



GAY and
LESBIAN
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION
Lexington, Kentucky

The GLSO NEWS

February 2003

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Volume 18 Number 2

LMC LOVE BOAT CABARET

"Love Exciting And New...Come aboard, we're Expecting You!" The Lexington Men's Chorus will be setting sail on its "Love Boat Cabaret on Friday, February 7th, at 8 pm (sharp) at the Downtown Arts Center. The Arts Center is across from the Main Street Public Library where parking is available.

Performances by members of the Chorus with a special parade of the "Chocoholics Dessert Buffet" & Coffee/Tea are included with admission. There will also be non-chocolate and sugar-free selections available.

Tickets for this "lovest/fundraiser" are \$15. Call 859-269-9739, Fax 859-266-9396, or email friends@lmcky.org. Order tickets soon, LMC's last successful cabaret had 'em standing in the aisles. Admission will also be available at the door...Don't Miss The Boat!



Miss Valentine 2003

Join the Imperial Court of KY as they celebrate Valentine's Day at The Bar Complex. Contestants will battle it out for the coveted title of Miss Valentine 2003 on Wed. Feb. 12 at 9:30 pm. There is a \$5 cover. Proceeds to benefit the charities of the Imperial Court.

Empress Nicole and her line of performers will also provide entertainment for the evening, including JD Vaughn, Lady Marmalade, Jenna Jive, and many more of your favorite local entertainers.

Contestant applications may be picked up from Empress Nicole. Info about Court is at <http://kentucky.impcourt.org>

AVOL Mardi Gras Ball

For an evening of New Orleans-style revelry plan to attend the AVOL MARDI GRAS BALL on Sat, Feb. 22, at the Sheraton Suites, 2601 Richmond Road. Featuring the Music of Zydeco Bon Tickets, this will be a party to remember.

Doors Open at 7 pm and opening ceremonies start at 8 pm. There will be dancing, casino gaming, a costume contest, and a cajun dinner buffet. Tickets are \$50 per person or a VIP Table of 8 for \$500. A special rate of \$79 is being offered for a suite at the Sheraton for that night. For more information or tickets contact AVOL at (859) 225-3000 or check our web site at AIDSVolunteers@aol.com.

**Honoring Black History Month
Barbara Jordan page 14**

**The Pink Pages are Out
at the Pride Center and other locations
Lobby for Fairness..page 7
Valentine Gift shopping...page 3**

Sponsor of the Month

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THE GLSO NEWS

Volume 19 Issue 2

published monthly by
**The Lexington Gay Lesbian
Service Organization**
389 Waller Ave.

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**GLSO Annual Dues &
Newsletter.**

Individual - \$15
Couple - \$25

Opinions expressed in the GLSO News are those of the authors and don't necessarily represent those of the GLSO Board. Submissions are welcome and staff reserves the right to edit submissions and advertisements as well as the right to reject submissions or advertisements.

Remembering Our History: Christine Jorgensen *by mary crone*

Fifty Years ago, around Thanksgiving of 1952, George Jorgensen made history by flying to Denmark to have the surgical procedures known today as sex reassignment surgery, that would change hers genitalia to conform to hers core identity of female. George had served in the army during World War II and started hormone treatment soon after his release from the service.

Since this surgery was not offered in the United States at that time, George arranged to get a passport that would reflect the change he would undergo. It is believed that the press was alerted by a passport official that knew that George would be going to Denmark as George and returning legally as Christine.

Christine was certainly not the first to undergo the long process of creating a body that corresponded to her felt sense of being female, but she was the first American to allow her life to become a public one. Becoming public may not have been her intention, but when she was greeted at the airport by dozens of reporters looking for a sensational story, she faced them with a great deal of pride and charm. In New York City, headlines on Dec. 1 1952 read "Ex-GI Becomes Blond Beauty."

One of stories recalled on NPR recently included a newsman's comment that Jorgensen exited the airplane tottering on high heels. In response, Christine remarked that as a lady struggling to carry an armload of packages, she was surprised that no man had stepped up to assist her. The NPR interviewee noted that this response demonstrated a willingness to engage reporters in an ongoing dialogue, and an ability ...continued on page 4

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Community News

Tiffany & Co. Benefit Show

It might be below-zero outside, but things are HOT at Club 141! Tiffany and Company invites you to our Fabulous February Benefit Show for Moveable Feast! Come join us on Wed, Feb. 19 for sizzling performances by Tiffany Andrews, Mescha, Val E. Sheridan, Miss Sheena, Rayna Starr and our two very special guests Clarissa Cumberland and Stacey Bryant! Showtime is promptly at 10pm. \$5 donation at the door.

Sistahs in The Life

Sistahs in the Life is a support group for Black Lesbians and Bi-sexual women. Join us for provocative discussions about our lives and experiences. We meet at 7 pm every first Tuesday at the Pride Center. For information, contact Joan at 859-539-2657 or email Jweslie@aol.com

Valentines Gift Sale

There will be another opportunity to buy or sell craft and pride items at the Pride Center on Saturday, February 1st from 11 to 2. If you would like to set up a table, call Mary Crone for details at 266-5904 or email marycrone@aol.com.

ActOut Presents

The upcoming play produced by ActOut is *The Twilight of the Golds* by Jonathan Tolins. It is directed by Robert Parks Johnson and stars Michael Thompson, Sarah Kate Moody, Andrew Hyde, Bill French and Robyn Roth.

Performances will be at The Lexington Public Library Theater, March 14 through Sunday, March 23. Mark your calendar.

Soulforce

Soulforce Lexington is starting biweekly meetings beginning February 11th. We will meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the home of Jamie McDaniel. We will begin an in-depth study of the Civil Rights Movement of the 50's and 60's.

