

CONNECTING THE BLUEGRASS LGBTQ COMMUNITY

Lin



2016 FAIRNESS LOBBY & RALLY DAY

Wednesday, Feb. 17th
Kentucky State Capitol

PAGE 11

WE ARE BLACK HISTORY

PAGE 8

MEET THE PCSO BOARD

PAGE 12&13

-
- Gay
 - Lesbian
 - Bisexual
 - Transgender
 - Straight
 - Human



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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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IN THIS ISSUE

COVER
STORY

KENTUCKY
FAIRNESS
LOBBY &
RALLY DAY

FEBRUARY 2016

WE ARE BLACK HISTORY

Carol Taylor-Shim explains why we need to understand the intersection of Black history and LGBTQ history.

8

11

2016 FAIRNESS LOBBY AND RALLY DAY

Josh Mers, Chairman of Lexington Fairness, tells us why this year's Lobby and Rally Day is so important for our community.

MEET THE PCSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meet the members of the Pride Community Services Organization's Board of Directors.

12 & 13

14

LEXINGTON PRIDE FESTIVAL

This year's Chair of the Pride Festival, Kat Wilkie Kennedy, and her committee, are gearing up for the 2016 Lexington Pride Festival, and getting rolling with the vendor application process.

HEART TO HEART

Chad Hundley writes about the PCSO's Wednesday night discussion group, "Heart to Heart," including its history, purpose, and success.

18



That's What I'm TALKIN' ABOUT

by Helena Handbasket



HUMOR

This month I am doing a little public service to all of my dear followers out there to inform you of the happenings going on in the month of February. Of course we all know about the usual ones, such as February being American Heart Month, Black History Month, Creative Romance Month... celebrating Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, National Freedom Day, etc. I wanted to bring to your attention some of the lesser-known celebrations that occur in February. And, yes, these are real.

I bet you had no idea that February 4 is "Thank a Mailman Day"—a perfect day to leave a little package of cookies in the mailbox with a thank you note. After all, he/she does deliver through rain, sleet, and cold.

Did you know that February 6 is "Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day?" I don't usually celebrate that one. I do love ice cream, but not enough to substitute for my biscuits and gravy. After all, I am a southern gal, you know.

February 7 is "Send a Card to a Friend Day" (no doubt created by Hallmark or some other card maker... but still a cute idea.) I bet this day was created way before Facebook.

I just found that February 8 is Boy Scout Day. (Insert your own joke here). No doubt a holiday that so many of my readers would celebrate (sense sarcasm?).

Here is a list of some of the others I found... February 8 is "Kite Flying Day" (in February, really?); February 11 is "Don't Cry over Spilled Milk Day" (an entire day to remind yourself not to cry over small stuff—WOW); February 14, in addition to being Valentine's Day, is "Ferris Wheel Day" (aw, how sweet, but again... in February, really?); and not to be left out, those without significant others can celebrate "Singles Awareness Day" on February 15.

How about we all celebrate on February 16 for the "Do a Grouch a Favor Day?" Which leads perfectly into February 17, with "Random Acts of Kindness Day"—this is one of my personal favorites, although, I hope we are all doing that more than once a year or even once a month. Mamaw taught you better! <wink>. They actually named February 20 as "Love Your Pet Day," however, if you need a day to remind you to love your pet... just sayin'. February 22 is "Be Humble Day." I'm really good at that one. Did you know that the 24th is "National Tortilla Chip Day?" Probably created by the company that makes Doritos...wouldn't you think?



Continued On Next Page

Continued From Previous Page

February 26 is the day that I want to promote the most this year. It is "Tell a Fairy Tale Day." That just gets me so excited. I am hoping that on the 26th, everyone reading this will share their favorite fairy tale on Facebook with everyone. Or better yet, how about showing us all how creative you can be and write a new fairy tale? I just love a good fairy tale (you decide for yourself what I mean by that).

Then, on February 28, just for us queers, it is "Floral Design Day." That just gets my blood pumping. (BTW... I am always happy to accept any flowers you all want to send to me.) The 28th is also "Public Sleeping Day," so let's all sleep together that day in public... ya'll want to?

Lastly, this year is Leap Year, which only comes every four years (sad, but true). So, whenever you are in a public place and walking

from location to location... just throw in a few leaps now and then just to make people giggle (or at the very least, wonder just what the hell you are up to). If they aren't able to put it together, then... well... bless their hearts!

Until next month... If you spread love all around like you spread butter on a biscuit, we would all get greasy with happiness.

*Send comments or suggestions to
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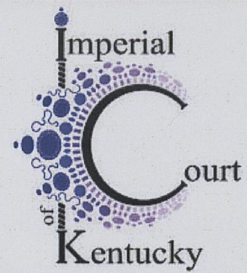
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IMPERIAL COURT OF KENTUCKY NEWS



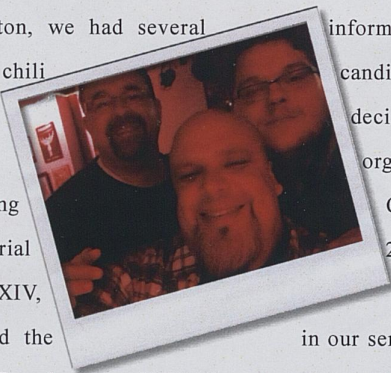
by H.M.I.M. Empress XXXIV of the Imperial Court of Kentucky Kali Dupree

ADVOCACY

Greetings, once again, from the Imperial Court of Kentucky. I would like to thank everyone for their time and efforts over the past eight months during my reign as Empress XXXIV. Sometimes it's not exactly the easiest thing to set aside time and volunteer and donate, but every minute, every dollar, and every action is greatly appreciated by me, the Imperial Court of Kentucky, and by our charities.

