pre-sell Pride Packs starting April 2 online. The Pride Packs will include items such as a Pride T-shirt, wristband, buttons, and a Pride koozie, all packaged in an Official Pride draw-string backpack. A trucker flat bill cap is also amongst the Pride merchandise this year, along with Official 2015 Pride Posters for entertainer's autographs.

Speaking of Entertainment, I am pleased to announce and welcome aboard Mark Johnson as this year's Entertainment Chair. Mark has an impressive list of community involvements. He is a former GLSO,


Continued on next page

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AVOL, and Fairness Board member, founding member and officer of the Bluegrass Black Pride, HIV/AIDS educator for more than 25 years, Cultural Sensitivity/Diversity Facilitator for over 20 years, and too many other titles and recognitions to list here. Final contracts are being negotiated, and by the time you read this most contracts should be signed with the entertainers. So be on the lookout on our website at www.lexpridefest.org and our Facebook page to get all the latest info and news! We are proud of how diverse our community is and we are excited to showcase that diversity in this year's entertainment at Pride!

We recently had an outstanding fundraiser at Crossings, titled "Lots of Hearts and Body Parts," on Valentine's Eve, and it wouldn't have been possible without a few very crucial individuals who made it very successful! Special thanks to DJ Brady, Big D, Todd, Haley, and Dwight. A very special thank you goes out to Crossings Lexington for always being willing to host our events and their amazing support throughout the years! We also are planning an April Fool's event with the Imperial Court of Kentucky, so be sure to come down to Crossings for that as well! The Mr. and Miss Lexington Pride Pageant is scheduled for Sunday,

April 26, at the Bogart's Lounge in The Campbell House on South Broadway. Registration packets are now available for this online and by emailing pridepageant@lexpridefest.org. More information and details will come in next month's article about this event and the upcoming Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction in May.

As always, I encourage you to sign up to volunteer for the committee and festival. Our meetings are the fourth Thursday evening of every month at the GLSO Pride Center at 6:30 p.m. We will let you be involved as much as you want to be! Until next month, take care of yourself and the ones you love! 



Teresa Combs, Realtor
ABR, GRI, QSC

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PFLAG Central Kentucky

PFLAG Central Kentucky meetings are held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2025 Bellefonte Drive in Lexington). Typically, we have a program the first half, followed by our support group.

Our speaker this month is Derek Penwell of Faith Leaders for Fairness (rescheduled from November, 2014). Derek is a minister in Louisville, a teacher, and writer. He will be talking about how he came to be an activist for the LGBT

community, and the role of Faith Leaders for Fairness in our state.

Please join us. Presentation and Q & A during the first hour; confidential support group the second hour. We welcome LGBTQ individuals, their families, friends, and allies. All are respected and welcome, wherever you are in your journey.

For more information, check our website or Facebook page. (www.pflagcentralkentucky.com)



HEART TO HEART

Confidentiality, acceptance and respect are the words we govern ourselves by. Each week is unique depending on who shows up and what the needs are that night. Open for Everyone!

GLSO Discussion Group
Wednesday Evenings
from 7-9 pm

Key and Lesbian Services Organization
389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100
Lexington, Kentucky 40504
(502) 253-3223
www.GLSO.org

<http://www.facebook.com/hearttoheartdiscussion>

YANKEE CANDLE
America's Best Loved Candle

Support the GLSO to Continue to Provide Services to You and Your Community While Freshening Up Your Home For Spring!

The GLSO is selling Yankee Candle products, and will receive 40% of the profits from all sales. Stop in or see a GLSO/Pride Officer to place an order now!

You can also order online at:
www.yankeecandlefundraising.com
enter group # 990072776 in the Start Shopping Panel and **START SHOPPING!**

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Being asked "What's important to you?" should be the beginning of the life insurance process, not the end of it. At Edward Jones, we meet with you face to face, so we can get to know you and your entire financial picture. That way, we can help find the life insurance policy that best suits your family's unique needs.

Because the more we know about what's important in your life, the better we can help you take care of it.

To learn about the solutions we can offer to meet the financial needs of the LGBT community, contact me.

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This literature is intended to promote and assist in the sale of life insurance or annuities. Talk with me about the various insurance and annuity products offered through Edward Jones.