Each participant will be given a free copy of the book *Free at Last: A History of the Civil Rights Movement and Those Who Died in the Struggle*. Also, each participant will need to purchase a copy of the book *A Call to Conscience: The Landmark Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* For more information or directions, visit www.SoulforceLexington.org or call Jamie McDaniel at 859-230-5625. *(There is an article by Jamie on page 19)*

Benefit for KY Advocates

Ace League of Berea will be hosting a "Illusions of Self", a fundraiser for KY Advocates For Equality at the Berea Campus on Feb. 1 from 6pm until midnight. La Femme Fatale will perform. Admission costs is \$5 for students and \$10 for all others. We will also have some great refreshments all through the night.

Memberships to KY Advocates For Equality are \$20 per person per year. As always, any donation will be greatly appreciated. Memberships or donations can be sent to KY Advocates For Equality, 2251 W HWY 80 #19, Somerset KY.

MISS GAY LEXINGTON 2003

Join us at the Bar complex on Wed, February 26 for the Miss Gay Lexington Pageant & Show. Contact Chelsea Pearl for Information.

..continued on page 4

LEX DRESS AND GENDER ALLIANCE

The next meeting of the Lexington Dress and Gender Alliance (LexDGA) will be Saturday, Feb at 8 pm. Email LexDGA@aol.com or call (859) 433-8388 for the location.

LexDGA is a peer social support group which meets monthly to discuss how gender affects our lives, to help members network with others, and to assist members with the difficulties they face in navigating our bi-gendered society. Meetings are open, dress any way you feel comfortable.

If you live in Ky and want to know more about issues related to gender, check us out at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TGinKY>. You can subscribe by following directions at the website or just send an email to TGinKY-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

CLUB 141 HAPPY-HOUR

Club 141 is pleased to announce they are now open for Happy-Hour! We will be open Tuesday - Friday at 5:00pm with fantastic happy hour specials! Relax with a refreshing pitcher of Bud or Bud-Light for only \$4.50! ALL Bud products are only \$2 and wonderful well drinks for \$3. Come and join bartender Keith while enjoying a game of pool, darts or great conversation!

Men Of All Colors Together

Prominent actor, author, and lecturer James Earl Jones will be visiting Centre College on Sat. Feb. 15. He will speak at Norton Center for the Arts and take part in other events as part of a community Black History Month celebration.

MACT KY members and friends will travel to Danville for dinner and attend this lecture. We plan to depart from the Pride Center and share camaraderie on the hour-long trip. For more information and ticket availability email mactky@aol.com, telephone Jon at 859 351-445.

UK Group Forming

Anne Edwards, a therapist at the UK Counseling and Testing Center, is offering a therapy group for gay lesbian bisexual and transgender students. To qualify you have to be taking 6 or more credit hours. Edwards is an out, gay woman. The group will consist of 6 to 12 members with a variety of backgrounds and presenting concerns. All members will either be self-identified as GLBT or be questioning their gender identity or sexual preference. Please call if you have any questions. 257-8701.

Lex Men's Chorus

The Chorus will begin weekly rehearsals for its Pride Concert (June 03) on Sunday, March 2, 5:30pm at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Rd. For info about joining the chorus or the Pride Concert, call Kenneth 255-1974. LMC is a gay and gay supportive men's choral ensemble and there are no auditions required to join.

...Community News continued page 10

Continued from page 2 Jorgensen to draw attention to our cultural gender expectations.

Jorgensen became the target of media scrutiny which continued until her death in 1989. Although some in the media treated her as a bad joke, she was also asked for serious interviews and her views of what it meant and how it felt to be transsexual increased public knowledge and no doubt encouraged many people to become more tolerant and even accepting.

Christine had a powerful impact on those of us who were struggling to understand our own difference. In *Trangender Warriors*, Leslie Feinberg states "I had no other role model who crossed the boundaries of sex and gender. Christine Jorgensen's struggle beamed a message to me that I wasn't alone."

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PRIDE CENTER NEWS



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

Discussion Group

The GLSO Discussion/Support Group meets every Wednesday evening at 7 pm at the Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave. We are always open to new people dropping in to join us. We discuss a whole range of issues. If you have something that you need to think outloud about, we will listen. For information contact the Pride Center at 859-253-3233, or Jane at email lady-janeky@yahoo.com.

GAYMES NIGHT

Remember the Pride Center is opened the fourth Friday of every month for Gaymes Night which in February will be Friday, 28. Bring a deck of cards or your favorite board game to the pride center for an evening of fun and games. All the fun begins at 7:00 p.m.

Young Adult Group

Andrew's Group, a social support group for GLBT folks in their twenties, will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the Pride Center at 7 pm. In February that will be the 8th and the 22nd. Andrew Hyde is 21 years old and sees a need for a fun alternative to the bar scene. Although this group was started out of a need for activities for this age group, it is not exclusive. We do ask you to be at least 18 for legal reasons. If you are older than 29 you might fit in just fine.

Sponsored by GLSO, Andrew's Club will plan activities and may go on road trips to places of interest. If you have an idea for a fun activity, please come.

LESBIAN VIDEO NIGHT

In honor of Black History Month, we'll be viewing *Set It Off* Friday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. This 1996 action-adventure film stars Jada Pinkett, Queen Latifah, Vivica A. Fox and Kimberly Elise as four African-American women, who have been trying to work their way out of the neighborhood they grew up in. Despite their progress, the system keeps pushing them down, and as a last resort they turn to crime. Queen Latifah plays a butch lesbian, who enjoys cars and guns as much as her femme girlfriend. This film is rated R for strong graphic violence, pervasive language, some sex and drug use.

Pride Center Library Highlights: Mystery Stories

What better to read on those cold winter nights than a mystery. GLBT fiction abounds with stories of intrigue, crime, mayhem, and death. Here is where you will read about the adventures of gay cops and lesbian detectives. These are just a few of the hundreds of GLBT mystery and detective stories you will find at the Pride Center Library. Follow the clues and solve the mystery for yourself.