January was a fun-filled month kicking off our new year and our never-ending fundraising endeavors. Starting off the month, we had a nice, relaxing night at Crossings Lexington with our "Chili Cook Off." With the help of Emperor XXXI Daryl Lyons and donations of prizes from Crossings Lexington, we had several folks enter pots of chili to be voted upon by the customers.

Also during January, the Imperial Prince Royale XXXIV, Scottie Clark, and the Imperial Princess Royale XXXIV, Uma Jewels, hosted "A Whole New World: A Disney Themed Show." I would like to thank both Scottie and Uma for their love and support throughout reign XXXIV and for being amazing individuals who are always there when needed, and for hosting



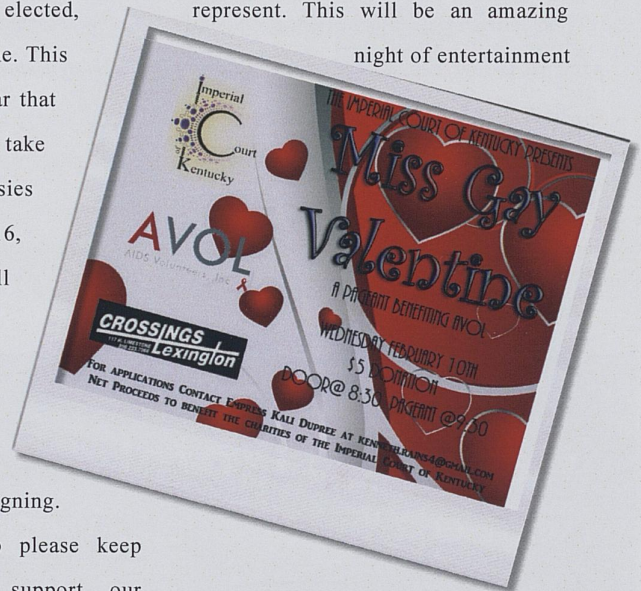
such an amazing event. Thank you!

During reign XXXIII, the Imperial Court of Kentucky saw changes to the way our leadership, both monarchs and board of directors, were elected, most notably in the timeline. This year marks the second year that our annual elections will take place at the annual Falsies Awards on March 20, 2016, at Bogarts in the Campbell House. During February, candidates for these positions will be able to make themselves known and begin campaigning.

I encourage everyone to please keep informed and support our candidates who have made the decision to step up and lead our organization into the future.

Coming up on February 10, 2016, the Imperial Court will host the next pageant in our series, "Miss Gay Valentine – Benefiting AVOL." As I have mentioned before, each of the five pageants that the Imperial Court hosts this year have been designated to benefit each of our five main charities. Each of the winners of each of these pageants will be given the opportunity to compete in the finale in

May, with the winner from each pageant representing their pageant's charity. The winner of the finale shall see the donations from the night go toward the charity they represent. This will be an amazing night of entertainment



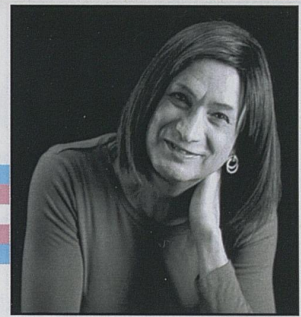
and pageantry and we will get to witness last year's winner, Miss Eve St. Mychals, as she steps down.

If you or anyone you know would like to come out to compete and be given the opportunity to represent Miss Gay Valentine and AVOL at the finale, please contact myself at kenneth.rains4@gmail.com, or Emperor XXXIII, Tim "Papaw" Logsdon. As always, please keep current on events and dates by checking our website or by following us on Facebook.



TransKY ADVOCATE

by Tuesday G Meadows



Valentine's Day 2016 - I Love You

"And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make." *The End, The Beatles*

feel very lucky that in my life I have experienced a lot of love. I realize that there are a good number of people that do not feel this way. Starting from the time that I was very young, my mom told me that she loved me. Later, my wife told me most every morning and every night that she loved me, and I told her that I loved her. My siblings tell me often that they love me, as do a lot of my friends.

To me, it has always been important to tell those around me that I love them. I know a number of people who think that the phrase "I love you" should only be used sparingly or just on special occasions such as Valentine's Day. I don't believe this, and think that you should tell people that you love them every chance that you are able.

My dad was a very good dad and seemed to be a decent husband for my mom. Dad never uttered the phrase "I love you" to any of his six kids or my mom (as far as I know). One day, I asked him why he never said it. My dad told me that, by him providing a place for us to live and food on the table, he showed that he loved us. He was terribly uncomfortable even talking about the subject. On the other hand, my mom said "I love you" quite often, and I would say it to her very often.

Later in life, I was able to tell my dad that I loved him, even though he still couldn't say it. I am very lucky that I took after my mom in that regard.

I've known many others that seem to struggle with "I love you." I am not sure whether they were taught not to use the phrase or if, through a lifetime of disappointment, they just stopped saying it. I am sure that some people think it gets overused, or perhaps think that someone like me says it way too much, and doesn't really mean it.

"I want and need love to survive."

Saying "I love you" does take a leap of faith many times. Telling friends, mentors, and other important non-family members that you love them may mean that you find out that the feeling is not mutual. It is still important to tell them. Who you love is more important than who loves you and you should say it out loud. Sometimes these people may be more important in your life than those who are related to you by blood.

When it comes to a love interest, hearing the phrase, "...but I love you," is beautiful and makes your heart soar. This means they love you no matter what. Then again, hearing the phrase, "...I love you,

but..." can be devastating, especially after you have confessed your love to someone. It's still worth the risk to tell someone "I love you" no matter the outcome. In the Lumineers' song *Stubborn Love*, the lyrics state, "It's better to feel pain than nothing at all," which I believe to be true. The song goes on to say, "The opposite of love is indifference," which tells me that if someone doesn't know whether you love them or not, they may think that you are indifferent to them. You don't have to hate someone to make them feel unloved.

