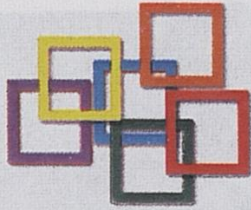


Jan 2011



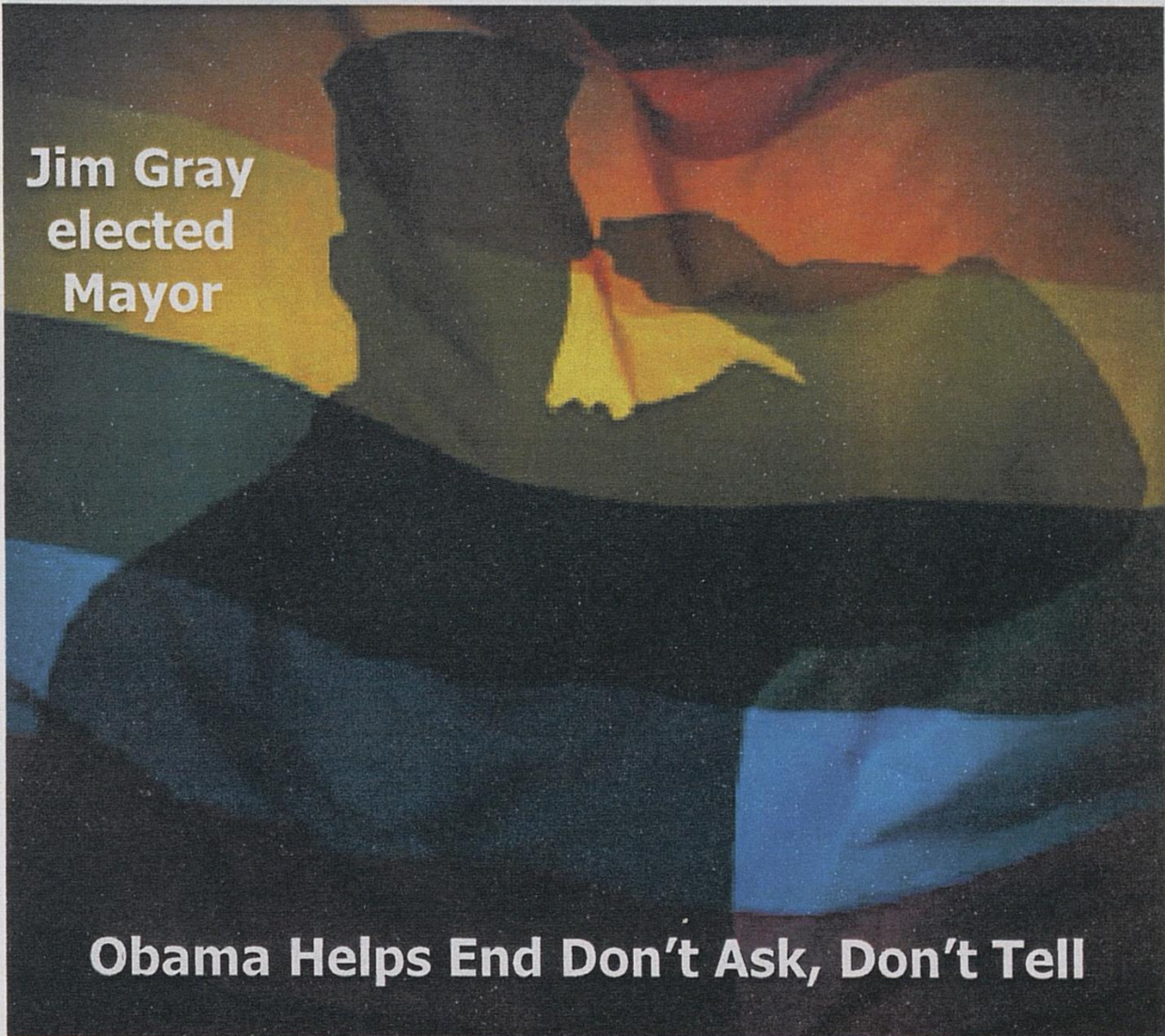
GLSO

GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization

Volume 33 Number 1



**Jim Gray
elected
Mayor**

Obama Helps End Don't Ask, Don't Tell

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Don't Tell

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GSA
Every Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Pride Center