Butterscotch Prince by Richard Hall

Case of the Not-So-Nice Nurse by Mabel Maney

False Confessions by Steve Johnson

Federal Fag by Fred Hunter

Love You to Death by Grant Michaels

Murder Undercover by Claire McNab

Other Side of Silence by Joan M. Drury

Soon to be a Major Motion Picture by Warren Dunford

Tell Me What You Like by Kate Allen

Two-Bit Tango by Elizabeth Pincus

These and many other books and videos can be check out from the Pride Center Library, 389 Waller Ave. Suite 100, open Mon-Sat, 10-3.

Kentucky Fairness Alliance

by Matt Nicholson

The 2003 Kentucky Legislative Session is set to go back into session on Feb 4th, and once again we urgently need your help. At the end of 2002 conservative legislators tried to ban state agencies and universities from providing domestic partnership benefits. We were able to defeat that effort, but they may try again.

We are also likely to see the bill that would erase the fairness ordinances in Louisville and Lexington, as well as ban the passage of future ordinances in any town. Rumors continue to loom of attacks on LGBT families.

The good news is our statewide fairness bill continues to gain steam. We have already picked up three new cosponsors, and with your help we could add more to our list.

As in years past we will lobby every

Tues, Wed, and Thur beginning Feb 4th from 8am to 2pm at the Capitol in Frankfort. Our current planned lobby days are:

Feb 6th Transgender Lobby Day
Feb 13th Hate Free Kentucky Day
Feb 20th Youth/Student Lobby Day
Feb 27th People of Faith Lobby Day

There is information about Transgender Lobbying on page 10. Please contact us and let us know what days you can attend. We will provide you with directions, training, and lobby materials. Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you in February!

Community email addresses:

You can post message at:

KentuckyFairness@onelist.com

To subscribe:

KentuckyFairness-subscribe@onelist.com

List owner: KentuckyFairness-owner@onelist.com

Bluegrass Fairness

Promoting equality for all people
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Join us for Lobby Days in Frankfort:

February 6: Transgender Day
February 13: Hate-Free Kentucky Day
February 20: Youth and Family Day
February 27: People of Faith Day
March 6: To be Announced

P.O. Box 22032
Lexington, Kentucky 40522
859-806-4114 ←

**NEW
PHONE!**

www.bluegrassfairness.org
www.kentuckyfairness.org
info@bluegrassfairness.org

Religious and Spiritual Resources

INTEGRITY

Integrity is an organization for GLBT Episcopalians and other persons of faith. Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of the month, from 4 to 5:30 pm, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 2025 Bellefonte St. in Lexington.

The topic for the Feb. 9th meeting is "What Does the Bible Really Say About Homosexuality?" If you have any questions, please call the Rectors David Boyd or Sandy Stone at 859-277-7511 or email Stmintegrity@yahoo.com.

Jubilee Fellowship

The Jubilee Fellowship meets most Thursdays at the Pride Center at 7pm. On the second Thursday we plan an activity at a different location. We begin the evening by singing songs of praise and worship and then read bible passages to study together.

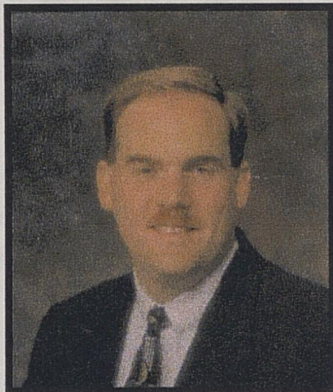
Unitarian Universalist Church

The Unitarian Universalist Church welcomes visitors any time. There are now two services every Sunday, at 9:30 and 11:15. On Feb 2 there will be a first Sunday brunch starting at 9:30. For more information about UU Church check the web at www.uucl.org.

Women's Spirituality Group

The Woman's Spirituality Group is a social support group where we learn about and celebrate the sacred female energy within the universe and within ourselves. We will meet on Friday the 7th at the home of Mary Crone, call 859 266-5904 for directions or information. We will be celebrating St. Briget's day around a warm fire. We meet at 6:30 for pot luck and at 7:30 for the program. All women are welcome.

continued on page 10



Scott Ackerman

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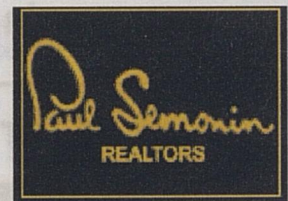
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Miss
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Wednesday, February 12, 2003

The Bar Complex

9:30 pm

\$5 Cover

Join the Imperial Court as we celebrate Valentine's Day at The Bar Complex. Contestants will battle it out for the coveted title of Miss Valentine 2003

Empress Nicole and her line of performers will also provide entertainment for the evening including JD Vaughn, Lady Marmalade, Jenna Jive, and many more of your favorite local entertainers. Proceeds benefit the charities of the Imperial Court of Kentucky.

Contestant applications may be picked up from Empress Nicole.

<http://kentucky.impcourt.org>

Wiccan Pathway Part I Imbolc

by Iggie

I have started the Wiccan/Pagan Study Group to bring like minded people together and to bring my religious beliefs into the light. Wiccan/Pagan religions have a long history and yet the general public is still often misinformed and some even think of us as evil. I will be writing articles over the next few months in hopes of changing that.

This month's topic is Imbolc Sabbat which is on February 2. The present day celebration of Groundhog Day is related to this old celebration. In various cultures, Imbolc has been known as Candlemas, Imbolc Brigantia (Feb 1, Caledonii), Lupercus (Strega), Candleria (Mexican Craft), and Disting (Feb 14 Tunic Tradition). All of these are close to the cross quarter day, or the day half way between the winter solstice and the spring Equinox. All celebrate the banishment of winter and welcoming of early signs of spring.