As an older transgender woman who recently lost my spouse, I am not sure if I will ever have another love interest, or even care to have another love interest. With that said, I still want love in my life: my family, my friends, people that I volunteer with, people that I may bond with for even just a short time, and other important people in my life. I want and need love to survive.

Please tell someone who is important to you today that you love them, because it can never be said or heard too much. Don't wait until it's too late. You may write me at tmeadows828@gmail.com or follow me on Twitter at Tuesday Meadows @Trishgigi. Now Tuesday is gone with the wind.



WE ARE BLACK HISTORY

by Carol Taylor-Shim, MSW



As I write this, people all over the nation are gearing up to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for his life, his work, and his legacy. For a day, the vast majority of us will reflect upon all he has done for us and recommit to continue the fight to end racism. Then on Tuesday, we will go back to normal. Let's be honest, by 6 p.m. on Monday, we'll be back to business as usual. By the time you read this, we will be in the midst of Black History Month celebrations and revelry. But what you won't hear about is the disconnection expected between being Black and being LGBTQ. This is what it often feels like for many Black queer and trans people of color (QTPOC). We can be Black in some spaces and whatever letter or letters we are elsewhere. We are often expected to live dual lives with very little intersection between the two. Don't believe me? When I look at the minimal response from the greater Black community about the terrorism Black trans women are experiencing at ever-growing rates, I see it. Where are the rallies and protests and sermons about those lives mattering just as much as any other Black life? People seem to forget that the #BlackLivesMatter movement was born from queer women of color. Or maybe they don't even know that.

It's important that we understand that Black history is interconnected with LGBTQ history, whether people want to recognize that or not. Don't

believe me? Don't see the connection? Please allow me to introduce you to some folks who are Black and LGBTQ at the same time and have changed the world while doing it.

Alvin Ailey, Jr., Choreographer; John Amaechi, NBA Player; James Baldwin, Author; Josephine Baker, International Singer/Dancer; Lee Daniels, Film and Television Director; Angela Davis, Activist; Ruth Ellis, Activist; E. Lynn Harris, Author; Langston Hughes, Poet; Marsha P. Johnson, Activist; Miss Major, Activist; Amandla Stenberg, Activist/Actress; Keith Boykin, Political Commentator; Bayard Rustin, Activist. These are our people too, the Black community AND the LGBTQ community.

Now let's talk about Bayard Rustin for a minute,



in honor of Dr. King's legacy. Bayard and Martin's histories are connected, but that's not common knowledge. History doesn't teach us about the gay Black man who was a close confidant and advisor to Dr. King. It doesn't mention how integral Bayard

was to the March on Washington. Some have even said without Bayard, there would not have been a march at all. But history doesn't talk about that. Our families don't talk about that. Our churches don't talk about that. I wonder why?

2015 was a year unlike any other I've experienced in my time on this earth. As my father always says, "We're living in perilous times." Truer words have never been spoken. Living an authentic life is hard as a trans or queer person of color. Then add layers upon layers of other oppressed identities, like being a female identifying person in a misogynistic society, or someone who is disabled in an able-bodied world, or someone labeled as "illegal" by people whose ancestors were also "illegal." Oppression is 24/7

365. All day, every day. As we move from celebrating MLK into celebrating Black history, during the shortest month of the year mind you (No shade. I'm lying. ALL OF THE PALM TREE-SIZED SHADE), let's remember those who live in duality at the intersection of Black and LGBTQ identities. Audre Lorde said it best, "There is no single issue-struggle because we do not live

single-issue lives."

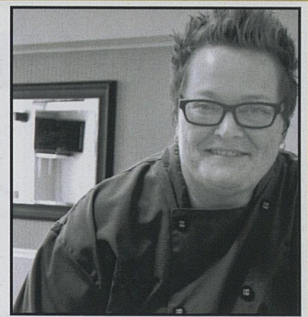
Follow me on Twitter @cthsim71



VALENTINE'S DAY

Spice up the romance, even if single!

by Chef Ranada West-Riley



If there's one thing that kills me, it's when people go all out for Valentine's Day, forgetting about the other 364 days that should be filled with love and gentleness, compassion and kindness. I was that way, then life unfolded and I started loving myself and treating myself like my inner queen (even now my wife and friends say I'm a total princess despite my more masculine looks). I embrace that princess too! Eating well, manicures (does not always mean acrylic nails) or pedicures, a monthly massage, a beautiful splurge on dinner, taking myself to a concert and meeting new friends to party with for even a night. These are just a few of the things I would indulge in, because in essence, I was my own sweetheart, and who should I treat better than myself?

After the running and bitching and moaning about being single, I was blessed with an amazing woman. I mustered the courage to commit to a lifelong marriage. We had a whirlwind romance and then realized we liked each other, not only loved each other. We are friends, companions, through thick and thin. That's rare... to find your person. And so it began.... Trying to make sure it stays fresh and the romance stays fired. Enter Valentine's Day. This is just another day taken hostage by marketing moguls. No worries, Valentine stuff hits the shelves right after New Year, no different than Christmas decorations at Halloween... and Halloween on the 4th of July. So, rather than succumb to all of that nonsense, I