GLSO Discussion Group
Every Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Pride Center

OutLoud Radio Show
Every Friday, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
88.1 FM

GLSO Board Meeting
Sunday, January 9, 1 p.m.
Pride Center

Imperial Court of Kentucky Meeting
Sunday, January 9, 6 p.m.
Pride Center

PFLAG Board Meeting
Sunday, January 16, 1 p.m.
Pride Center

Lexington Pride Festival Meeting
Sunday, January 16, 6 p.m.
Pride Center

Issue 1 2011

GLSO

EDITOR
Don Lowe

The GLSO News is published monthly by and for the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization members and community.

The mission of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization is to provide support and services to the GLBTQQIA community.

The vision of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization is to empower the GLBTQQIA community through voice.

The Lexington GLSO is founded upon the core values of fun, inclusive, respect, integrity, dignity, service and competence.

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www.glsso.org

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859.253.3233

EDITORIAL NOTES

The GLSO is currently looking for new contributors and editorial staff. If interested, e-mail editor@glso.org.

Obama helps end Don't Ask, Don't Tell

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Barack Obama signed a new law last month that will allow gays for the first time in history to serve openly in America's military. And he urged those kicked out under the old law to re-enlist.

Framing the issue as a matter of civil rights long denied, Obama said that "we are a nation that welcomes the service of every patriot ... a nation that believes that all men and women are created equal."

Repealing the 17-year-old policy known as "don't ask, don't tell" in a ceremony that was alternately emotional and rousing, the president said "this law I'm about to sign will strengthen our national security and uphold the ideals that our fighting men and women risk their lives to defend."

The new law ends a policy that forced gays to hide their sexual orientation or face dismissal. More than 13,500 people were discharged under the rule since 1993.

"I hope those ... who've been discharged under this discriminatory policy will seek to re-enlist once the repeal is implemented," Obama said.

"I hope so too," agreed Zoe Dunning, a former naval officer now with the advocacy group Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund.

"We are in two wars and we need qualified candidates," Dunning said after the ceremony. She said it was unclear how many discharged under the old

law might seek to rejoin and whether all "have completely healed ... trust the military is going to treat them fairly."

The study recommended that the Department of Defense issue guidance to all the service branches permitting those previously separated on the basis of homosexual conduct "to be considered for re-entry, assuming they qualify in all other respects."

It said the fact that they were kicked out for gay conduct should not be held against them but added that if they received an "other than honorable" discharge for accompanying reasons, those reason should be considered.

A beaming Obama signed the bill at the Interior Department, a location chosen to accommodate a larger than normal audience for a bill signing.

"I say to all Americans, gay or straight, who want nothing more than to defend this country in uniform, your country needs you, your country wants you, and we will be honored to welcome you into the ranks of the finest military the world has ever known," Obama said.

"No longer will tens of thousands of Americans in uniform be asked to live a lie, or look over their shoulder in order to serve the country that they love," Obama said.

As military leadership and advocacy groups have warned in recent days, Obama also noted that the repeal will not immediately go into effect until the government goes through additional steps to roll back the old policy.

Gay troops would still be vulnerable to being discharged until Pentagon officials first complete mandatory

(continued on Page 13)

Jim Gray Elected Mayor of Lexington

|| News ||

Posted on Advocate.com November 02,
2010 07:08:23 PM

Gay Mayor for Lexington, Ky.
Jim Gray was elected as the first gay mayor of Lexington, Ky., the state's second-largest city. He tells The Advocate this race was about the pocketbook — "sexual orientation was not on the radar."