Imbolc is a festival of the Maiden in preparation for growth and renewal. The darkest three months of the year have passed, the days are growing longer, and we know that winter is losing its hold on the world. Imbolc is the feast of renewing light, as the Sun God grows and strengthens,

The name Candlemas comes from the ancient tradition of lighting candles throughout ones home, sometimes in the shape of stars, to welcome the son of the Goddess--the Star Child.

The term Imbolc comes from the Celtic word "oimelc" meaning sheep milk (ie: first milk). It was in part a celebration of the return of milk to the homes of those who kept animals.

A simple way to mark this sabbat is to place a glass of warm milk or spring water on your altar, light white candles, and invite

the Earth Mother to awaken slowly and peacefully from her winter slumber.

Next month I will write about Sabbat Ostara or the spring Equinox. If you would like to learn more about pagan beliefs, call me at 859 492-9904. We have some meetings scheduled. Blessed Be!

Lex Lyons Levi/Leather Club

The Lyons Club continues to meet at the Pride Center on the second Monday which in February is the 10th. Meetings are open to any interested individuals.

Moveable Feast

Moveable Feast is always in need of volunteers. If you can drive a car, you can change a life. Call 252-2867.

Transgender Lobby Day

by Dawn

The Annual Kentucky Transgendered lobbying effort is taking place Thursday, Feb. 6th. There will be a organizational meeting at 4pm Sunday Feb 2nd at the HIM building in Louisville at 8th and Breckenridge. If you have any questions call Dawn at 502 454-5657 or at 475-4559

On lobby day we ask that you dress in business attire appropriate to your presentation. There is a lot of walking and standing, so please wear comfortable shoes. Matt of KFA has spoken to staff at the Capitol building and they assured us there would be no problems getting folks in if our presentations and names don't match our legal IDs. They will be alerting the guards working on the 17th that we are coming. So feel free to be your fabulous femme or manly self! Security has been stepped up at the Capitol so please leave anything that can be considered a weapon by security personnel at home.

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February



2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pride Center Open 10-3 11am Valentine Gift Sale, Pride Center 2pm Fianress Lobbying Training 6pm Ace League, Fundraiser, Berea
2 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church Worship Service BRUNCH 9:30 6 pm Imperial Court Pride Center 6 pm SisterSound (Call for Place) 7P Dignity (Call for Place)	3 7 pm GSA (Call for place) 7 pm P-FLAG Berea Public Library-Berea 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	4 7 pm Sistas's Pride Center	5 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes	6 7 pm Jubilee Fellowship Pride Center Transgender Lobby Day, Frankfort	7 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 7PM Wiccan/Pagan (Call for Place)	8 Pride Center Open 10-3 7pm Andrew's Club-for young adults - Pride Center
9 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church 6 pm Imperial Court Pride Center 6 pm SisterSound (Call for Place) 7P Men of All Colors Together	10 7PM Lexington Lyons Pride Center 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	11 7 pm GSA (Call for place) Soulforce Study Group call Jamie 230-5625	12 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes	13 Hate-Free Ky Lobby Day, Frankfort	14 7 pm Lesbian Movie Night, Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	15 Pride Center Open 10-3
16 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church 6 pm SisterSound (Call for Place) 7PM Dignity (Call for Place) 3:15 One World Film: Lagaan, UK Student Center-Worsham Theater	17 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place) 7 pm GLSO Board Meeting; open	18 7PM GSA (Call for Place) 7pm One World Films, The Truce, Central Library Theater	19 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes 10pm Tiffany and Co. Benefit - Club 141	20 Youth and Family Lobby Day, Frankfort 7 pm Jubilee Fellowship Pride Center	21 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 7PM Wiccan/Pagan (Call for Place)	21 Pride Center Open 10-3 2pm One World Films, The Education of Little Tree, Central Library Theater 7pm Andrew's Club- for young adults - Pride Center
23 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church 6 pm SisterSound (Call for Place) 6PM Imperial Court Pride Center	24 7 pm GSA (Call for place) 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	25 7 pm Fairness Steering Committee Pride Center Soulforce Study Group call Jamie 230-5625 7 pm One World Films Stranger with a Camera, Ky Theater	26 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes	27 People of Faith Lobby Day, Frankfort 7 pm Jubilee Fellowship Pride Center	28 7pm Wiccan/Pagan Pot- Luck 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 7pm Gaymes Night- Pride Center	

Barbara Jordan: Stateswoman

by Mary Crone

In her brief political career, Barbara Jordan repeatedly made history. In 1966, she became the first African American since 1883 to sit in the Texas state Senate and the first black woman ever a member of that body. In 1972, she became the first southern African American woman to become a member of the Congress of the United States.

More than these landmarks, Jordan is remembered for her moral leadership, her commanding presence, and her powerful oration. She addressed and captivated our entire nation on several historic occasions including the televised Congressional debate on whether to impeach President Richard Nixon. She was the first black woman to make the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in 1976. After her death in 1996, she made history one last time when her long-term relationship with a woman became public knowledge.

Jordan was born on February 21, 1936 in Houston Texas, well before the beginning of World War II. She experienced the Jim Crow days of the Texas south, lived in segregated neighborhoods where she was nurtured by an extended community, and attended segregated schools that were no doubt poor in resources but supportive and encouraging. She is remembered as a tall, stout girl who was not traditionally feminine in appearance.

Her family was actively involved in the local Baptist church, and when Jordan was a teenager, her father took up preaching. Perhaps inheriting and/or emulating her father's gift, Jordan learned

early on to use her deep, rich voice to her advantage, making a name for herself in high school oratory competitions. In the early 1950s, one of the nation's few African-American female lawyers, Edith Spurlock Sampson, spoke at Jordan's high school and inspired the young woman to become a lawyer - a difficult career path at that time, when only one law school in Texas admitted blacks. Jordan's family knew she was capable, encouraged her and helped finance her education.