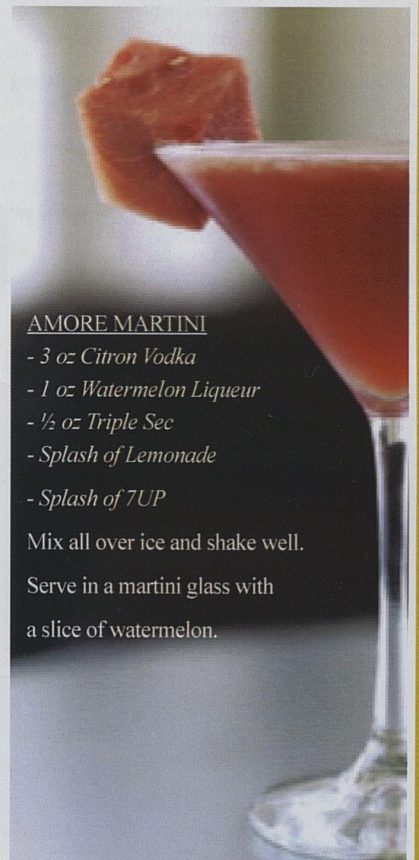
spend a little extra time doing something not store bought, something written, something not grabbed in the store on the way home from work at the last minute. Why not write a letter? The written word in letter form is so rare these days, yet so special, and can be so kind and heartfelt, and not store bought. On all the other 364 days a year, I try to make a point to show my love and devotion and kindness and commitment... it keeps it fresh, alive, fiery. The same can go for giving back to the community. Helping the homeless, the local animal shelter, taking old coats and blankets to a shelter, or donating to your local drug and alcohol rehabilitation or non-profit. It all matters. It all helps.

In the meantime, I'm a chef. That means I have a couple of great recipes to share that are simple and quick and "aphrodisiac" in taste, giving new meaning to "Netflix and chill" on February 14. Happy Valentine's Day, y'all. Just love one another.

CHOCOLATE COVERED BACON

- 12 thick-sliced bacon strips (about 1 pound)
- 12 wooden skewers (12 inches)
- 6 ounces white candy coating, chopped
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon shortening
- Optional toppings: chopped dried apple chips, apricots and crystallized ginger, finely chopped pecans and pistachios, toasted coconut, kosher salt, brown sugar, cayenne pepper and coarsely ground black pepper

Thread each bacon strip onto a wooden skewer. Place on a rack in a large baking pan. Bake at 400° for 20-25 minutes or until crisp. Cool completely. In a microwave, melt candy coating; stir until smooth. Combine chocolate chips and shortening; melt in a microwave and stir until smooth. With pastry brushes, coat bacon on both sides with melted coatings. Top each strip as desired. Place on waxed paper-lined baking sheets. Refrigerate until firm. Store in the refrigerator.



AMORE MARTINI

- 3 oz Citron Vodka
- 1 oz Watermelon Liqueur
- ½ oz Triple Sec
- Splash of Lemonade
- Splash of 7UP

Mix all over ice and shake well.
Serve in a martini glass with a slice of watermelon.



AROUND THE LIBRARY

reviewed by Tiffany Duncan

But I'm a Cheerleader, screenplay by Brian Wayne Peterson

This 1999 romantic satire explores the themes of gender identity and sexuality. Starring Natasha Lyonne as a seventeen-year-old cheerleader named Megan, the film follows a group of young people undergoing a 5-step conversion therapy program at Camp True Directions. Megan is suspected of being a lesbian by her conservative parents, and shipped off to this camp in the hopes that wearing pink and doing female work will help her become a "real" woman. As the campers work through each of the steps, from admitting their



homosexuality to rediscovering their gender identity, viewers are able to explore the very serious issues of socially constructed gender norms and heteronormativity through a comedic lens. Ultimately, this movie is about the steps all humans go through as we struggle to find our true selves. This film can be found in the AV collection under AV-FEAT BUT.



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2016 FAIRNESS LOBBY AND RALLY DAY

by Josh Mers, Chairman of Lexington Fairness



When historians look back on 2015, I am fairly certain that it will be noted as a banner year for the advancement of LGBTQ rights and equality in general. Sure, there were some hiccups along the way, but it truly was a momentous year. So let's pause for a minute and take one last collective reflection on what we accomplished last year.

Now that we've done that, it's time to recognize that it is now 2016 and we still have a long way to go for full equality. Importantly, you need to remember that in Kentucky, around 75% of residents live in an area that does not recognize fairness as a value. That means that outside of eight cities in our Commonwealth, you can be fired from your job, evicted from your home, or denied service at a restaurant for no other reason than you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. The Statewide Fairness Coalition (Fairness Campaign of Louisville, ACLU of Kentucky, Lexington

Fairness, and the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights) has for several years had the strategy of adding fairness ordinances at the local level. The most recent addition was for our neighbors in Midway just this past year.

The other part of that strategy has been to work on the state level to bring fairness to all Kentuckians. While it's safe to say that it has been a very slow and arduous process, it is also safe to say that progress has been made. Each year, this strategy has seen the statewide fairness ordinance advance through additional sponsors, attention, and even receiving a committee hearing in Frankfort during the 2014 legislative session.

Key to the success of this strategy has been to "invade" Frankfort each year for a Fairness Lobby and Rally Day. This is where Fairness needs the most help from our community.

On February 17 this year, we will once again trek to our State Capital to ask legislators to

support protections for the LGBTQ community.

The Details :

*Kentucky State Capitol Frankfort, KY
February 17*

*8:30 a.m.: Lobby Training in Capitol Annex
Room 131*

9 – 11 a.m.: Meeting with Legislators

1:30 p.m.: Rally in the Capitol Rotunda

Prepare by calling 1-800-372-7181 to schedule a meeting with your State Senator and Representative.

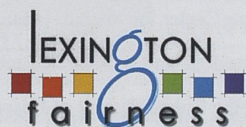
Let's be honest, friends. The challenge is large but we can accomplish protecting our entire community with the passage of this law.

We look forward to seeing each of you there.