By Andrew Harmon

As Kentucky voters ushered in a major senate victory for the Tea Party on Tuesday night, the state's second-largest city also elected its first openly gay mayor.

In a heated race, Lexington vice mayor Jim Gray declared victory over incumbent mayor Jim Newberry with a 6-point margin, first reported by the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Although Gray's sexual orientation was reportedly a hot-button issue on local talk radio shows in recent days, the mayor-elect told The Advocate that boilerplate economic concerns were the overriding focus in the election.

"This campaign was about pocketbook issues. Sexual orientation was not on the radar," said Gray, CEO of a family construction company headquartered in Lexington for 28 years.

Of his mayoral election, Gray added that he hoped his election "will illustrate that

this is a city that is welcoming to everyone."

In the Kentucky senate race, Rand Paul declared victory early in the evening over Democratic challenger Jack Conway. Paul has previously asserted that "don't ask, don't tell" has "worked relatively well" and suggested that the 1964 Civil Rights Act was overly broad and should not apply to private businesses.

Gray declined to comment on Paul's stance on LGBT issues, saying that, "As the mayor of Lexington, I will work closely with the senator to do what's best for the state."

Gray received support from the Victory Fund, whose president and CEO, Chuck Wolfe, called the election "a tremendous victory for Lexington, for Kentucky's LGBT community, and for fairness."

Calling All Young Gay Professionals

Jesse Howard, Contributor

Are you a young gay professional? Are you looking to make a name for yourself out there? We know it can sometimes be hard to be out in the workplace, if you can be out at all. The GLSO is looking to start a new Young Gay Professionals Networking Group in Lexington. If you are interested in joining, e-mail info@glso.org.

Are you interested in becoming a mentor to young gay professionals? Want to help others like you succeed? We want you too! E-mail info@glso.org if you are interested in becoming a mentor or speaker.

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Lexington Fairness www.lexfair.org	859.951.8565
Saint Mychal the Martyr Parish www.stmychalthemartyr.org	859.338.1195
Moveable Feast 474 Silver Maple Way	859.252.2867
Unitarian Universalist Church 3564 Clays Mill Road	859.223.1448
Scott Ackerman, Keller Williams Blue- grass Realty, ackermanteam@aol.com	859.338.8483
Gay and Lesbian Services Organization	859.253.3233
GLSO Pride Center	859.253.3233

Big Plans for ICK in 2011

Helena Handbasket

What an exciting time to be involved with the Imperial Court of Kentucky. Let's talk about 2011. On Friday, January 7, we are doing a show called "It's Just Sex... Get Over It" (Parental Discretion Advised). This will be a night where the "girls" and a few guys can be naughty and nasty and our friends at AVOL will be there passing out condoms and promoting safe sex and staying healthy. There may even be a few demonstrations. You never know. I'm just sayin'. Doors open at 8:30--Show time 9:30 Pulse nightlife. \$5 donation at the door. Bring your dollars (\$5s, \$10s, \$20s and \$100s are accepted too) and help us reach our goal for this show of raising at least \$1,000 (some "girls" charge more than that for a night of sex, I've heard). Make sure you don't miss this one.

On Wednesday, January 19, the ICK will be hosting an event at Crossings. Put the date on your calendar and look for flyers or watch the Facebook page for more information about this show.

Sunday, January 30, will be the exciting first night of our annual "Project Drag Runway" sponsored by Absolute Vodka. The conclusion of the event will be Sunday, February 13. The theme this year is "Outrageous Absolute Divas" so fabulousity will be the standard for the two evenings. These will be a Pulse nightlife with the door opening at 8:30 and Showtime at 9:30. You won't want to miss this as the performers and designers work to make this year even bigger, better and more outrageous than before. For more information or to be a designer or model, check out the Facebook page or call any

ICK Board Member.

There will be many more fun things this year like the Miss Gay Valentine Pageant, the Mardi Gras Ball and the Falsie Awards--so stay tuned for more information on upcoming events.

