

Gay and
Lesbian
Services
Organization

The GLSO NEWS

August 2006

A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization

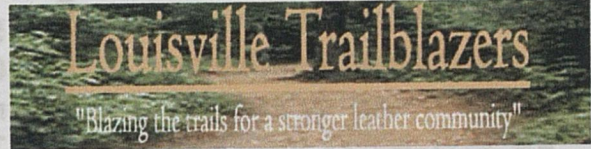
Volume 21 Number 7

WE AIN'T DEAD YET

Although some of the folks in Frankfort may not approve, our community has definitely been showing its own *unbridled spirit!* On the Fourth of July, many GLBT-identified individuals showed their pride by marching in the parade with the Kentucky Fairness Alliance (in their cute new Unbridled Pride shirts), the GLBT Episcopal group Integrity, and the GLSO. We were well represented and supported by many cheering spectators in the crowd.

On Saturday, July 8th, 45 members of our community gathered at the Community Forum with that same spirit of enthusiasm to discuss the ways in which the Pride Center can better serve our community. Various brainstorming groups were formed and asked to discuss the following questions: What are the needs of our community and how do we better fulfill them? What are some of the reasons that people do not utilize the Pride Center and how do we reach out to them? What new services would you like to see at the Center? The responses were recorded and compiled (see Community Forum Update-page 2).

Not content with just talking about the issues, 22 forum participants and other visionaries met for a follow-up meeting to lay plans for implementing the suggestions generated at the forum. Upon board approval, four committees will be created to bring innovative ideas to the organization in the areas of Fundraising, Programming, Public Relations, and Web Design. If you want to help transform the way the Pride Center serves your community, contact Lindsay Mattingly at LindsMattingly@gmail.com. Come catch a bit of this group's contagious enthusiasm!



The Louisville Trailblazers will be holding a "Leather Social Night" in Lexington at Crossings, 117 N. Limestone on Sat. August 5th. The event will start at 10:00 pm. This will be a leather social night and fund raiser for The Lexington Pride Center. There will be a \$3.00 cover charge and a silent auction of donated gift baskets. All proceeds will be split 50-50 between The Trailblazers and The GLSO Pride Center".

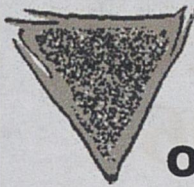
Kings Island Pride Night

The GLSO Pride Center is again selling tickets to the tenth annual King's Island Pride Night to be held Friday evening, Sept. 29, from 6 pm to midnight. If you buy your ticket at the Pride Center, the cost is \$41.99. GLSO will make a few dollars on each ticket. Tickets will be more at the door. Drop by the center between 10 am and 3 pm - call Bill at 253-3233 to be sure someone is here. For more information about this year's event visit www.pkipridenight.com.

Sponsor of the Month

**Unitarian
Universalist
Church
of Lexington**





**GAY AND
LESBIAN
SERVICES
ORGANIZATION**

Lexington, Kentucky

GLSO NEWS

Vol. 21 No.7

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GLSO

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& Newsletter

Individuals/Couples

\$20 per year

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

Community Forum Update:

Common Themes from Brainstorming Groups

1. More visibility, let people know we're here utilize free media sources
2. Offer more group activities away from the bar scene sports, couples nights, cook outs
3. Expand service hours
4. Build volunteer base
5. Newer resources materials for library
6. Increase web connectedness: online newsletter, paypal account, interactive website
7. Write more grants
8. Network with other GLBT and social justice organizations
9. Solicit TBGL-friendly professionals and businesses to provide free services at Center
10. Offer educational seminars
11. Make the Pride Picnic more visible

The GLSO would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the following donors who generously fed the Community Forum attendees: Papa John's

South-Van Events Bombay Brazier
Atlanta Bread Company Magee's Bakery
Krispy Kreme Doughnut Corp.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the staff and congregation of the Maxwell St. Presbyterian Church for welcoming us into their fellowship hall and providing a wonderful location in which to host the Forum!

Finally, GLSO thanks Lindsay Mattingly for suggesting this forum, and for her commitment of time, energy and exuberance in carrying out this project. We will all benefit from her good work.



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

**Jessica Bollinger LCSW
Imago Relationship Therapist**

EMDR Trauma Work

Couples, Family, Individual

imagoconnection.com 552-6533

Community News

Moonshine Bears - Garage Sale

The Moonshine Bears of Kentucky will be having a garage sale on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 4 and 5 from 7 am to 5 pm at Tony J's house, 2104 Belmont Dr. in Lex. Belmont is in the North Point subdivision off Bryan Station Rd. Now is your chance to get some really great stuff. We will be there rain or shine. For more information call Tony at 859 229-4164.

Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club

The Lexington Lyons meet the second Monday of each month at the Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave. at 7 pm. The Lyons are a group of friends that come together to celebrate strength, unity, and diversity in order to form a bond within a community that enjoys the Leather/Levi lifestyle.

Membership has grown steadily over the last year and we now have 14 active members. Lexington Lyons Ninth Anniversary and Officer Induction will be taking place in August. For more info visit <http://www.lexlyons.org>.

Diversity Directory

The Humanitarium Diversity Directory is available at the Pride Center. This directory lists many organizations in Lexington that work towards a community where diversity is not just accepted but celebrated. Both GLSO and KY Fairness, Bluegrass Chapter are sponsors of this publication. Pick up a copy next time you visit the Pride Center.

Gay Pride Union of Kentucky

The Gay Pride Union is a peer support group for the GLBT Community in Somerset, KY. For more info email: Alexstalcup@yahoo.com

Quirk Cafe and Coffee

Quirk Café & Coffee is located on Railroad St. in Midway, KY. It is an easy 15 minute drive from Lexington. We feature live music every Friday from 5:30 to 8 pm. On August 4, we will feature Louise Kelly & Ann Michel-Hagan ~ Great vocals & guitar duo. For upcoming events you can call Quirk at (859) 846-4688. or check on line at www.kygallery.com/quirk/.