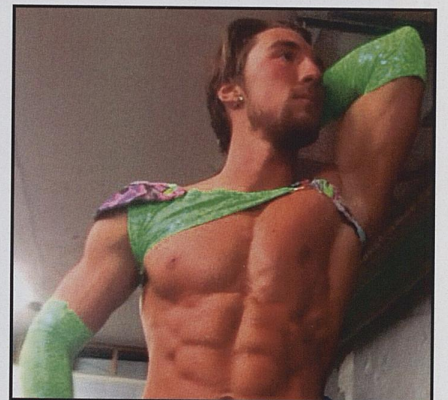
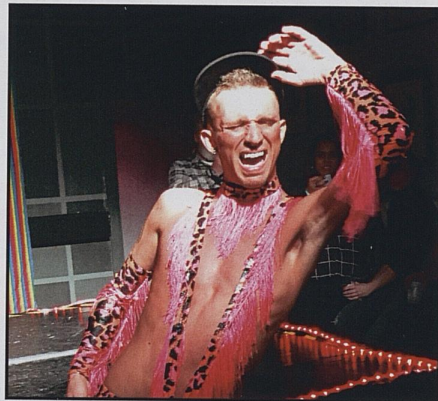
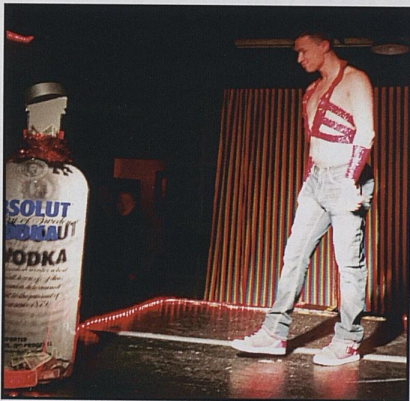
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LOTS OF HEARTS & BODY PARTS

Some Performers at the Lots of Hearts & Body Parts Pride Festival Fundraiser. From Top Left to Right: Ashton Davis, Uma Jewels, Buddy Qetesh, Christian M. St. James, Mr. Lexington Pride Colton Bacall, Mia York Goldenblatt, ICK Empress XXXIII Christina Puse, & Jake Holland.

\$ Dining Out to Raise Cash \$

Come Eat Chicken that supports us
and support the 2015 Lexington Pride Festival!

Monday, March 16, 2015

5 - 10 p.m.

Dine in or Drive-thru



**544 S. Upper St.
Lexington, KY**



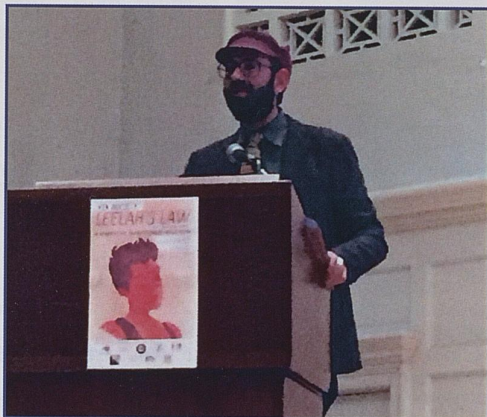
a fundraiser for:



GLSO CLIMATE SURVEY

The GLSO is asking all community members to take some time and complete a brief survey about our programs and services, and ways in which we can better serve the community. It is vital that we get as much insight and opinions as possible so that we can be sure to include the wide array of those persons/communities we currently serve, and make decisions on how to grow in order to better serve all communities under the LGBTQ... umbrella. Please take a moment to complete this important survey, which can be found online at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLSO



"FIX SOCIETY"

LEELAH'S LAW

A CALL TO BAN CONVERSION THERAPY

The GLSO, in conjunction with Lexington Fairness, Lexington GSA, Trans Kentucky, UK Gay-Straight Alliance, UK LGBT* Task Force, UK OUTsource, UK Shades of Pride, & UK Violence Intervention and Prevention Program, hosted a Panel Discussion in support of Leelah's Law in honor of Leelah Alcorn on February 12, 2015.

From Top Left to Right: Keynote Speaker Dr. Daniel Walinsky, Panel Members Discuss the Issues, & Members of the Panel Planning Committee.