Jordan graduated from Phyllis Wheatley High School in 1952 and attended Texas State Univ. where she earned a degree in government. She was accepted to Boston University's Law School, where she had her first non-segregated educational experience.

In 1959, at age 23, Jordan was one of two black women graduated from Boston University Law School. She quickly passed both the Massachusetts and Texas bar exams. She returned to Texas where she was only the third African-American woman to be licensed to practice law in that state. Jordan's first clients came from her family's church. Wills and divorces for church members became the staple of her law practice, which she ran from her parents' dining room. The routine of this work was not enough to engage her brilliant mind so she became involved in the local Democratic Party where she thought she might have the opportunity to make a larger impact in support of her community.

Her first campaign work was for the John Kennedy- Lyndon Johnson ticket in 1960. She started out by stuffing envelopes, but was soon asked to fill in at the last minute for a speaker who became ill. "I was startled with the impact I had on people," Jordan recalled of that first campaign speech, delivered in a church. "Those people were just as turned on and excited as if some of the head candidates had been there to talk about the issues."

...continued on next page

Recognizing her talents, local party leaders promptly placed her on the speaking circuit, where she came to the attention of many prominent Texas Democrats.

During that campaign she also developed a well organized black-worker program for 40 predominantly black precincts which resulted in an 80% voter turn out. This was the most successful get-out-the-vote campaign in that county that anyone could recall.

In 1962 and 64 she ran and lost bids for the Texas House of Representatives. During the second campaign, some of Jordan's advisers warned her about a potentially career-damaging predicament: She had gone on the stump with a close female "companion." Jordan willingly became more discreet. Her relationship with the woman ended soon after. In 1966, Jordan's run for a seat in the state Senate was successful, making her the first black woman ever to sit in that body.

A few years after deciding to hide her lesbian identity for career purposes, Jordan formed the most lasting relationship of her life. In the late 1960s, she accepted an invitation to go camping with female friends and on that trip met Nancy Earl, a white woman who worked as an educational psychologist. For the rest of Jordan's life, Earl was her "companion" and occasional speechwriter. Jordan always masked their relationship as a

friendship, even after the two women bought five acres of land together near Austin and custom-built a house there.

In 1972, Jordan achieved one of her greatest ambitions when she won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and became the South's first black congresswoman. She asked past U.S. President Lyndon Johnson's advise on which committee to request and he advised her to seek a seat on the Judiciary Committee. Johnson put his considerable influence behind her and she got the seat.

Within two years, Richard Nixon was under investigation for his role in what is known as the Watergate Scandal and it was the Judiciary committee responsibility to initiate impeachment proceedings. Jordan argued against public speeches about this issue, but the Congress deemed otherwise. Jordan was asked to publicly present the evidence for impeachment. It is this speech, broadcast on national television July 25, 1974, for which she is most remembered.

"My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total," Jordan eloquently told the committee and the American public. "I am not going to stand here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution. Has the President committed offenses and planned and directed and acquiesced in a course of conduct which the constitution will not tolerate? We should now proceed forthwith to answer the question."

By 1976, Jordan was so highly regarded that her name made the short list of possible running mates for Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter. Her reputation as one of the twentieth centuries great orators was confirmed by her keynote address at the Democratic National Convention, the first black woman to deliver that speech.

...continued on next page

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Barbara Jordon *continued*

Jordon worked successfully in the Congress to further the causes she cared about including civil rights, protection of the environment, free trade, and economic justice. But Jordon did not extend her fervor for civil rights to equality for her fellow gays and lesbians. In 1976, perhaps from fear of being outed or of losing votes, Jordon publicly refused to co-sponsor federal gay rights legislation.

Jordan retired from office in 1978, surprising supporters who hoped to see her exerting power in Washington for many years to come. Many thought she would make an outstanding President. Though she denied being ill, she was eventually diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. For the next 15 years, she taught at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, where her students adored her. She reemerged in Washington briefly in 1994 as the chair of President Clinton's Task Force on Immigration.

She lived a fairly quiet life in Austin with Earl until her death from viral pneumonia in 1996. The Houston Chronicle quietly outed her by running an obituary citing Earl as her "longtime companion". But Earl steadfastly honored Jordon's desire for privacy. "I was her good friend," Earl told a reporter. "People can say whatever they want."

I can still hear in my mind Barbara Jordon's captivating voice. Our country benefited from her years of service. She will be remembered most for her integrity, intelligence and moral leadership. I hope that in the future her lesbian partnership will become included by her biographers as one of the details of her life worthy of note.

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Travel Opportunities Benefit GLSO

Gentle Adventure Retreats for Women has recently changed the Maui, Hawaii retreat in April to eight days, the second week of April which corresponds to Fayette County's spring vacation. **The cost has also been lowered.** This retreat offers a combination of eco-adventure activities (ex: snorkeling), unique experiences with local cultures, bodymind teachings, and opportunities for personal discovery. This particular trip may not be repeated, do this for yourself this year!

A retreat in Pawley's Island South Carolina co-lead with Mary Crone is offered in September 2003. **If you mention GLSO, Meriah will donate \$25 to us for every person that goes on one of these retreats within the next year.** Call Meriah at 276-4962 or mary at 266-5904.

Pegasus Travel Inc. has a long term relationship with the Gay Lesbian Service Organization and **will donate 10% of their profits on trips or vacations booked through them to GLSO when you mention you are a GLSO supporter.** The next time you are planning a cruise, tour, or are looking for the perfect place to stay, give Pegasus a call at 233-1644 or 1 800-228-4337 toll free outside of Lexington.

There are now many exclusive LGBT tours and vacation locations. Pegasus can assist you in exploring the many options and booking vacations that will fit your needs. They can help sort through the resources to select the ones that are reliable, best fit your budget and offer the options that are of greatest interest to you.