We are now open on Thurs, Fri. and Sat. evening, serving our full menu. We offer a variety of salads, soups, sandwiches and wraps. You can select from our 23 different gourmet press pot coffees & teas along with fresh baked scones.

Dress and Gender Alliance

The Lexington Dress and Gender Alliance (also know as the Diversity in Gender Alliance) is reorganizing. We are considering a new name and we would love your input on a variety of organizational matters. We still meet on the first Saturday of each month at a private location. Call 859 979-0374 or 859 -288-5143 for information.

LexDGA is a peer support group for anyone that transcends gender norms. This includes transsexuals, intersexuals, cross dressers, drag kings, drag queens, gender queers, and people who are unsure what their gender identity might be. This is not a therapy group. If you could use some honest conversation and support, give us a call.

Gay Camp Out

Aug 25 - 26

Lake Cumberland Area Pride

see page 17

Jubilee Fellowship

Jubilee Fellowship of Lexington welcomes members of the GLBT community and their friends to join us in growing as a community of believers in Christ who are fanatical about loving people with God's unconditional love. We hold Sunday worship at 11 am and hold a Friday night prayer meeting at 6 pm.

We invite everyone to our Jubilation Celebration Anniversary Party, at 713 East Loudon Ave., Sat., Aug. 5. A free spaghetti dinner will be served. If you receive this in time, call us by July 31, to reserve your dinner. Or come after dinner for the celebration. We will be looking back over our year and recounting all that God has done among us. It will be a great time of fun, food, music, and fellowship.

If you have questions about our fellowship please contact Pastor Cori Wood at jfellowship@aol.com or call 859 5514-5518. We have a big vision and a big God. There is room for you.

See more religious resources on pg 8 - Unitarian Universalist, pg 12 (Integrity) and pg 18 - 19 (St. Mykol The Martyr.)



Unitarian Universalist Church

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington is a welcoming Congregation. We do not simply accept GLBT folks within our church community, we celebrate their lives. Join us for worship any Sunday in August at 10 am. There is a Buddhist discussion group that meets before church at 9 am on most Sundays this summer.

UU Comparative Religion Class

On Wednesday, August 2, Rev. Gary Bennet will be starting a Comparative Religions class that will continue for 4 sessions or more. Gary was previously a Baptist Minister and is now becoming a Unitarian Universalist Minister. (This is not as unusual as you may think.)

He is using material from Houston Smith who was one of the first Americans to study and teach comparative religions on the college level. More adult religious exploration classes will begin in the fall.

An article about U.U.A. President William Sinkford can be found on page 8.

Scott Ackerman Real Estate Service With



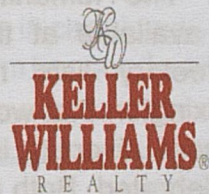
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Sponsor of the Month



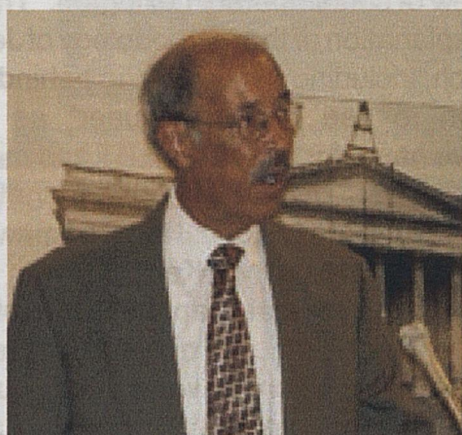
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

3564 Clay's Mill Rd Lexington, KY

Worship Services

Aug 1 - Sept 15 10 am

Sept 15 - May 31 9 am and 11 am



Rev. Sinkford, President of the national Unitarian Universalist Association, spoke to members of the U.S. House of Representatives in July in opposition to the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment. He said:

"Within Unitarian Universalism, we know from our own experience the many blessings that gay and lesbian people bring to our congregations and communities. We know ...that differences of faith, of race and of sexual orientation need not divide us, that diversity within the human family can be a blessing and not a curse.

"For Unitarian Universalists, it is homophobia that is the sin, not homosexuality.

Unitarian Universalists Stand on the Side of Love..."

To read more of his message to congress, see page 8

Pride Center News

389 Waller Ave. 859 253-3233 Mon. - Fri. 10 - 3 Sat 10 - 2

The GLSO Pride Center is here for the long run

The Pride Center is not in danger of closing anytime in the near future. A number of people have asked about our ability to keep the Center open. GLSO is working on financial sustainability, but we are not in a financial crisis.

The Pride Center is also open

Wed Evenings 5 - 7

Pride Center Activities

Lesbian Movie Nights

Thursdays 7 pm

We vote on a movie to watch- bring along your favorite to share with us.

Lexington Insight

Pot Luck and Discussion Group

Every Friday night - open to all
Pride Center 7:30 pm

DISCUSSION GROUP

EVERY WED. 7 PM OPEN TO ALL
JANE: LADYJANEKY@YAHOO.COM

40 + Women

This group is in need of someone to help organize events. Please contact Ginger at ggclr@yahoo.com

Rent the Pride Center

The GLSO Pride Center is used on many nights of the week for meetings, discussion groups, film nights, etc. But there are also a number of nights a month when no one is scheduled. We are willing to rent this space for \$25 a hour, with you doing the clean up. It is freshly painted and looks great. If you are looking for a space to have a party or reception, contact our office manager, Bill at 253-3233

Pride Center Library

Jeff Jones has donated a copy of his dissertation, *Hidden Histories, Proud Communities: Multiple Narrative in the Queer Geographies of Lexington, Kentucky, 1930 - 1999*, to our Library. We have not determined how we are going to provide access to this (large) book. We may keep it at the center for people to read here.

The dissertation begins with a brief overview of contemporary Lexington. There is an explanation of the methodology of Jeff's research, including his reasoning behind his decision to use the word "queer" as the inclusive name for all of us, GLBT and more. One chapter discussing pre-Stonewall Lexington and the historical legal framework defining homosexuality in Kentucky.