During this time of recession, sadly, donations have decreased. Please, reach into your pockets and support the court as we strive to provide quality entertainment for everyone. We ask that you attend these events and tip the performers who donate their time and effort for charity. If you would like to be a sponsor for 2011 or one event in particular, contact me at 859-321-8747 or a board member for more info. We need help to make the most impact on the community. Are you doing your part?

As always, would love for anyone with a charitable heart to be a part of our family. Membership is only \$10 a year. So get a membership card at the cash-box during any ICK show or ask any board member for one. This team has a lot of fun and makes a real difference in the community. Come and bring your talents and abilities, whether on stage or back stage and help us do good things.

We just finished one of our favorite times of the year, Christmas, and all of the joy it brings. Our AVOL Kid's Christmas Show was a great success. Everyone had a great time and we raised \$1500 while Shadd and Jodi from San Francisco video taped their documentary. The following Monday after the show, we had 17 people join us as we shopped for the Christmas gifts on the lists given to us by AVOL. What fun this was.....(continued on page 9)

Big Plans for ICK in 2011

Continued

Helena Handbasket

many laughs and even a few tears. When Emperor Clayton and I delivered the gifts to the AVOL office, Brian Slate told us with a tear in his eye that on Christmas morning we should realize how many lives we made a difference in. Thank You Brian...Encouragement like that inspires us all to do all that we can. The amazing performers that came and participated as well as all of the help behind the scenes are the reason that it was such a success. A huge thanks to Tim and all the gang at Crossings for hosting the event. You really helped to make this a fabulous night and the place looked great.

We were also thrilled to once again host the ICK's annual "Miss Mary Christmas" pageant where Miss Candy Fuentes was crowned as our winner for 2010. Congratulations to Candy and everyone who participated. In spite of frightful weather, it was a wonderful night...full of the magic of Christmas. Emperor Dennis DeClaire and Empress Shanice McCoy-Patton from our sister court, the Imperial Sovereign Queen City Court of the Bluegrass Empire, braved the cold and ice and brought several others from Cincinnati with them. That is always a good time when they are here. Thank you to Pulse nightlife for letting us use your venue to host the pageant.

Auditions were held and a cast announced for the upcoming production of "Dear Harvey". directed by Emperor 28, Wesley Nelson. If any of you remember the Laramie Project from last year, I am sure you will want to see this. See the Facebook page for Imperial Court of

Kentucky for show schedule and ticket information. Thanks go out to AVOL for the use of their facility for the rehearsals of this production.

Until next month...Hugs, Kisses, and DIVA Wishes from Empress 29, Helena Handbasket.

Sister Sound Celebrates 15th Anniversary

Joins SisterSound on Saturday, January 22, 2011, at 7 p.m.. at Central Baptist Church as they present **"15 Years of Whine, Women and Song: Aged to Perfection."**

The Sisters will bring back some oldies but goodies from the last 5 years including "Angel", "Healing River", "Big Dogs, Music and Wild, Wild Women", and "Sky Dances" and introduce the audience to new soon-to-be-favorites such as "Proud Mary", "Shine" and "Wanting Memories".

Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for children under 3 and are available from any SisterSound member or at the door. Central Baptist Church is located on the corner of Wilson Downing and Nicholasville Roads, across from Fayette Mall.

Whether you have been at every SisterSound concert since 1996 or have never attended a concert before, you're sure to enjoy this one. The Sisters would also like to extend a special invitation to all of the many women who have sung with the chorus over the last 15 years to come and enjoy an evening of song and old and new friends.

GLSO Discussion Group Gets Fresh Start

The GLSO Discussion Group will continue to meet each Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Pride Center.

Meetings are open to everyone and have been a regular fixture of GLSO sponsored activities for over 15 years.

Originated by Jeremy Farmer, the GLSO Discussion Groups have helped literally hundreds of members from the Lexington, Central and Eastern Kentucky areas.