QVacations also offers GLBT tours. **David Galinsky offers \$50 to GLSO** for everyone that travels with him and comes to him through information in this newsletter. www.qvacations.com.

Bluegrass Fairness Chapter Lends a Hand at Ashland Rally

The un-reverend Fred Phelps made yet another visit to Kentucky, on January 12 and 13, this time to protest the Gay-Straight Student Alliance at Boyd County High School near Ashland, Kentucky. The community of Ashland, taking a cue from the Hate Free Rally in Lexington, organized a CommUNITY Rally in opposition to Phelps' band of hate mongers. Significantly the rally was sponsored by the Ashland Human Rights Commission and members of the of the business community and the religious community signed a written pledge supporting the Rally.

Members of the Bluegrass Fairness Steering Committee, Jim Dickinson - Co-Chair, Charlotte Wood, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin and Allan Barger traveled to Ashland on Sunday, January 12, 2002 to lend their support to the rally. Sandy Canon, Executive Director of the National Conference for Community and Justice, and members of T-Unity from Transylvania were also present. In addition, Andrea Hildebran, Exec Director, Matt Nicholson, Community Organizer, and Jean Russell, Co-Chair, Kentucky Fairness Alliance, were in attendance.

About 200 to 300 people were present at what was important first step for the Ashland's GLBT community. A respected leader, David Welch, spoke instead of an anti-gay local minister. The Mayor gave a speech advocating tolerance in the community of Ashland. The word "sexual orientation" was actually spoken in spite of strong efforts to condemn Phelps without even mentioning gay people. The GSA was recognized publicly. GLBT people, young and old, came out in daylight as gay people and hundreds of others too

fearful to do the same have no doubt been emboldened by the rally and may be encouraged to step out in the near future. It was a great first step for our sister city of Ashland. The KFA members in Ashland expressed a lot of appreciation for the support from around the state, Lexington and Louisville in particular.

All of us were particularly impressed by the courageous and outspoken students in the Boyd County High School GSA. Because they were not permitted to speak at the Rally, they joined with KFA and the ACLU to hold a press conference after the Rally to have their say and to announce that even though the school board has currently banned all non-curricular clubs in an effort to end the GSA controversy, the students they will continue to press on to their goal of equal treatment and equal access to the school. Their courage was obvious and it was a privilege to support them with our presence.

Once again Fred Phelps has proven to be a great help to our community. Because he and his un-merry band of relatives came to Ashland, the Ashland gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender community got organized and are now actively taking steps to form a chapter of the Kentucky Fairness Community. Who knows what they might be able to accomplish. Check out our website at www.BluegrassFairness.org for news and upcoming events. When you're working for Fairness in the Bluegrass, it's always something...



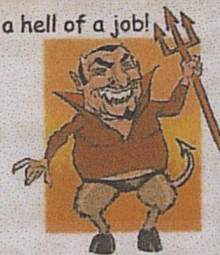
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One World Film Festival

Now in its fifth year, the One World Film Festival bring films about cultural diversity to Lexington and invites you to attend free of charge. Opening on Sunday Feb. 16 with **Lagaan**, last years smash hit and Academy Award nominee for best foreign film. It will be shown at 3:15 pm at the Worsham Theater in the UK student center. Plenty of parking available on Sundays next to the student center. Lagaan is a long movie so there will be an intermission and reception with Indian food.

Set in 1893 during the British occupation of India, this romantic costume epic combines sports, politics, romance, comedy, drama, and musical numbers.

On Tues, Feb. 18, **The Truce**, an Italian film, will be shown at the Central Library Theater at 7 pm. American actor John Turturro's stars as Primo Levi, a Jewish Italian chemist. The Truce depicts the true story of Levi's nine-month circuitous journey home following his release from Auschwitz. Along the way Levi rediscovers hope, dignity and a sense of moral outrage, emotions previously suppressed by the horror of his daily life. Turturro strikes a perfect balance between despair and laughter in this engrossing tale.

On Sat, Feb. 22, **The Education of Little Tree** will be shown at 2 pm at the Central Library Theater downtown. Eight-year-old Little Tree is orphaned and sent to live with his Cherokee grandparents in the Smoky Mountains in the 1930's. He thrives under their care until he is forced to go to a government boarding school where he faces solitary confinement and corporeal punishment.

For the next event we move to the State Theater inside the Kentucky Theater to present two Appalshop Documentaries on Tues, Feb. 25 at 7 pm. Filmmakers will discuss their work after the screenings.

In **Stranger with a Camera**, director Elizabeth Barret explores the complex relationship between those who make films to promote social change and the people whose lives are represented in such media productions. Barret tells the story of Canadian filmmaker Hugh O'Connor who visited the mountains of Appalachia in 1963 to document poverty. A local landlord shot and killed O'Connor, in part because of his anger over the media images of Appalachia that had become icons in the nation's War on Poverty.

Also that evening we will show **Coal Bucket Outlaw**, Tom Hansell, director. Coal produces over half of our nation's electricity. This digital documentary gives us a direct look at the lives of the people who work with coal and reveals the human and environmental price we pay for our national addiction to fossil fuels.

In March we will present two more films by women directors in honor of Women's History Month. On Sun, March 2 we will show **Honey and Ashes** at the Young Library Auditorium on UK campus. Parking is available in lots around the Library off Woodland Ave. The Women's Studies Program, which is cosponsoring our festival this year, was particularly instrumental in scheduling this film.

Three women in an unnamed Islamic country are caught between tradition and modernity as they try to take control of their lives. The lives of these women weave together in unexpected ways portraying a society where patriarchal authority limits the freedom of women.

The last two movies will be at the Central Library Theater at 7 pm. On Tues, March 4, join us for a lighthearted Mexican movie, **Danzon**. On Sat, March 8, we will show **When We Were Kings**, award winning documentary about Muhammed Ali. Look for more information in the March newsletter.