There are several chapters that explore four "branches" of queer society, demonstrating different ways that queer people have sought to find meaning and create places reflecting various understandings of queer life. While Jeff subjectively defined these "branches", this technique provided a basis for exploring the diversity within our community.

There is also an bibliography and eight appendices covering everything from a list of the songs on the jukebox at The Bungalow, a listing of all the monarchs and coronations from the Imperial Court, to a lengthy lexicon of queer slang words. These sections are great fun to read.

Our Library continues to be one of our most popular projects. New books videos, DVD's and CDs come in all the time. If you have a book that you think others would enjoy, please donate it and write a review



Moonshine Bears of Kentucky

Cave Sale

2104 Belmont Drive

Friday, August 4th and Saturday, August 5th.

Rain or Shine

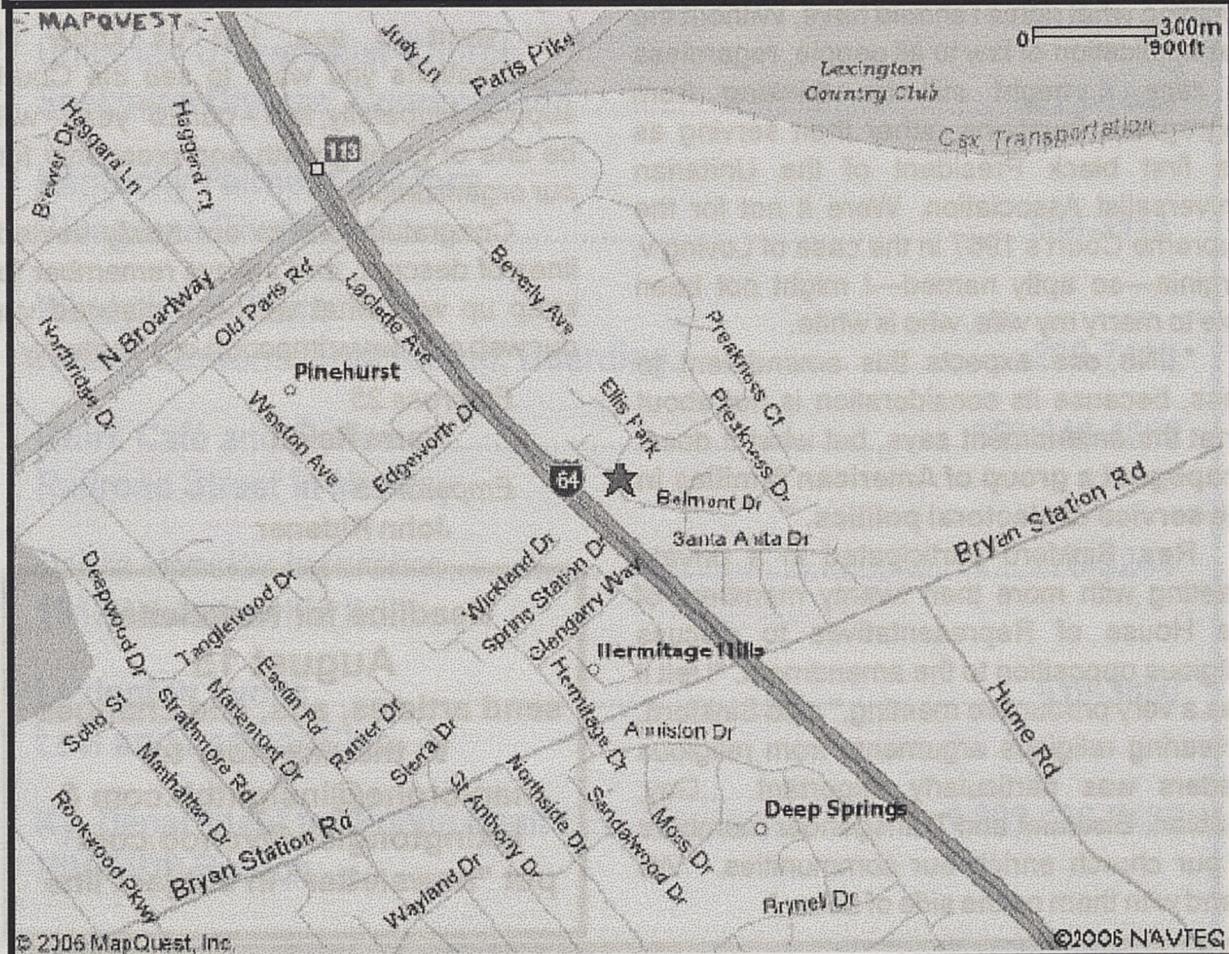
7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Contact (859) 299-4164

Everything Must Go!



Visit Us on the web at www.moonshinebears.com



"Standing on the Side of Love
2006:

No Discrimination in the

As part of the Clergy for Fairness group, U.U.A. President William Sinkford spoke to the U.S. Congress in opposition to the proposed Federal Marriage amendment. He began with the statement on page five and continued:

"I ask you: what does this amendment do to help families who can't find housing or health insurance, for people struggling with addiction? Would this amendment do anything—any single thing—other than discriminate against a group of deserving families, singling them out as worthy of less support than other families? No. The result of passing this amendment would be discrimination. It would be the creation of second-class citizenship, which is something I know a little about..."

"As an African American living in the United States, I know all too well what second-class citizenship can feel like. It was not so long ago that Congress and the Courts were deciding what rights I should have. Without the just application of law to all people, regardless of race, I might still be drinking from segregated fountains rather than serving as the first black President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Were it not for the Supreme Court's 1967 in the case of Loving v. Virginia—so aptly named—I might not been able to marry my wife, who is white.

"...No one expects this amendment to pass, because its consideration is not about what the amendment says, but what it does: **scapegoat a group of American families in the service of electoral politics.**"

Rev. Sinkford participated in a private meeting with more than twenty members of the House of Representatives to discuss religious opposition to the amendment. "I felt it was a very productive meeting," said Sinkford. "Hearing religious arguments from religious leaders was particularly important. ...Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender members of our church enrich our communities. We stand with them on the side of Love."