Everyone gets the same message every week "as soon as you walked through the door you were accepted just the way you were and no one here is going to try to change you."

Want to earn some extra cash and help an organization in need?

The GLSO is looking for a part-time advertising coordinator.

Find out more by visiting www.glsso.org.

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Kentucky Bourbon Bears Celebrating '1st Anniversary.'

The Kentucky Bourbon Bear Club is one year old. Our first year was a huge success. With 80+ members we have been able to raise money for various local charities including AVOL, GLSO and the Lexington Humane Society. Our 4th of July 'Red, White and Bears' fund raiser alone made over \$3,000.00 dollars for charity. We've also had activities for fun including a Keenel-

and Tailgating Party as well as several pool parties and potlucks.

We ended the year with a holiday potluck and collected stuffed bears for children in Central Kentucky.

If you are interested in joining the Kentucky Bourbon Bears we will be having a membership drive on Saturday Feb. 12 at Crossings. We have big plans for 2011 and would love anyone interested to be a part of it.

If you are interested, contact any member of the Kentucky Bourbon Bears.

GSA Announces Winter Ball

The GLSO Gay Straight Alliance is hosting it's first ever Winter Ball. The Pride Promo has been such a success that the youth decided that it was time to start another tradition.

Dancin' and Defrostin' in a Winter Wonderland will be held Saturday, January 22 at the Unitarian Universalist church. The dance is for high school age youth. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance or at the door.

The GSA is looking for volunteers to help chaperon the event, to manage the kitchen where we will be serving hot chocolate and finger food, or to provide some food. If you are interested, please contact Mary Crone at 859 266 5904 or email her at mary@glso.org.

GSA Ally Week

Four of the five Lexington public high schools now have operating GSAs. Several of these groups had activities for Ally Week in October, LaFayette GSA students used an activity suggested by GLSEN, They distributed cards and asked for signatures in agreement with the following statement: I believe all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/ expression deserve to feel safe and supported. That means I pledge to: 1)not use anti-LGBT (lesbian, gay , bisexual, transgender) language or slurs 2)intervene, if I safely can, in situations where students are begin harassed. 3) support efforts to end bullying and harassment. They collected more than 300 signed cards. This is a great example of activism. Thanks to all the students who signed and particularly to the LaFayette GSA for taking on this project.

GLSO is looking for new board members

**Are you interested in joining the board
of directors for one of Central and East-
ern Kentucky's fastest growing
GLBTQQIA organizations?**

**E-mail dennis@glso.org to find out how
you can get on board!**

(from Page 5) documentation plans - and the president, defense secretary and chairman of the joint chiefs certify to lawmakers that the move won't damage combat readiness, as critics charge.

Opponents of the repeal have argued the move would harm unit cohesion, could prompt some to leave the services or not to sign up in the first place and remain a distraction at a time when the armed forces are fighting two wars.

But Obama said: "We are not going to be dragging our feet to get this done."

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Obama thinks actual implementation of the new law will be "a matter of months."

Pentagon personnel chief Clifford Stanley and his staff have already started working to put together an action plan based partly on recommendations from the study. The plan will look at a host of questions, from how to educate troops on the change to how sexual orientation should be handled in making barracks assignments.

The president vowed during his 2008 campaign to repeal the law and faced pressure from liberals who complained he was not acting swiftly enough.

For Obama, it was the second high-profile bill signing ceremony within a week following signing into law a tax package he negotiated with Republicans that extended Bush-era tax rates for two more years, cut payroll taxes and ensured jobless benefits to the unemployed for another year.

The two events, however, could not have been more different in tone.

The tax deal divided Democrats and forced Obama to accept extensions of tax cuts for the wealthiest, a step he had promised to not take. With Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell at his side during that bill signing, Obama seemed dutiful and subdued.

By contrast, the emotion of last month's ceremony defined it; even the president himself said he was "overwhelmed" by the moment.