Injustice Anywhere **by Jamie McDaniel, Soulforce**

Today, now that the institution of segregation has been abolished and two generations of Americans have grown up in integrated schools, the majority of white citizens would be quick to distance themselves from anything that promoted segregation or gave a wink of nostalgia to that aspect of "the good old days." In regards to our ancestry, we now see clearly that having a past of slave ownership is, in fact, the shameful state - and that there is no shame in having a past of being a slave.

The recent events surrounding former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott's comments show that we, as a county, are now quick to take the stand that segregation was very wrong. But rarely do people take the time to explain why the once socially accepted institution of segregation was wrong.

Once our society goes through reform, we seemingly forget the hold that the former tradition had on people. If we fail to comprehend the degree that segregation was ingrained into American life, then we fail to fully appreciate the struggle that the black community and their white allies faced to overcome oppression. No one today asks you to explain yourself when you take a position against segregation. But back in 1955, how would you answer? Have you ever thought about it? If I were to tell you that "Separate but Equal" is a fair and just system for taking care of the everyday needs of Americans, how would you counter?

I suggest that if we, as Americans living in the 21st century, are unable to give adequate explanation on why segregation was wrong - indeed evil - then it is not enlightenment that separates us from 1950 America. What separates us is only the passage of time. We would, in effect, be accepting the idea of segregation being

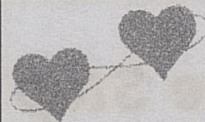
wrong just as blindly and without thought as those who once accepted it as merely being another part of everyday life. The Civil Rights Movement of the 50's and 60's would have moved - indeed saved - a great nation, but unless we study their struggle, we are ill-prepared to answer the question, "Where do we go from here?"

Dr. King's dream and life work was to move the whole of society ever nearer to what he called "the beloved community." I think an essential component of realizing that dream is for us to understand the injustices of yesterday so that we are better equipped to recognize and work towards ending the injustices of today.

Someday, it will be accepted that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are as equal as our heterosexual brothers and sisters. It will be acknowledged that GLBT people are part of the "creative given" and that God takes delight in our community and all the beautiful individuals who are a part of it.

Today, many ask you to explain yourself when you take a stand against the idea that homosexuals are sick and sinful. One day, that will not be the case. But it is my hope that, after we achieve equality, future generations of Americans will understand in their minds and know in their hearts why anti-gay teachings and policies were wrong.

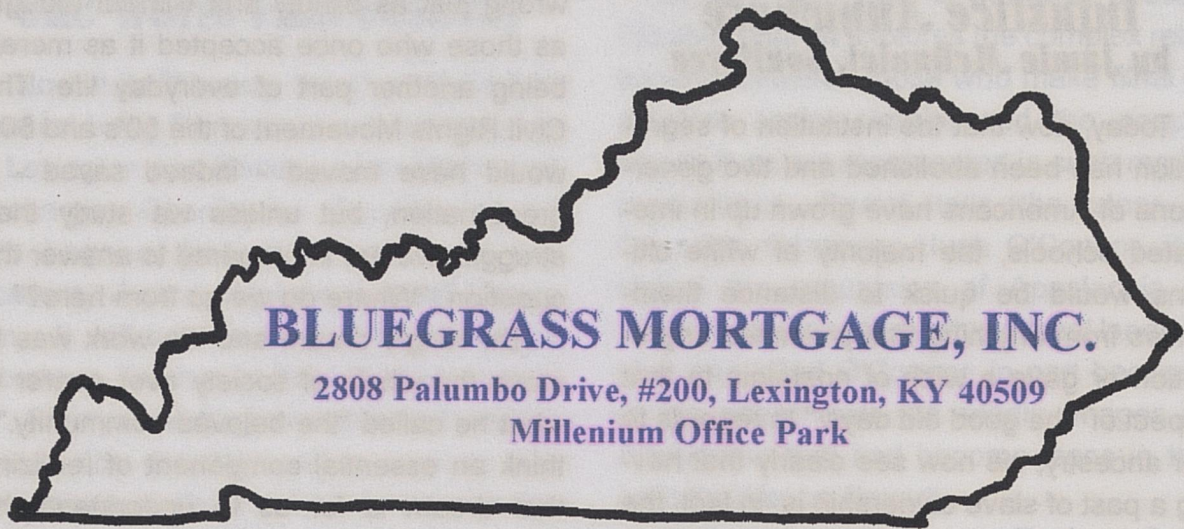
See pg 4 for information about Soulforce meetings