**Open Letter to Lexington
From The Imperial Court of KY**

As your newly elected monarchs, we hope to keep you entertained and to raise a record amount of money for our beneficiary charities. Without Moveable Feast, AVOL, The Pride Center/GLSO, and the Kentucky Fairness Alliance our lives wouldn't be as rich as they are, and without our members we would be incapable of offering financial support to those organizations.

Every time you attend a show or tip a performer, that money goes back into our community. Every dollar you give is an investment in the future of Lexington— an investment towards a future in which all of us are treated with fairness, dignity and respect and have access to nutritious food, a stable living situation, and the love and support of a thriving community that asks only for love in return.

We hope to do a few different things this year as well as many annual favorites. If you have ideas for shows, tell us what you want to see. Let us know of organizations you want to see the Court support. Hopefully, this – our 25th year – will be one of great growth and prosperity for our organization.

Congratulations to our newly vested lines of descent, and always remember to keep up with what we have planned via our web site www.impcourt.org/kentucky

Empress 25

Sierra Reign

Emperor 25

John Ridener

**Deadline for Newsletter
August 15
send articles, ads, and changes
to the directory to
marycrone@insightbb.com &
lexingtonglso@yahoo.com
put "newsletter" in subject line**

GLSO RAINBOW SPONSOR

The Imperial Court of Kentucky.....252-3914

A Charity Organization

2006 PRIDE MONTH SPONSOR:

Scott Ackerman.

For all your real estate needs.....(mobile) 338-8483

GLSO NEWS SPONSORS 2006

SisterSound806-0243

Diverse music for all women

Richardson Vision Center

1757 Alexandria Drive Gardenside.....278-4201

Ernesto Scorsone

Attorney At Law254-5766

Unitarian Universalist Church

Seeking a Diverse Congregation.....223-1448

Kentucky Fairness Alliance

Bluegrass Chapter.....806-4114

Windy Knoll Farm

Riding Lessons, Trail Riding, Boarding.....299-7410

Quirk Café and Coffee.....859 846-4688

Railroad Street in Midway

Debra Hensley Insurance.....276-3244

1513 Nicholasville Rd.

Lexington Lyons619-3650

Levi and Leather Club

Ky. Department for Public Health.....1 800 420-7430

HIV/AIDS Branch

GLSO Newsletter Calendar AUGUST 2006

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		7p GSA (call for place 266-5904)	Center Open 5p-7p 7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC 8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 278-7103	Center Open 10a-7p	7a Moonshine Bears Garage Sale 7p Lexington Insight @ the Pride Center 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA (call for place) 278-7103	7a Moonshine Bears Garage sale 2p Narcotics Anonymous call for place 278-7103 7p LexDGA 10p Louisville Trailblazers @ Crossings 1/2 of proceeds to benefit the PC
9a and 11a UU Church 10:30 a St. Mychal's 6p SisterSound Rehearsal	8p AA Open Discussion/Speakers (call for place) 278-7103	7p GSA (call for place 266-5904)	Center Open 5p-7p 7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC 8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 278-7103	Center Open 10a-7p 7p Lesbian Movie Night-PC	7p Lexington Insight @ the Pride Center 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA (call for place) 278-7103	Center Open 10a-2p 2p Narcotics Anonymous call for place 278-7103
10:30 a St. Mychal's SoulForce (Jamie 230-5625 2p Women 40+ Group 4p Integrity @ St. Michael's 6p SisterSound Rehearsal 6:00p Imperial Court Mtg.	8p AA Open Discussion/Speakers (call for place) 278-7103 7p Lexington Lyons-PC	7p GSA (call for place 266-5904) Newsletter Dead-line	Center Open 5p-7p 7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC 8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 278-7103	Center Open 10a-7p	7p Lexington Insight @ the Pride Center 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA (call for place) 278-7103	Center Open 10a-2p 2p Narcotics Anonymous call for place 278-7103
10a UU Church Service 10:30 a St. Mychal's Service 6p SisterSound Rehearsal	8p AA Open Discussion/Speakers (call for place) 278-7103	7p GSA (call for place 266-5904)	Center Open 5p-7p 7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC 8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 278-7103	Center Open 10a-7p	7p Lexington Insight @ the Pride Center 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA (call for place) 278-7103 Lake Cumberland Gay Camp-Out Weekend	Center Open 10a-2p 2p Narcotics Anonymous call for place 278-7103 Lake Cumberland Gay Camp-Out Weekend
10:30 a St. Mychal's SoulForce (Jamie 230-5625 2p Women 40+ Group 4p Integrity @ St. Michael's 6p SisterSound Rehearsal 6:00p Imperial Court Mtg.	8p AA Open Discussion/Speakers (call for place) 278-7103 7:30p GLSO Board Mtg. (New Date)	7p GSA (call for place 266-5904)	Center Open 5p-7p 7p GLSO Discussion Group-PC 8p Gay/Lesbian AA Call for place 278-7103	Center Open 10a-7p		

Weekly Activities:

- Mondays:**
8pm - Gay/ Lesbian AA Discussion/Speaker (Call for Location) 278-7103
- Tuesdays:**
7pm - GSA (Gay Straight Alliance)
- Wednesdays:**
7pm - GLSO Discussion Group
8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for Location) 278-7103
- Fridays:**
7pm- Lexington Insight
8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for Location) 278-7103
- Saturdays:**
2pm Narcotics Anonymous 278-7103
- Sundays:**
9:00am & 11am - UU Church Worship Services.
10:30 - Mass, St. Mychal The Mart
6pm - SisterSound Rehearsal @ Landsdowne Presby. Church.
- Bi-weekly:**
6pm - The Imperial Court
SoulForce -Call Jamie 230-5625
7:00pm Lesbian Movie Night

Monthly Activities:

- Mondays:**
7:30pm - GLSO Board Mtg. (4th Mon.) **New Date**
7pm - Lexington Lyons (2nd Mon.)
- Saturdays:**
7pm -LexDGA 1st Sat.
- Sundays:**
2pm -Women 40+(2nd. Sun)
4pm- Integrity (2nd Sun)
4pm- Gen Y Integrity (3rd Sun)

More information about many of the events are in this newsletter. You may want to call or email the group to confirm the date and time, see the directory on back page.