Those attending the ceremony included Dunning, the son of a World War II veteran who was saved by a gay comrade during the Battle of the Bulge, and Marine Staff Sgt. Eric Alva, the first American wounded in the war in Iraq, a soldier who has since spoken out against the Pentagon policy.

Gay activists and other supporters packed in the room hooted, applauded and shouted in joy to the president. "We're here, Mr. President. Enlist us now!" someone said from the back of the room as Obama signed the bill.

The Black Church Coalition,

Kentucky Voices for Health and the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department will be sponsoring a free community forum entitled "Healthcare Reform: What you need to Know" on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 5pm - 7pm at the Lyric Theatre.

GLSO Resource Directory

A community resource page for gay and/or gay-friendly organizations throughout Kentucky. To add your listing, scroll to the bottom of this page.

Anonymous & Confidential HIV Testing

AIDS Volunteers, Inc. (AVOL)859-225-3000
Health Dept., Fayette859-288-2437
Health Dept., Jessamine859-885-4149
Health Dept., Woodford859-873-4541
UK Adolescent Medicine859-323-5643
Volunteers of America (VOA)859-254-3469
STD Testing & Treatment859-288-2437

Community Groups

24-Hour Crisis Line800-928-8000
24-Hour Teen Crisis Line.....800-999-9999
Alcoholics Anonymous859-967-9960
AA/Alcoholic Teens, office859-277-1877
Bluegrass COLTS859-225-9169
Council for Peace & Justice859-225-6999
Discussion Group859-253-3233
Fairness of Louisville502-893-0788
Gay Straight Alliance for Teens ...859-266-5904
GLSO Pride Center.....859-253-3233
Imperial Court of Kentucky859-619-7521
International Gay Bowling859-276-3058
Lexington Fairness859-951-4450
Lexington Human Rights859-252-4931
Lexington Insight Group859-230-2428
Lex. Lyons Leather/Levi Club859-468-6371
Lexington Pride Festival859-253-3233
MACT859-358-8335
PFLAG Lexington859-338-4393
PFLAG Louisville502-329-0229
SisterSound859-806-0243
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Speakers' Bureau859-266-5904
TransKentucky859-963-6606
United Way859-313-5465

HIV/AIDS Information and Services

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Cumberland Region (SE Ky.)606-864-3776
Toll-Free888-425-7282
HIV/AIDS Legal Project502-584-1254
Lexington STOP Program859-254-3469
Louisville Region502-574-0161
Moveable Feast.....859-252-2867
NKY Region.....859-341-4264

Religious Groups

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Interweave (Unitarian) .859-266-5904
Lex Friends (Quakers)....859-254-3319
Mercy Ministry Church ..859-358-3357
MCC Paducah270-443-3339

Student Groups

Berea College ACE859-958-3633
Centre College (BGLA) ..859-238-5332
Morehead State Univ. .. 606-783-2294
OUTSource (UK)859-323-3312
UK GSA859-559-7464

On the Web

AIDS Volunteers (AVOL)
avolky.org
Imperial Court Kentucky
imperialcourtkentucky.org
Integrity (St. Marthas)
integrity.stmarthas.blogspot.com
Kentucky Bourbon Bears
kentuckybourbonbears.com
Kentucky Pagan Forum
go.to/kypaganforum
Lexington Fairness
lexfair.org
Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club
lexlyons.org
Lexington Pride Festival
lexpridefest.org
Lexington Fayette County Health Dept
lexingtonhealthdepartment.org
Mercy Ministry
mercyministrychurch2006.net
PFLAG Lexington
pflaglex.blogspot.com
Rainbow League
rainbowleague.net
United Sister Circle Alliance
unitedsisters.org
Volunteers of America (VOA)
voaky.org

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January 20

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Part 1*

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*Contact SisterSound: <http://sistersound.org/>; info@sistersound.org;
PO Box 4544, Lexington KY 40544 or call 859-806-0243*