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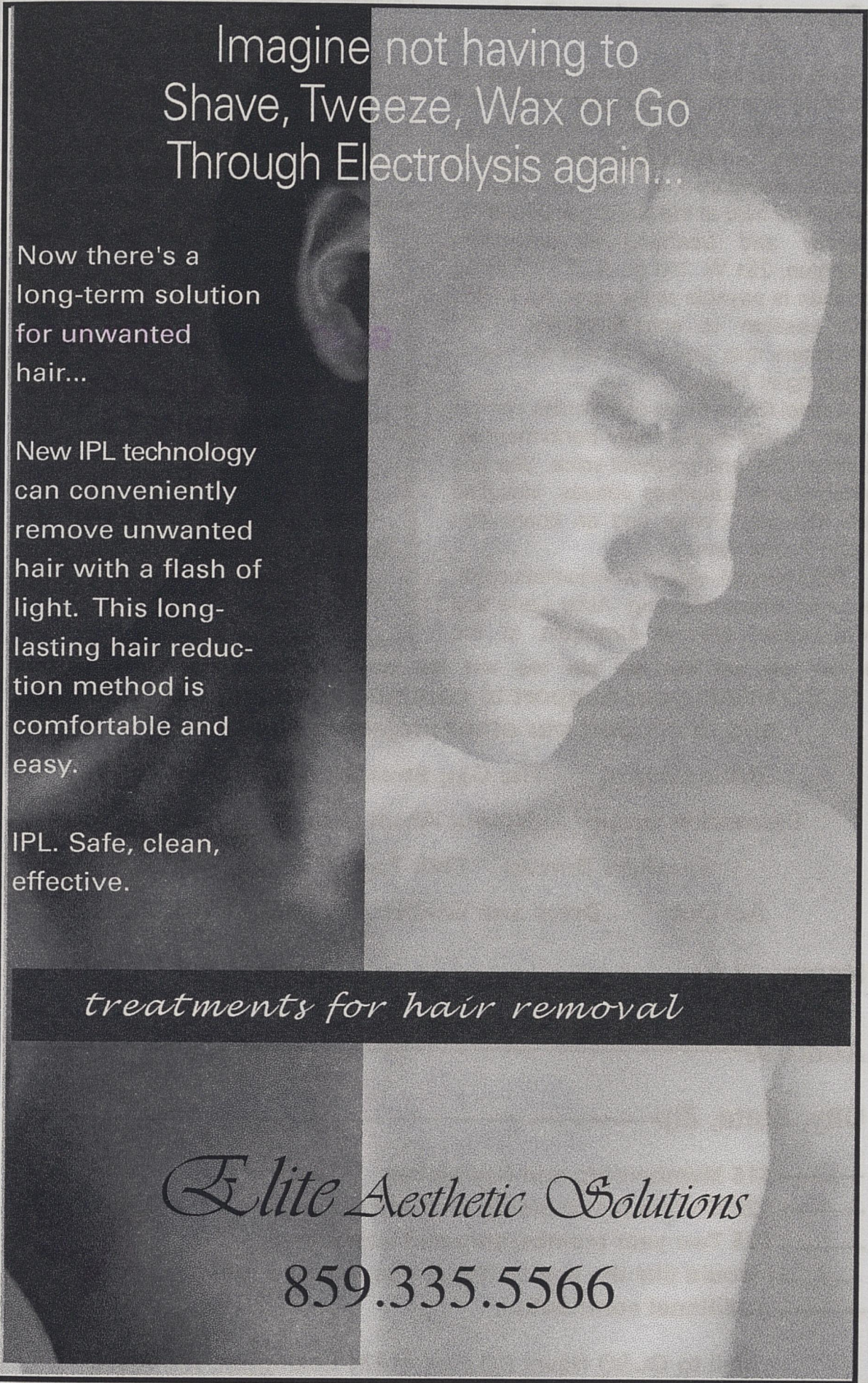
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Carnegie Songwriter Series

The Carnegie Songwriter Series is proud to present Washington DC-based singer-songwriter RACHEL CROSS and Lexington's own RAINJUNKIES in concert, Tuesday, February 4, at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be held at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning in downtown Lexington, 251 W. 2nd St. A \$5 suggested donation is payable at the door. An OPEN MIC session is scheduled for 9:30. Performers may sign up for it at the event, beginning at 7:00.

Rachel Cross (www.rachelcross.com) is known for her high-energy performances, positive vibe, and powerful voice. She has performed at countless venues, including The Kennedy Center and on board The Green Peace Warrior.

The Rainjunkies(www.rainjunkies.com), featuring Bryan Klausing, Abby Lane and Ben Sollee, are no strangers to the

Lexington music scene. Bryan is "the man behind the man" at the Woodsongs Old-Time Radio Hour and he and the other Junkies have performed at various festivals around the area.

The Carnegie Songwriter Series is an intimate, personable venue, created to provide an acoustic venue where local and nationally known artists can perform in an informal setting. The Carnegie Center is a smoke free, alcohol free environment.

GLSO News DEADLINES:

Articles and Ads :
February 15

put "newsletter" in the
subject line and send to
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and marycrone@aol.com

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 GLSO News (Mary)266-5904
 Subscriptions (Ginger)253-3233
 GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary)266-5904
 Youth Gay Straight Alliance (Mary) .266-5904
 GLSO on Linelexingtonglso@yahoo.com
 www.bluegrasspride.org
 Pride Gallery.....225-0094

Student Groups

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 UK Lambda (Sara & Dave) .info@uklambda.com
 Berea College ACE League (Dale) .859-985-3633
 Centre College (BGLAD-Mykol)238-5332

Anonymous HIV Testing

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 Madison County859-723-7312
 Woodford County873-4541
 U.K. Adolescent Medicine323-5643

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 Louisville Region (Geri)502-574-0161
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 AL-Anon (Office)277-1877
 Bluegrass Belles (Marjorie)278-2608
 (Ann)502-672-8673
 Bluegrass C.O.L.T.S. (Morris)225-9169
 Bluegrass Fairness859-806-4114
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 DOJ Pride (Robin)231-8526
 Fairness of Louisville502-893-0788
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 Lexington Human Rights Commission 252-4931
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 Louisville Youth Group502-894-9787
 Men of all Colors Together (Jon).....351-4453
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 Moonshine Bears of KY (Bobby) ...494-2625
 Pride Alliance of Central KY
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 (Shane)859-854-0596
 Pridealliance@yahoo.com

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 Rainbow Bowling League (Steve) ..276-3058
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 Sistersound (Patti)243-0243
 Sistahs in the Life (Joan)252-2657
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 24 hr. Teen Crisis Line1-800-999-9999

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 HUGS257-7880
 Interweave (Unitarian-Mary)266-5904
 Integrity (Episcopal-Rev. Stone)277-7511
 Jubilee Fellowship (Beverly & Corina) 264-7006
 CWBM121893@aol.com
 MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev.Cathy) ..888-340-6223
 MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee)502-587-6225
 MCC-Paducah (Rev. Lillian) ...270-443-3339
 Norse Pagan Community (Rev. Pat) ...268-1640
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