Pride Center may be abbreviated - PC Call for Place may be abbreviated- Call

Kentucky Fairness Alliance Says Thanks

The Kentucky Fairness Alliance hosted booths at Lexington's Diversity Day and the 4th of July Parade. The parade also witnessed the Alliance's production of one of the most enigmatic floats. While the parade often draws criticism for being a march for political candidates, the Alliance, under the vision of Bluegrass Chapter steering committee member Aaron Hutson, created a colorful, eye-catching float with rainbow colored balloons.

Beyond having an outstanding float, the Alliance enjoyed the participation of various groups marching alongside its members. Members of GLSO, Rainbow Families, and KCCJ came out to march, demonstrate support, and create visibility.

KFA realizes that none of these events would have been successful without the help of it's volunteers. The volunteers garnered many signatures toward support of a Statewide Fairness Bill. They tirelessly raised money for KFA through the sale of various merchandise including the new "Unbridled Pride" t-shirt. They disseminated educational materials and worked hard on building that beautiful float. Basically, they made it possible for KFA to enjoy some positive outreach events.

KFA wants to shout out thank you's to all of its volunteers. Thank you a million times over. The work of the volunteers is invaluable and indispensable. KFA sincerely appreciates every minute that volunteers donate to its mission and cannot express sufficient gratitude in its efforts to recognize their hard work.

Now KFA must reach out to its volunteers again. Some of our toughest battles have yet to come. KFA applauds U. of L.'s decision to offer domestic partner benefits to its homosexual and heterosexual employees. However, certain hateful forces immediately issued vitriolic statements in opposition. Dick Roeding, a Republican Kentucky state senator from Lake Park, threatened to

propose legislation to stop U of L's efforts and went on record with a memorable statement: "I don't want to entice any of those people into our state. Those are the wrong kind of people."

While many people reeled at the hurtful, hateful words of an elected official, KFA fired off a response condemning his words. Executive Director of KFA Christina Gilgor called the words, "Nothing short of appalling. He has effectively stated that he would run his LGBT constituents out of the state."

"It is a cold and dark day when a publicly elected official would propose to subject his constituents to a level of ignorance and hatred seen only by zealots such as Fred Phelps and the KKK," added Paul Brown of the Bluegrass Chapter's steering committee.

Dick Roeding's comment demonstrates why KFA exists. KFA will continue to fight for GLBT equality and fairness under the law despite the strong opposition. Still, KFA needs as many volunteers as possible to defeat hostile attitudes such as Roeding's. KFA strongly encourages anyone who can to contact us about volunteering and becoming active. KFA needs every voice in order to be heard. see www.kentuckyfairness.org or call (859) 420-6677.

Again, KFA says thank you, and let's keep marching.

Integrity

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Integrity is a support group for GLBT people and friends that meets at St. Michael's Episcopal Church on the second Sunday of the month at 4 pm (Aug 13th). We have lively discussions about everything from current events to spiritual growth. Everyone is welcome to attend.

On the third Sunday (Aug 20), our new group Gen Y Integrity meets at 4 pm. This group is for young adults ages 18 through 30. Please join us at St Michael's, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., in Lexington. For more info call 859 243-0998 or email stmintegrity@yahoo.com. You are also welcome to attend our worship service each Sunday.

Telling Our Stories

another in our series of personal stories

Coming Out in

When I went to see the GLSO production of *The Laramie Project* a few years ago I found myself deeply affected, crying with sadness for Mathew Shepard and for myself. I was surprised at the pain that came up from events in my life that happened many years before.

I started college in January of 1979. I hadn't graduate from high school. I was pulled out of public school during my Junior year due to family problems. I became a ward of the state and was sent to live in Louisville for a year where I received a G.E.D.

I came out of the closet during that year and began my first relationship with an African American woman in Louisville. The only other two people who knew I was gay and who accepted me lived there also.

I went to Eastern Kentucky University for the spring semester in 1979. The classmates I grew up with were still in high school and I hadn't seen any of them for about a year. There was no one on campus that I knew. I was thinking and praying real hard that I would get along with my roommate and that maybe she might be gay as well. I was totally alone and 17. I was terrified.

I got to school and moved into my dorm room. I didn't know who my roommate was going to be. In those days they didn't ask you questions about your likes and dislikes in a roommate. They just put you with whomever the computer picked for you.

As I was unpacking my belongings and putting my pictures up, my roommate finally showed up. She was coming back from break and already had most of her stuff moved in the previous semester. She introduced herself and I as well. We chit chatted and found out a

little about each other. She was majoring in Social Work and I was majoring in Juvenile Corrections. She was African American.

We asked each other as to why we chose the majors we did. I was up front with her about being a ward of the state until I turned 18, which wouldn't be for several more months. I also was up front with her about me being gay, and that I hoped she didn't have a problem with it, but if she did she could request another roommate.

I tried to say it as nicely as I could, but I believe it still came out angry. Back then I was a very angry kid. Looking back on it now, I believe she probably picked up on my anger. I don't see how anyone could have missed it. I wanted everyone to know I wasn't going to take any shit from anybody, when really I was just terrified and could have used a best friend if someone could have busted down my defenses.

My roommate didn't say she had a problem or not with me being gay. She didn't react at all. That should have been my answer right there. She really didn't want to joke about either like some others did.

I had been there about two months when one day I noticed the girls on my floor acting weird, like something was going on. The girls in the showers came out rather quickly when I went in. I took a quick shower and as I was walking to my room a friend told me that I had better watch out because the word was out that someone was going to beat the shit out of me for being gay.