KY FAIRNESS RALLY

FEB 17, 2016

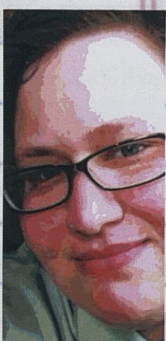


MEET THE PCSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Christopher R. Bauer, President

Christopher moved to Lexington from Miami, Florida, in August 2013 with his husband, fellow PCSO Board Member Roberto L. Abreu. Christopher has degrees in Political Science and Sociology and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Miami School of Law. He is currently employed as a corporate attorney. In Florida, Christopher was a facilitator for a county-wide LGBT youth group ("True Expressions"), and lobbied at the state capitol for school anti-bullying laws. While in law school, he headed up the LGBT student group, OUTLaw, in its efforts to put an end to Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and worked with the ACLU to campaign against Florida's anti-same-sex marriage amendment. Christopher served as the 2014 and 2015 Pride Logistics Chair and joined the PCSO Board in June 2014. Since then, he has served as the *LinQ* Editor-in-Chief and was elected PCSO Board President in December 2014.



Theodore Meacham, Vice-President

Theodore Ivan Meacham would like to thank you for reading *LinQ*! Theo currently serves as the 2016 Pride Logistics Co-Chair, and is the director of Company Q, Lexington's OWN Queer Youth Theatre Ensemble. Additionally, he serves as Governance Officer for the Pride Youth Theater Alliance. By day, Theo can be found in a corporate setting, and by night he likes to change the world. Theo is married to a cool lady named Ann. Together, they have two dogs and three cats. He is super trans and super queer. His favorite color is brown, and he has mad love for garlic stuffed olives. Theo joined the PCSO Board in August 2014, and was elected PCSO Board Vice-President in December 2014.



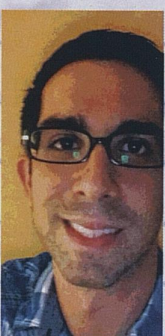
Paul Brown, Secretary

Paul is a Spanish teacher at Henry Clay High School, where he sponsors the Gay-Straight Alliance. He is passionate about education. A long-time LGBT advocate, Paul began his activism with Lexington Fairness, of which he was Chair from 2006-2008, when they became an independent organization. At the PCSO, Paul served as the 2012 and 2013 Pride Chair, and is the 2016 Pride Logistics Co-Chair. He has given training to different classes on LGBTQ issues, and has won two community service awards from the Imperial Court of Kentucky. Paul joined the PCSO Board in October 2011, and has served as the Board Secretary and Board President. Paul was elected interim PCSO Board Secretary in December 2015.



Jacob Boyd, Treasurer

Jacob is a lifelong resident of Kentucky, born and raised in Franklin. After graduating high school, Jacob moved to Lexington to attend UK, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Accounting and is currently working on getting his MBA. While attending UK, Jacob worked for American Eagle, originally in the mall, and then at Hamburg. After completing his degree, Jacob was hired by Ashland, Inc., in their tax department, which is where he has worked for the last three and a half years. He has two dachshunds that are spoiled rotten. Jacob served as 2013, 2014, and 2015 Pride Treasurer, and continues that position for 2016. Jacob joined the PCSO Board December 2013 and was just re-elected for another two-year term as PCSO Treasurer.



Roberto L. Abreu, At-Large

Roberto moved to Lexington from Miami, Florida, in August 2013 with his husband, PCSO Board President Christopher R. Bauer, to pursue a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at UK. Roberto's clinical experiences include working with children and adolescents on the Autism Spectrum at Pediatric Psychology Associates, LGBT teenagers and young adults, college students at the UK Counseling Center, low-income families and immigrants at Family Counseling Services, and incarcerated men and women with severe mental illness at the Federal Bureau of Prisons

Continued On Next Page

and Kentucky Department of Corrections. Roberto is a member of the Psychosocial Research Initiative on Sexual Minorities (PRISM) research team at UK. His research interests include sexual minority youth, with an emphasis on Latina/o LGBT youth and parental and community acceptance. Roberto served as the 2014 Pride Volunteers Chair, and 2015 Pride Vice-Chair. Roberto joined the PCSO Board in June 2014.



Kira Goldade, At-Large

Kira is a mother of two amazing teenage children. Kira relocated to Kentucky from Ohio for a change in her life, and connected with the PCSO because a loved one came out and trusted her enough to provide them support and be non-judgmental. Since then, Kira has been very involved with the PCSO. Kira was a Pride volunteer in 2014 and has participated in Heart-to-Heart meetings and PCSO/Pride fundraisers. Kira served as the Vendor Liaison Chairperson for the 2015 Pride Committee. In her spare time, Kira enjoys watching football, crocheting, and spending time with her family. Kira joined the PCSO Board in May 2015.



Amy Hatter, At-Large

Amy graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor's in Sociology in 2008. She has worked at Radio Eye (Kentucky's only radio reading service, serving the blind, visually impaired, and print disabled) ever since, and has been the Executive Director since 2011. Amy is also on the board of the International Association of Audio Information Services (IAAIS), an organization that promotes the importance of reading services across the country and in Canada and New Zealand. Amy has been the Web/IT Chair for the Lexington Pride Festival for 3 years, and joined the PCSO Board in March 2015 as an at-large member in charge of IT/Website.

Dena Lee, At-Large



Dena Lee graduated from UK with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and is an avid Wildcats fan. Dena has worked in various positions for the state of Kentucky in child protection for the past 11 years, where she has been a dedicated advocate for children and families. When Dena isn't working, she is spending time with her fur baby, working out, and hanging out with friends. Dena joined the PCSO Board in April, 2015.



Tuesday Meadows, At-Large

Tuesday is a lifelong resident of Kentucky and a graduate of Lafayette High School and UK. She is a writer and an advocate for the transgender community. She is also a parent to daughter Amy, and a grandparent to granddaughters Alex and Rosie. She was recently widowed. Tuesday is a retired Kroger store manager and an avid runner, having completed over 20 marathons and 30 half marathons. She is a writer for *LinQ* magazine where she also is Assistant Editor taking care of advertising for *LinQ*. Tuesday is part of the Seasoned Independent People group, who meet at the Pride Center monthly. She has been on the Pride Committee, and served on other committees of the PCSO. She joined the board in November 2014.