By Bobbie Thompson
-aka Alana's Spouse-

From A Spouse's Perspective: Things Aren't Always The Way I Understand Them To Be

One question I ask others any time the opportunity arises is, "Are you familiar with transgender persons?" Then I usually continue by saying, "My spouse is transgender." I refer to this as "educating one person at a time."

Here in central Kentucky, the middle of the Bible belt, I find many people have no idea what I'm talking about. More often than not the other person's response will be, "What's that mean?"

I've learned that it can be difficult to explain what "transgender" means. I've become acquainted with many transgender persons and have often asked them to explain to me what "transgender" means to them so I can gain a better understanding. I've found the word itself, as well as the experience, can mean something different to each person based on their own personal experience. In

other words, I've learned there's no "one way" to be transgender.

My only understanding of the transgender community came from Alana's experiences as a transgender male-to-female... and her desire to "transition" from living life and being recognized as a male, to living life and being recognized as a female.

Initially, in my state of ignorance (to me,

ignorance means uneducated), I thought "Alan" wanted to "change" from being a "man" to become a "woman." However, through numerous and varied experiences as Alana's spouse, I now know I had a totally incorrect understanding of the situation... I've learned things aren't always the way I understand them to be.

The first experience (one of many) that helped me gain a better understanding that Alana is now, and has always been, a

up and said, "I use the 'Coke bottle' explanation. Everyone recognizes a Coke based on the shape of the bottle. But, what if when the bottle is opened there is actually orange juice inside? What do you really have? Do you have a 'Coke' because of the recognizable packaging? Or, do you have orange juice because of what's inside that package?"

Of course, everyone agreed that it's what's inside that counts. That was the beginning of me becoming aware that Alana is a female, even if I didn't recognize that fact based on her "packaging." Thus began my transition in thought from, "a man changing into a woman" to understanding Alana has always been a woman, no matter how I (and others) identified her.

My initial understanding gained at this particular transgender support group meeting was further



I am Alana Nicole Sholar

I am Alana Nicole Sholar

No matter what our eyes see, no matter what name we use, no matter what pronouns we choose to say, **THE PERSON IS ALWAYS THE SAME.**

female is an explanation I heard given in the very first transgender support group meeting I attended with Alana early in our relationship.

Another transgender individual in attendance asked the question, "How do you explain 'transgender' when someone asks? I am transgender and still have difficulty giving an explanation."

Another transgender individual spoke

confirmed when I heard Laverne Cox's answer when an interviewer said to her, "You were born a boy," and Laverne immediately said, "I was assigned male at birth but we're born who we are. The gender thing is something someone imposes on you..." Her comment reiterated to me that Alana had been born as she is... transgender.

Continued on next page

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I now realize the only change taking place is in how Alana presents herself, because she's not really "changing" herself. She remains the same person she has always been no matter what gender I, or anyone else, may perceive. Long before anyone was aware Alana is transgender (including Alana herself), she was already transgender and her experience as a transgender person is the desire to appear more feminine so others will see the woman she has always been... to live life presenting "en-fem" all the time.

I've had the pleasure of attending the Southern Comfort Conference with Alana twice now. Both times a common question I heard many of the transgender girls asking one another was, "Do you present en-fem full time?"

Of course, there were various answers to this question based on the experience of the person being asked.

I found myself alone with another transgirl from Kentucky and wanted to spark a conversation with her. I figured I'd be safe asking the question I'd heard so many others asking one another, so, I said, "Do you present en-fem full time?"