I went on to my room and my roommate and four of her friends were in there hanging out. They saw the picture of my lover I had decided to put up on my dresser and started asking me questions about her, like who she was and where was she from and so fourth. I thought cool that they were trying to be friendly. I asked them if they would like to meet her sometime. They said sure. So that evening when I talked to my lover on the phone I told her that I had made some friends and that they wanted to meet her.

After the friends left I started cracking the books but fell asleep at my desk. About 3 hours later they showed back up. I'm not sure

continued on next page

how many there were of them, but they beat me. They kept saying this one is for being gay and this one is for having a sister as a girlfriend.

After it was over I called my girlfriend and said I was leaving college. No one was going to ever do that to me again. If I had seen my roommate alone I probably would have picked a fight with her just to get in a few punches, although she was bigger than I was and could easily beat me up again. I didn't care. I felt I had to fight for my girlfriends and my honor.

My girlfriend didn't want me to pursue it any further, so I didn't. She told me to go to the library and wait till she got there that she was on her way. When she got there we went and got a motel room and spent the night. She had me call my social worker from there and tell her what happened. I didn't tell the RA (Resident Assistant) because I didn't think she would believe me. I just figured everyone would say it was my fault because they all knew how angry I was most of the time.

My social worker talked me into staying until she came and got me the next day. The only place they could place me right away was in an emergency shelter for 30 days. After the incident they placed me in with people that wouldn't allow me to see my girlfriend. Unfortunately, we grew apart and she fell in love with someone else. She had been out a little longer than I had been, and was around other lesbians. We remained friends for a long time. One day before turning 18, the state turned this lesbian out into the world to make it on her own.

Now, twenty seven years later, colleges are more welcoming places for GLBT students. But physical assaults still happen. Unfortunately they are more likely to happen to high school and even middle school students who are still isolated. The GLSO Gay Straight Alliance for youth is one place that young people can go to get support.

My final thought is from Ghandi -

***"Be the change you want
to see in the world."***

EX-Gay Ministries

by mary crone

The American Psychiatric Association, The American Psychological Association, and the National Association of Social Workers are in agreement that homosexuality is not a mental disorder and that therapy to "change" GLB people into heterosexuals is not considered ethical or even possible. Nevertheless, there are a number of Christian organizations and individuals that continue to offer "reparative" or "conversion" therapy. Some of these individuals are licensed by one of the organizations above, and can be reported to their particular professional group if a client feels harmed by the "therapy" they received. It can also be helpful to know about these groups, their practices and beliefs as they are part of the larger attempts to slow our progress towards equal rights and acceptance.

Exodus International claims to be the largest information and referral ministry in the world "addressing homosexual issues". They say they have been operating for 30 years and their mission is: "Proclaiming to, educating and impacting the world with the Biblical truth that freedom from homosexuality is possible when Jesus is Lord of one's life."

They hold workshops and conventions provide information and make referrals to counselors who will help clients return to "Godly heterosexuality."

Exodus Youth, operating under their auspices, trains youth ministers and offers information to parents and to young people who are "struggling with same sex attraction." Their web site says: "Everyone is on a journey to find out who they really are. There are so many messages out there. Different voices yell what's right and what's wrong. They try to tell you who you are and who you should be. ... Through all the noise, you want answers to some pretty serious questions. Is gay ok? Are people born homosexual? Is there freedom from homosexuality?"

What is the real truth? Exodus Youth believes there are real answers to these questions found in the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Their web site offers links to other sites that help youth "reorient" to heterosexuality. The names are interesting: becomingreal.org, freetobeme.com, reachtruth.com and mytruefreedom.net. They make oppression sound so positive!

I find the emphasis on youth to be particularly disturbing and I am sure they feel the same about Gay Straight Alliances for Youth such as the one sponsored by GLSO. But our GSA literature tells young people that they do not have to label themselves at all to be members of the group and that they can change their minds about who they are and how they want to be labeled at any time. Our message to young people is: **You are in charge of how you define yourself.**

Most of the sites I have looked at have said that they do this work out of

love, that they do not hate homosexuals but want to help them return to Jesus. They also say that their work is not political, that they are not controlled by right wing politics. "Compassion-not bigotry- compels us to support the healing of homosexuals," says the Family Research Council.

The websites, however, do include some reports on current political movements such as the ban on gay marriage and the efforts to stop hate crime legislation. They see efforts to pass hate crime legislation as a gay ploy to make people think that we are "honest victims of crime" when we are not.

We heard echoes from this belief in our recent Kentucky State Legislative debate on the anti-bullying bill. Some legislators' argued that "anti-bullying" really meant that Christian young people would not be allowed to say anything against the "homosexual lifestyle." Passing such legislation was said to be part of the "gay agenda" to silence Christians.

In his article The Ex-Gay Agenda published on Salon.com and in *The Gay and Lesbian Review*, Mark Benjamin makes a case that these groups are definitely part of

continued on page 16

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right wing political efforts. He quotes this statement from the Exodus website:

"The hate experience, in the majority of hate crimes, is not necessarily coming from those who disparage others as much as it is from the victim toward himself." So, when GLBT people are victims of "hate crimes", the hate is within us and not in the perpetrator?! Perhaps we looked for a perpetrator to carry out our self hate?! Blaming the victim is often part of oppression and occurs with amazing regularity.

People with privilege or advantages derived from being a member of a dominate group, - in this case heterosexual and religious privilege - often can not understand why people that are different from them don't want to be just like them. They believe they can help us by making us heterosexual and Christian.

I understand that some of them sincerely but mistakenly believe it is an act of love to offer to help us change. But it is definitely a tool of oppression and is based on the idea that homosexuality is a sin, and that their interpretation of Christianity is the only correct one.

Some of the sites also claim that we misrepresent the statistics concerning teen suicide. From Exodus again: "For years we have heard that suicide is the number one cause of death among gay-identified youth. Researchers reported that as many as a third of all gay-identifying teens attempted suicide. But now, even openly gay researchers are debunking these findings."