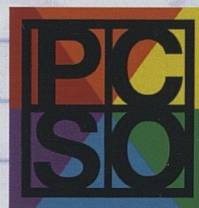


Todd Ryser-Oatman, At-Large

Todd moved to Lexington from Sunnyvale, California, in July 2013 to pursue a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at UK. In California, Todd facilitated an LGBT group for teenagers dealing with issues ranging from coming out to discrimination in school policies. He also worked at a domestic violence organization, where one of his primary tasks was to raise awareness about how domestic violence impacts the LGBT community and how to advocate for survivors more effectively. His undergraduate senior honors thesis was about how to lessen prejudice against lesbians and gay men. Todd is a member of the Psychosocial Research Initiative on Sexual Minorities (PRISM) research team at UK. Todd is currently doing clinical work as a practicum student at GreenHouse17. Todd was the 2015 Pride Fundraising Chair and is a facilitator for the PCSO's Heart-to-Heart group. Todd joined the PCSO Board in October 2014.



PRIDE
COMMUNITY



SERVICES
ORGANIZATION



Lexington PRIDE

▪ F E S T I V A L ▪

by Katherine Wilkie Kennedy, 2016 Lexington Pride Festival Chair

COMMUNITY

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY... WE <3 VENDORS

If you follow the Lexington Pride Festival on Facebook (which I really hope you do!), you may have noticed that our Vendor Application is now available to the public. We really feel that our vendors are the heart and soul of the festival because most of them are local and most of them are multiple-year returnees! Be sure to bring your wallet to the Lexington Pride Festival on June 25 this year, because we plan to have space to accommodate over 90 booths, many of them selling items you can't find elsewhere. We will do our best to ensure that the Pride Festival will be

packed with shopping and fun from Main Street to Barr Street. If your wallet happens to be light, we also have many non-profit groups offering information about volunteering and their services, regional political candidates, and corporations providing giveaways and free services to the community.

Our Sponsors are also very important to us, and every sponsor has a booth at the Lexington Pride Festival. We have had some really fun booths with activities ranging from a live DJ, a photo booth, and even an ongoing karaoke contest. If you



pick up a copy of our Pride Guide at the Pride Festival or visit www.lexpridefest.org, you can see a list of our sponsors. More sponsors are signing up every day and we will be spotlighting them here in *LinQ*, on Facebook, and on the www.lexpridefest.org website. As always, on the day of, the Pride Guide will contain a map highlighting where each individual booth is located so you can be sure to visit and thank them for helping us to continue to keep our festival free for everyone!



Wake up to the Vision! **A FRESH YEAR & A FRESH BUZZ!**

HIGH on Art & Coffee
523 E High St - Lexington, KY

START THE YEAR WITH A VISIT TO HIGH ON ART & COFFEE IN THE WOODLAND TRIANGLE OVER 160 ARTISTS REPRESENTED: JEWELRY, ART, SCULPTURE, WINE ACCESSORIES, MOSAICS, LAMPS, T-SHIRTS, HANDMADE SOAPS, & MORE!!

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OWNED BY TIM & ELLIE HARMAN

Happy New Year!







PFLAG

**PFLAG
Central Kentucky**

*St. Michael's Episcopal Church
2025 Bellefonte Drive
Lexington, KY*

Tuesday, February 9 • 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Several members of TransParentLex will join us to discuss their experiences supporting and advocating for their transgender children and teens. TransParentLex provides support, information and resources for families in transition.

Our presentation and Q&A takes place the first hour, followed by our confidential support group meeting. We welcome LGBTQ persons, their family members, friends and allies, and all who share our vision of acceptance, respect, and equality.



Are you:

Recently out of the closet? Or struggling with doing so? Feel like you can't cope with who you are? Struggling with acceptance at work? Or family? Had a bad break-up? Or lonely and just need to talk to someone? You are not alone!

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.

Join us for:

HEART
To **HEART**

LGBTQ* Discussion Group

Wednesdays

from 7-8:30pm



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



Pride Community Services Organization

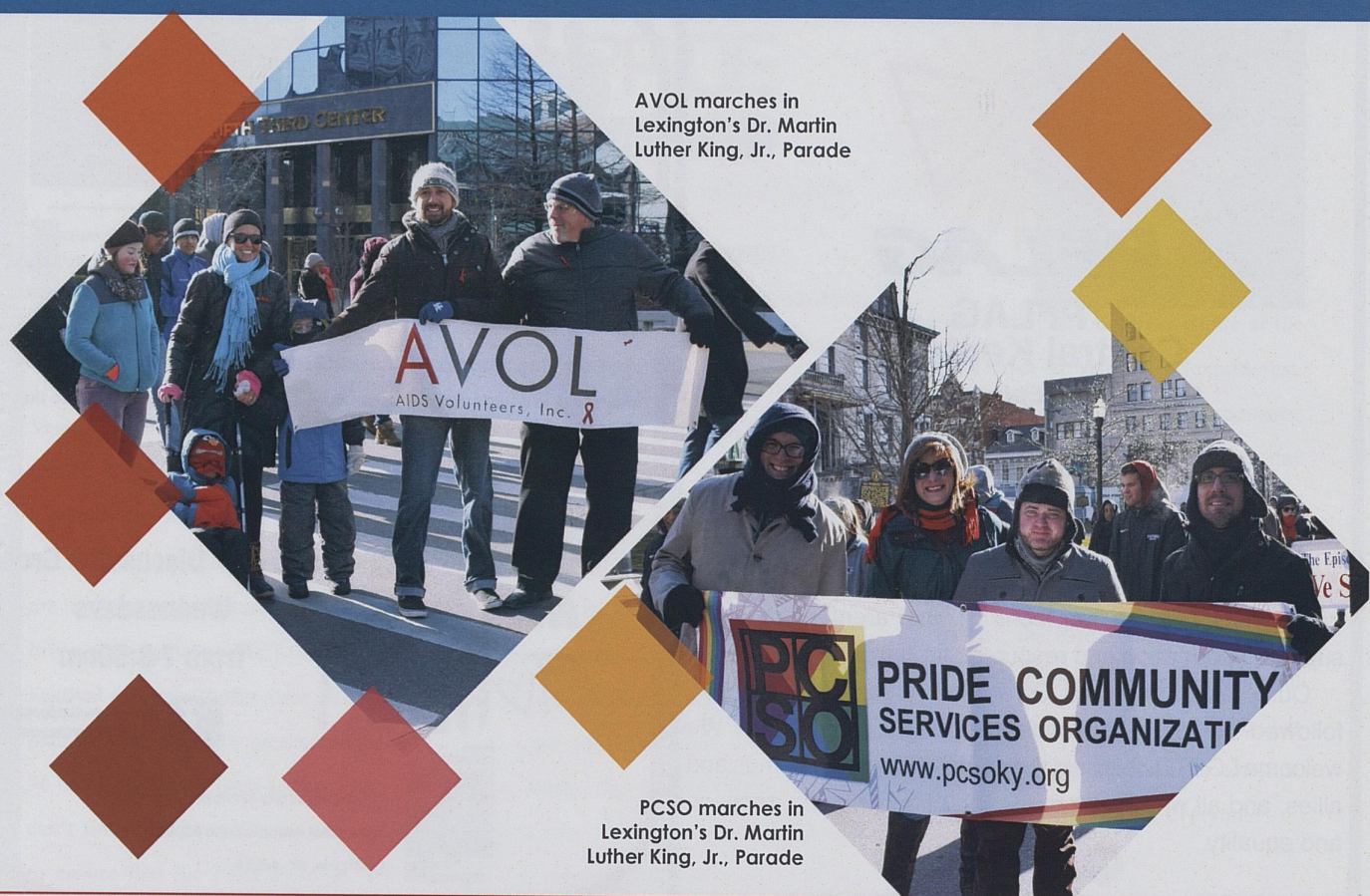
389 Waller Avenue, Suite #100

Lexington, KY 40504

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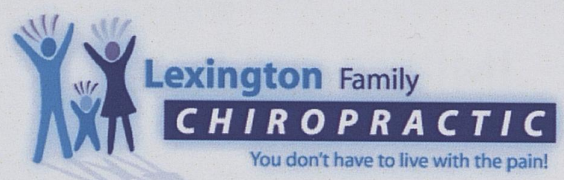
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AVOL marches in Lexington's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade

PCSO marches in Lexington's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade

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Our beautiful relaxing environment will give you that break you need

Mention discount code "PCSO" during February and get \$10 off your next 60 or 90 min. massage (one-time use only)

Members of the Seasoned Independent People Social Group at their monthly potluck



Some of the participants in the Rainbow Bowling League



OUT & ABOUT

Lexington's OWN Queer Youth Theatre wants to make art with you!

Join us for our 2016 Season Kick off Party!

Information! Fun! Free Food!



Open to youth and young adults ages 13-22 of all identities and backgrounds.

February 11th
6:30-8:30pm
at the Pride Center.

Email companyqlexington@gmail.com for more info!

Kick Off Party!

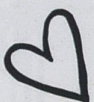
HEART TO HEART



by Chad Hundley,
"Heart to Heart" Moderator

What does "Heart to Heart" truly mean? The dictionary defines it as a sincere and intimate talk or discussion. Well, every Wednesday evening starting at 7 p.m., the PCSO Pride Center hosts a discussion and support group for LGBTQ* individuals named "Heart to Heart." Every week, we have deep "heart to heart" discussions around the table. This group is open for anyone and everyone no matter how you identify.

Jeremy Farmer started the LGBT Discussion Group in December 1998 in a conference room at the downtown branch of the Lexington Public Library as a way to help individuals who were having a hard time coping through the holidays. In January

 1999, this quickly became a permanent program of the then GLSO (now the PCSO). Even back then, they tackled hard topics that were not being discussed anywhere else, and this group also became a safe haven and family to those that felt like they had nowhere else to go. In the fall of that year, the group was then turned over to a passionate GLSO board member, Jane Minder. A short time later, Ginger Moore came on board with such a heart to assist Jane out with the discussion group.

When illness struck Jane and Ginger in 2010, a few others then assisted with this group to keep it going, and the attendance dwindled. Some board members then started questioning, "Is this group needed anymore?" Even though this group struggled


in terms of attendance for the next couple of years, the organization continued running this program for the community, and it was with the return of Jane and Ginger at the end of 2012 and the beginning of 2013 that the group started flourishing once again. They proved to the board and the community that this group was still very much needed, tackling issues such as depression, suicide, and coming out, among many other issues, on top of maintaining a loving and beautiful partnership with each other.

In the summer of 2014, I began to assist Jane and Ginger in facilitating the group, as they had humbly dedicated every Wednesday evening for so long. We then wanted to get the word out to more people who could benefit from these discussions, and started promoting this weekly group with a new name. So in the fall of 2014, "Heart to Heart" LGBT Weekly Discussion Group became the official name of the group. Today, we have attendance averaging around 13 weekly and have a Facebook group page where we tackle issues with messages and questions that people send us.