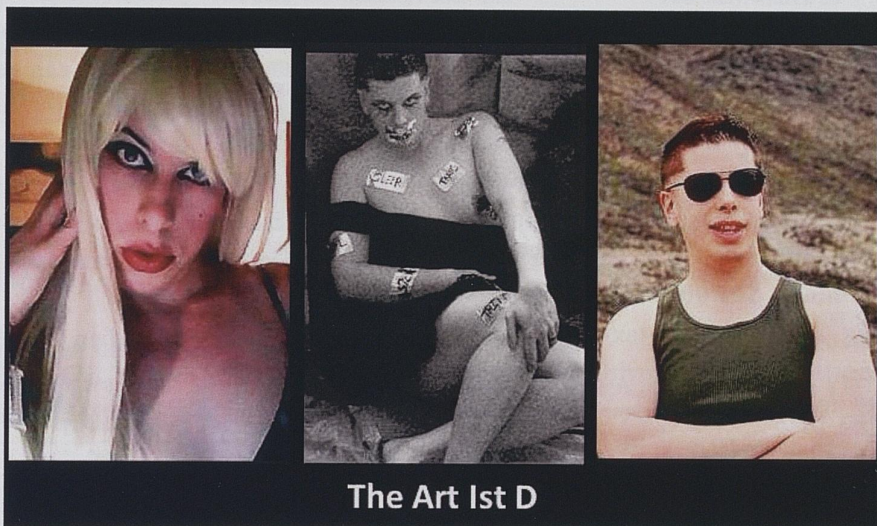
Without hesitation she blurted out, "Hell no, and I wouldn't want to." Because my only experience regarding transgender persons was via Alana's experience, and

Alana does want to live en-fem full time, I quickly became confused. I thought Alana's desires were the desires of all transgender persons. It had never occurred to me that someone could identify as transgender, yet enjoy presenting sometimes as male, and sometimes as female.

Since that day of learning that some transgender persons have no desire to permanently change gender presentation, I've met several other persons who identify as transgender, yet choose to live life in two separate genders... and sometimes

I've gained regarding the experience of being transgender in this writing: 1) the desire to permanently change gender presentation, and 2) to present as either male or female as you choose. I've also learned there are many many other transgender experiences... actually, I've learned that although there are often similarities in experiences among transpersons, EACH person's experience is unique and each person's definition of the transgender experience can be different based on their own unique experience.

I've also learned to simply accept each person's definition of transgender based on their experience. But mainly, I've learned **THERE IS NO ONE WAY TO BE TRANSGENDER.** So, based on the advice of John



The Artist D

a mixture of genders. One such person who I've come to admire greatly is The Artist D (<http://theartistd.com>) She/he refers to her/himself as she/he, and she/he presents as both female/male genders in her/his pictures. Yes, it can be difficult to wrap our brains around (especially for those of us who are non-transgender and are trying to learn more about the transgender experience), but I find it admirable when someone chooses to live their life as it pleases them.

I've only spoken of two understandings

Lennon, I've simply learned to "Let it Be."

A more detailed account of my experiences as "Alana's Spouse" can be found in my memoir which shares my side of our story. Please visit www.myhusbandlooksbetter.com.

The preceding article originally appeared in the Feb/March issue of
FROCK Magazine
(www.frockmagazine.com)



Put Your Tax Refund To Work

In 2014, the average tax refund was about \$2,700. If you got that much this year, what would you do with it?

You can probably think of a lot of things you might do with \$2,700. You might decide to splurge and buy some big-ticket item you've been eyeing. Or you could use the money to pay down some bills, which might be a good idea, especially if it helps improve your cash flow. As an alternative, though, you might want to consider investing the money.

You might not think \$2,700 would make that big a difference to your investment portfolio. But if you invested that \$2,700 in a tax-advantaged account, such as an IRA, and you left the money alone, what might you earn? After 30 years, your \$2,700 would have grown to more than \$20,500, assuming no further contributions and a hypothetical 7% annual return. That's not a fortune, of course, but it would help boost your retirement savings somewhat — and since it originated from a tax refund, it was accumulated pretty effortlessly from your point of view.

Now suppose you put in the same amount — \$2,700 — to your IRA each year for 30 years. Again assuming that same hypothetical 7% annual return, your money would have grown to more than \$272,000. And that amount can

indeed make a rather big difference in your retirement lifestyle.

Keep in mind that you'd eventually have to pay taxes on that \$272,000 if you had been investing in a traditional IRA, which is tax-deferred but not tax-free. It is possible, however, that if you start taking withdrawals when you retire, you'll be in a lower tax bracket.

If you meet the income guidelines for contributing to a Roth IRA, though, you could avoid the tax issue altogether on your \$272,000. That's because Roth IRA earnings grow tax-free, provided you don't start withdrawals until you're 59½ and you've had your account for at least five years.