Researchers reported that one third of young men who attempted suicide were dealing with sexual orientation issues, not that one third of gay identified youth were suicidal. A common misunderstanding. So Exodus is misrepresenting the research findings. And, that one third who are suicidal includes boys who are harassed for being gay when they are not, and boys who have been sexually abused and therefore are worried that they might be gay, and so forth.

They continue to say "There are those who doctor numbers and distort reality, capitalizing on tragedy to further an altogether unrelated agenda." Of course, they would never dream of doing that.

So, it is pretty clear that these sites are part of the larger religious right political efforts. And on the personal level, they can also be very damaging to the individuals who seek therapy from them.

Wayne R. Bessen, author of *Anything but Straight* (2003), documents some of the scandals and failures of various ex-gay organizations. He has documented the many individuals that declare themselves to be ex-gays only to fail in their attempts to be straight and to return to identifying as gay. Perhaps the most well know object of his scrutiny is John Paulk, who made the cover of Newsweek as an ex-gay who was at that time chair of Exodus International. Bessen followed him around Washington D.C. and took picture of him as he cruised gay bars. He eventually rejected Exodus and accepted himself as a gay man. .

Not surprisingly, the web sites now have comments and articles about the perceived failure to convert all their clients into happy "Godly" heterosexuals. They say that sin is always attractive and will not disappear easily. That continued vigilance is required.

Here is an interesting paragraph written by a man who believes in conversion therapy posted on the Exodus Youth site in the April 2006 newsletter:

Many people have asked me, "Do you like girls now?" What they really want to know is if I lust after women with the intensity that I once lusted after men. Should that be my goal? Let's face it; homosexuality isn't really the problem here. We're addicted to lust and satisfaction. We want to experience the same selfish thrill we enjoyed through acting out in the gay lifestyle, where there are little or no boundaries. God is not going to replace one sin in our lives with another. Rather, He is going to teach us to be holy! I think God doesn't take us there because what a lot of

'straight' guys are experiencing isn't His will for their sexuality, either.

He seems to be saying that "lusting" after women the way he use to "lust" after men is not God's goal and should not be expected by others seeking change. So, If he never feels a strong attraction to women that's OK because "lusting" is a sin.

Again, I can understand how that explanation makes sense to him. In fact, there may still be people within his religious community that would say that all sex that is not for reproductive purposes is sinful.

Woven in and around discussions of these issues are our cultural beliefs and legal affirmations of the rights of each individual to pursue happiness and make his own decisions about how to live his life. We have a right to be gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender. They have a right to believe and act on religious beliefs that tell them to offer therapies to change us. Neither of us have the right to lie or misrepresent about the other, and some of that happens on both sides.

But as Americans, I think we have the obligation to respect people who have different beliefs and who make different choices. I think we need to continually educate ourselves about the oppression of minority group, because oppression is antithetical to democracy.

It is in both these areas that I believe the Ex-gay ministries fall short. They do not respect our right to be who we are, they link it a perceived threat to American culture. They say that our "sinful" nature gives them the right to oppress us, to pass laws that limit our freedom and to make teens submit to "therapy" to change them into "Godly" heterosexuals.

This article focused more on youth and male youth specifically. Next month I will write more about these ministries and their beliefs and approach to changing lesbians.

KY Gay Camp

The Second Annual KY Gay Camp will be held on Aug 25-27 at Sloydia, a private 14 acre retreat on the Little South Fork of the Cumberland River in south Wayne County, Ky. Camping at Sloydia is primitive camping, so bring food, drinking water, camping and cooking gear. A donation of \$5 per person per day is requested to cover expenses

The facilities include shady level sites for tents and a limited number of small trailers or R.Vs sites, outhouses, and a swimming hole at the river. There is a stage for performances with lighting a fully equipped weightlifting gym, and access to a wood-burning hot tub.

Sloydia is about 20 miles south of Monticello, in south central Kentucky, 5 miles north of Tennessee, and 10 miles from Pickett State Park in Tennessee. For info., visit the Sloydia web site at www.sloyd.com then click "Visit Sloydia" page. Interested campers can also call 606-348-0788 between noon and 10 pm.

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Donny Hrdlicka & Russell Draper

Rev, Kenneth Waibel
answers questions about Catholicism

Christian Churches are either Catholic or Protestant. What are the main differences between these two groups?

Actually, there are many different "pieces" of the Christian faith tradition although the two largest pieces or "splits" could be collectively called the Catholic and the Protestant sections. "Catholics" would be those types of Christian churches that use a set, formal liturgy for worship and follow a pretty specific set of beliefs about God, Church and the lives of the Saints.

"Protestants" would be those Christians who follow a generally loose style of Sunday Worship and have a few set beliefs about Christ, Church and other founders of their various churches. Most Christian churches accept other faith traditions as legitimate but there are some who only believe that they, as individuals, truly follow God. There are also other churches that call themselves Christian - like Mormons, Adventists, etc.

I do not think God has any problem with me being gay but I haven't told my parents and they are practicing Catholics. What are some ideas I can share with them that might help them understand?

Most Catholics are pretty fluid when it comes to various teachings and understandings of humanity. There are those who are quite rigid and strict but generally most Catholics want to be loving and accepting and will listen - once they have had a chance to think about it.

If you are Catholic and want to share with your parents that you are gay first make sure that you are heard when you speak and that they are not angry with you about something else. You really don't need to "share something with them that will help".

If your parents haven't already guessed that you might be gay it could be a shock to them and they could see it as an

attack against them. Be patient. Be calm. Cry if you want. Share with them your heart and fears AND be sure to tell them that you have talked to God about it. God doesn't have any problem with you being gay. Trust me.

How do Catholics conceive of God? The creator of the Universe? Male? A being that guides our lives on a daily basis or sits back and watches what we do with ourselves?

Catholics that I know believe that God is very loving and wonderfully forgiving and wants nothing for us but to be happy and fulfilled. God created the Universe and is still helping it unfold but is letting it unfold primarily on its own. Many Catholics will still call God "Father" but understand that She is bigger than that - we just don't know what else to say. They would say that, if we ask, God will guide us but often in ways that may not be obvious. God wants us to be happy and will help but we have a lot of work to do too.