Now, as the head moderator of the group, we continue to save lives, raise awareness, educate on health and mental health issues, define LGBTQ* terminology, share life experiences and personal stories, and change perceptions. There have been many tears, laughs, and frustrations shared

around our circle. The rules we abide by include: discretion, respect, acceptance, understanding, and most of all, love! We do not discriminate in any way! Whether you are young, old, black, white, brown, rich, poor, male, female, non-binary, trans, straight, bi, lesbian, gay, pan, negative, positive, handicapped, Wiccan, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Atheist, etc... you are accepted and celebrated here amongst our family!

We have a lot of planned discussions coming up, and would love for everyone to be a part of them. In February we have topics including: Hate Between the LGBTQ letters, polyamorous, demisexual, and pansexual. Also, on February 24, AVOL and the Lexington Fayette County Health Department will be joining us to talk about HIV/STD's, and will be providing private testing for FREE as well. In March, we have topics coming up such as: LGBTQ in sci-fi, military, and more health talks. I encourage everyone who can't come to please spread

 the word to anyone you know who may be wanting to meet more people, have a place to listen and talk, or just to get in out of the cold and away from Netflix for a couple of hours. Also, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at chad@pcsoky.org or visit our Facebook Page "Heart To Heart LGBT Discussion Group"!



February Calendar & Directory

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

For more details on each event, view the full calendar
at pcsoky.org at the bottom of the webpage

Monday, February 1

7:00 p.m. - Lexington Rainbow
Bowling League Night *

Wednesday, February 3

5:00 p.m. - Richmond's Alphabet
Soup Support Group *
7:00 p.m. - "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, February 4

6:30 p.m. - PCSO Board Meeting

Saturday, February 6

7:30 p.m. - TransKentucky
Meeting

Sunday, February 7

6:30 p.m. - Team Lex Volleyball *

Monday, February 8

7:00 p.m. - Lexington Rainbow
Bowling League Night *

Tuesday, February 9

6:30 p.m. - PFLAG Meeting *

Wednesday, February 10

5:00 p.m. - Richmond's Alphabet
Soup Support Group *
7:00 p.m. - "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, February 11

7:00 p.m. - LexPrideFest
Sponsorship
Sub-Committee Meeting

Saturday, February 13

9:00 p.m. - Kentucky Bourbon
Bears Board Meeting *

Sunday, February 14

6:00 p.m. - Imperial Court Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Team Lex Volleyball *
9:00 p.m. - Lots of Hearts
& Body Parts*

Monday, February 15

**Editorial & Ad Deadline
for LINQ Magazine**

6:00 p.m. - CompanyQ Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. - Lexington Rainbow
Bowling League Night *

Tuesday, February 16

6:00 p.m. - Garth Greenwell
book reading - Morris Books*

Wednesday, February 17

8:30 a.m. - KY Fairness
Rally Day *

Friday, February 19

5:00 p.m. - Richmond's Alphabet
Soup Support Group *
7:00 p.m. - "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, February 18

North American Bear Weekend
'Bear Comic-Con' *

Saturday, February 20

6:30 p.m. - PCSO Board
Work Session

Friday, February 19

North American Bear Weekend
'Bear Comic-Con' *

Monday, February 21

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

Saturday, February 22

North American Bear Weekend
'Bear Comic-Con' *

Sunday, February 21

North American Bear Weekend
'Bear Comic-Con' *

Monday, February 22

6:30 p.m. - Team Lex Volleyball *

Monday, February 22

6:00 p.m. - Company Q
Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. - Lexington Rainbow
Bowling League Night *

Wednesday, February 24

5:00 p.m. - Richmond's Alphabet
Soup Support Group *

Monday, February 25

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

Thursday, February 25

6:30 p.m. - LexPrideFest
Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 28

6:00 p.m. - ICK's Board of
Directors/Membership Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Team Lex Volleyball *

Monday, February 29

6:00 p.m. - Company Q
Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 16

7:00 p.m. - Lexington Rainbow
Bowling League Night *

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL GROUPS

24-Hour Crisis Line	1-800-929-8000
24-Hour Teen Crisis Line	1-800-999-9999
AA/Alcoholic Teens	859-277-1877
Alcoholics Anonymous	859-967-9960
Arbor Youth Services	859-254-2501
Council for Peace and Justice	859-488-1448
Fairness of Louisville	502-893-0788
Gay-Straight Alliance, Teens	859-221-4396
"Heart to Heart" Discussion Group	859-253-3233
HOPE Positive	440-703-0050
Imperial Court of Kentucky	859-619-7521
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
PCSO Pride Center	859-253-3233
PFLAG Central Kentucky, Inc.	859-338-4393
PFLAG Louisville	502-223-1323
Rainbow Bowling League	270-404-0211
SisterSound	859-806-0243
Social Services, Lexington	211
TransParentLex	859-230-0409
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 LGBTQ* Resource Center	859-323-3312

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
St. Michael's Episcopal Church	859-277-7511
Unitarian Universalist Church	859-223-1448
Woodland Christian Church	859-266-3416

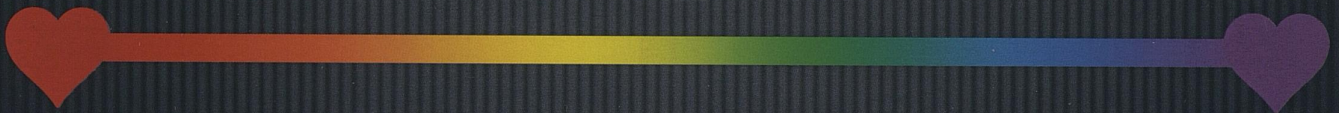
HIV / STD TESTING, SERVICES, & INFORMATION

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

Email your Group or
Event information to us!
editor@pcsoky.org

LOTS OF HEARTS & BODY PARTS

A FUNDRAISER FOR
LEXINGTON
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Sunday, February 14th
Doors Open at 9, Show Starts at 10

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Visit www.LexPrideFest.org for more info