Thus far, we've only talked about putting your tax refund to work in your IRA — which, as we've seen, can be a very good idea. But suppose you've already developed the excellent habit of "maxing out" on your IRA each year by contributing a set amount each month? You can currently only put in up to \$5,500 per year to your IRA, or \$6,500 if you're 50 or older. So you could fully fund your IRA by putting in about \$458 per month (or \$541 per month if you're 50 or older). Those amounts are not unreasonable, especially as you move deeper into your career and your salary increases. If you do

reach these limits each month, what could you do with your tax refund?

You can start by looking closely at your portfolio to see if any gaps exist. Could you, for example, use your tax refund to further diversify your holdings? While diversification can't guarantee profits or prevent losses, it can reduce the impact of volatility on your portfolio — and the less you feel the effects of volatility, the more likely you may be to stick with your long-term strategy rather than overreacting to short-term price drops.

So when Uncle Sam sends you that refund, consider investing it one way or another. You'll be putting it to good use.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Questions?
Let us help - contact
Financial Advisors
David DeBrot or
Stephen Robertson
at 859-263-0516





March Calendar & Telephone Directory

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

Sunday, March 1

3:00 p.m. Company Q Rehearsals
6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, March 2

7:00 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League*
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting hosted by AVOL*

Tuesday, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

12:00 p.m. Bluegrass HIV Coalition Meeting*
7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, March 5

All Day GLSO Yankee
Candle Paper Orders are Due!

6:00 p.m. Pride Fest Sponsorship
Sub-Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m. GLSO Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Saturday, March 7

7:30 p.m. TransKentucky Meeting
9:00 p.m. GLSO Turn-about Show*

Sunday, March 8

3:00 p.m. Company Q Rehearsals
6:00 p.m. ICK Annual Falsies & Voting*
6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, March 9

7:00 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League*
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting hosted by AVOL*

Tuesday, March 10

6:30 p.m. PFLAG Meeting*
7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Wednesday, March 11

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, March 12

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

Saturday, March 14

12:00 p.m. Entre Nosotros (Between Us)
9:00 p.m. Annual Hair Ball*
9:00 p.m. Kentucky Bourbon
Bears Board Meeting*

Sunday, March 15

1:00 p.m. Pride Fest Entertainment
Sub-Committee Meeting
4:00 p.m. Imperial Court Meeting
6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, March 16

5:00 p.m. Raising Funds with
Raising Cane's Pride Fundraiser*
7:00 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League*
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting hosted by AVOL*

Tuesday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 18

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group
9:30 p.m. Inner Diva Pageant*

Thursday, March 19

6:00 p.m. Pride Fest Sponsorship
Sub-Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. GLSO Board Work Session
7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Friday, March 20

All Day Editorial Deadline
for LINQ Magazine
Senior's Bistro (Potluck)

Sunday, March 22

3:00 p.m. Company Q Rehearsals
6:00 p.m. Imperial Court Meeting
6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, March 23

7:00 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League*
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting hosted by AVOL*

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 25

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, March 26

6:30 p.m. 2015 LexPride
Planning Committee Meeting
H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Sunday, March 29

3:00 p.m. Company Q Rehearsals
6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, March 30

7:00 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League*
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting hosted by AVOL*

Tuesday, March 31

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

Wednesday, April 1

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group
9:00 p.m. April Fool's Show for 2015 Pride*

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
AA/Alcoholic Teens	859-277-1877
Council for Peace and Justice	859-488-1448
Discussion Group	859-253-3233
Fairness of Louisville	502-893-0788
Gay-Straight Alliance, Teens	859-266-5904
GLSO Pride Center	859-253-3233
Imperial Court of Kentucky	859-619-7521
International Gay Bowling	859-539-3058
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 BGLA	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

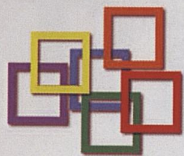
**Don't see your group's events or contact information?
Email it to editor@glso.org and we will add you to our calendar!**

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



GLSO
GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

ABOUT TURN

Saturday, March 7 at 10pm
\$5 Suggested Donation

CROSSINGS
Lexington
117 N. LIMESTONE
859.233.7266

Jell-O & Gummi Bear Shots

**GLSO Board members will be performing
& competing in drag for the first time ever!**

All proceeds go to the GLSO

WWW.GLSO.ORG