What do you believe about evolution? That it is not real or perhaps it is a process started by God?

I believe that evolution is a marvelous process invented by God to help the mystical world unfold and develop. It is a complicated process that we might never completely understand but when we study it we can see the powerful hand of God helping to unfold the universe.

If you have questions that you would like Rev. Waibel to answer, you can email him at email kypadre@aol.com.

Any other religious leader or active community member that would like to answer some basic religious question, contact Mary Crone at 266-5904 or email her at marycrone@insightbb.com. You can even make up your own questions.

The GLSO Web Site
www.glsopc.org

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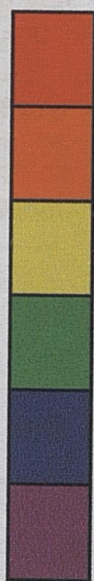
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St. Mychal is a member of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America, a national denomination that is gay supportive. We perform blessings of gay unions, welcome divorced people, and ordain women into the orders of Deacon, Priest and Bishop. The Orthodox Catholic Church is one of about three dozen offshoots of the Roman Catholic Church. For information visit : stmychalthemartyr.org.

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



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GLSO Board:

GLSO Pride Center (Bill).....253-3233
 GLSO Board (Thomas).....225-3035
 Discussion Group (Bill)253-3233
 GLSO News (Mary).....266-5904
 Subscriptions (Bill).....253-3233
 Speakers Bureau (Mary).....266-5904
 Youth, Gay Straight Alliance (Mary).....266-5904
 GLSO on-line.....lexingtonglso@yahoo.com
 orwww.webspawner.com/users/glsoqxnet
 Pride Gallery (Thomas).....225-3035

Student Groups:

EKU Pride Alliance.....alliance@yahoo.com
 UK Lavender Society.....uklavender@yahoo.com
 Moorehead State Univ. (Ned).....606 783-2294
 UK Lambda (Sara & Dave) info@uklambda.com
 Berea College ACE League (Ryan) 859 985-3633
 Centre College (BGLAD-Mykol).....238-5332

Anonymous HIV Testing:

Jessamine County.....885-4149
 Lexington, Fayette County.....288-2437
 Madison County.....859 723-7312
 Woodford County.....873-4541
 U.K. Adolescent Medicine.....323-5643

HIV/AIDS Info/Services:

AVOL, AIDS Volunteers Inc.225-3000
 Lexington Health Dept. (Julie).....288-2362
 HIV/AIDS Legal Project.....502 584-1254
 HIV Support (Somerset).....679-7478 or 678-5814
 Cumberland Region (SEKY-Pat).....606 864-3776
 or 888 425-7282
 Barren River Region.....800 559-4448
 Louisville Region (Geri).....502 574-0161
 Northern Kentucky Region.....859 341-4264
 Purchase Region.....800 522-8289
 Moveable Feast Lex. Inc. (Terry).....252-2867

Community Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous (Tom).....373-0494
 Office.....276-2917
 Al-Anon (office).....277-1877
 Bluegrass C.O.L.T.S. (Morris).....225-9169
 Bluegrass Fairness.....859 806-4114
 Council for Peace & Justice (Richard) 277-6101
 Fairness of Louisville.....502 893-0788
 First Link (formerly-Ask Us).....313-5465
 International Gay Bowling (Steve).....276-3058
 I.C.K. (The Imperial Court of KY).....859 269-7756
 imperialcourtkentucky@yahoo.com
 Kentucky Leather Productions (Larry).....253-0185

Lex. Lyons Leather/Levi Club (Paul).....619-3650
 Lex. Diversity In Gender All.288-5143
 Lex. Human Rights Commission.....252-4931
 Lex. Men's Chorus (Kenneth).....255-1974
 Louisville Youth Group.....502 894-9787
 MACT Men of All Colors Together (Jon)....351-4453
 mactky@aol.com
 Moonshine Bears of Kentucky (Jim)...859 299-2047
 www.moonshinebears.com
 Narcotics Anonymous.....278-7103
 People for Unity & Fairness.....803-1130
 CUFKCT@aol.com
 Pride Alliance of Central KY. (Gary) ..859 236-4547
 (Shane) 859 854-0596
 pridealliance@yahoo.com
 PFLAG (Ed).....(859) 200-9512
 Pegasus Travel.....253-1644
 Rainbow Families of Lex. (Cheryl).....533-6309
 Sienna (Gender Identity Issues).....502 346-5298
 SisterSound (Patti).....806-0243
 Sistas in the Life (Joan).....252-2657
 24 hr. Crisis Line.....1 800 928-8000
 24 hr. Teen Crisis Line.....1 800 999 9999

Religious Groups:

Interweave (Unitarian-Mary).....266-5904
 Integrity (Episcopal-Rev. Stone).....277-7511
 Lexington Friends Meeting (Quakers).....254-3319
 Jubilee Fellowship (Rev. Cori).....859-514-5518
 MCC Elizabethtown (Rev. Cathy).....888 340-6223
 MCC Louisville (Rev. Dee Dale).....502 587-6225
 MCC Paducah (Rev. lillian).....270.443-3339
 Norse Pagan Community (Rev. Pat).....268-1640
 KY Pagan Forum http://go.to/kypaganforum/
 RainbowWind (Pagan-Sarah).....273-2455
 Soulforce (Jamie).....859 230-5625
 www.soulforcekentucky.org
 St. Augustines Chapel (Episcopal).....254-3726
 St. Mychal (Indep. Catholic) (Rev. Ken) ..389-9418
 Open Door (Christian-Rev. Pam).....396-7636
 Wiccan/Pagan Group (Iggie).....492-9904

**GLSO News Deadline
 AUGUST 15**

**Please send all articles, ads and
 directory information to:**

**lexingtonglso@yahoo.com
 marycrone@insightbb.com**