

ECSO NEWS

August 2005

A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization

Garage Sale

GLSO is having a Garage Sale on Saturday, August 6 at the Pride Center from 8 am until 2 pm. We have books, videos, clothes, kitchen items, posters, and lots more.

We need donations so clean out a closet and bring items to the Pride Center on Saturday, July 30 or during the first week in Aug. Call to be sure someone is here. You can help us by pricing the items before you bring them over, although this is not required. Prices for clothing will be on a sign so do not price those items individually. If you have large items to donate you can call Cheryl at 859 523-3083.

KFA Dinner

The Kentucky Fairness Alliance is having it's First Annual Statewide Diner on Friday, August 5 at the Brown Hotel in Louisville. The featured speaker will be Mandy Carter, the Executive Director of Southerners on New Ground (SONG).

Space is limited. Don't miss this opportunity to meet leaders from around the state and the country. Reserve your seat by calling KFA at 502 897-1973 or go to Kentuckyfairness.org to purchase tickers for either \$50 or \$100.

There is also an important workshop on Aug 6th to begin to develop strategies for the upcoming campaign against an effort by the right wing to limit our ability to adopt or foster children. See page 14 for details.

Dining Out for Life Thursday, Aug. 25 See pages 3 & 15 Volume 20 Number 8

Miss Kentucky Pride 2005

Ragine St. James

This year the Miss Kentucky Pride Pageant will be a wonderful evening of entertainment and pageantry. Entitled "A Night with Women Superheroes", Miss KY Pride will be held on Wednesday, August 31, at 9:30 p.m. at Club Liquid, 2319 Woodhill Dr., Lexington.

Starring Miss Kentucky Pride 2004, Ragine St. James, the pageant will also make history with three national title holders performing: "Miss Gay USofA Classic 2005," Latoya Bacall; "Miss National @ Large 2003," Chelsea Pearl; and "Miss Gay United States" Coti Collins. Ms. Collins has worked for Country Music star Reba McEntire as her double on stage.

These national title holders will be joined by Arione DeCardeza, Paris Bacall, Sasha Grant, and Quasi from Cincinnati.. The Pageant is open to any female impersonator, 21 years or older. The Prize includes \$300 Cash, a jewelry set from Goddess Jewelry, a Crown, a Scepter, and a Sash. Entry fee is only \$40. Interested individuals should email misskentucky pride@hotmail.com, call R.J. or Jason at 859-327-3362 or go to http://www.misskentuckypride.8m.com

Sponsor of the Month
Unitarian Universalist Church
Of Lexington
3564 Clays Mill Rd.



GESO NEWS

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GLSO

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www.lexingtonglso@yahoo.com www.webspawner.com/users/glsoqxnet

> **News Editor Mary Crone**

GLSO Board

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Thomas Collins
Mary Crone
Sarah Martin
Lindsay Mattingly
Terry Mullins

Pride Center Office Manager
Bill Chandler
859 253-3233

GLSO Membership and Newsletter:

Individuals or Couples \$20. For One Year Subscription.

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

Imperial Court of Kentucky Reign 24 Kicks off in Style,

Celebrates Successful 23rd Reign
Emperor 24 J.C. Lewis and Empress 23 Phoenix
Gaye would like to invite everyone to help them kick
off their reign at Investitures Wednesday, August 3rd
at Club 141. Doors will open at 8:30 P.M., with
showtime at 9:30. There will be a \$5 cover for this
event. Members of the court will be presented with
their Reign 24 titles during the festivities and light
refreshments will be served in the V.I.P. Lounge prior

On August 17th, we will welcome our northern neighbors as we host our annual Cincinnati Invasion, featuring the incomparable Empress Roberta Bigg, Emperor Tom and other Cincy favorites in what could prove to be more excitement than we genteel southerners can handle. Club 141. Doors at 8:30, show at 9:00, with a \$5 cover.

to the show.

Proceeds (including performers' tips) from all court shows go to our designated charities. During Reign 23, over \$11,000 was distributed to Moveable Feast, GLSO, AVOL, and the Gray Dove Chapter of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance. Over the past 5 reigns, the Imperial Court of Kentucky has donated over \$100,000 dollars to local organizations.

Mr. Kentucky Leather 2005

The Imperial Court of Kentucky will sponsor the Mr. Kentucky Leather 2005 Contest. The two day event will be held Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23-24, at Club 141 in Lexington. Assisting with the event will be Kentucky Leather Productions and the Lexington Lyons Leather Club.

The winner of the contest will represent Kentucky and the Imperial Court at the 28th annual International Mr. Leather competition in Chicago over the 2006 Memorial Day weekend.

To compete for Mr. Ky Leather contestants must be male and 21 years of age as of September 24, 2005. Judging criteria will include 1) leather image, 2) presentation skills and interview, and 3) physical appearance. The contest is open to residents of Ky including the Greater Louisville and Cincinnati Metropolitan Areas. There is a \$20 entry fee.

Interested persons should contact Larry Stanley at LDStanley09@aol.com or the Imperial Court of Kentucky, PO Box 265, Lexington, KY 40588

Look for more information in the September GLSO News.

Community News

THE BAR

Something Old Is New Again

Summer is really heating up in downtown Lexington at The Bar Complex. Fourth of July Weekend saw the successfure-launch of the Johnny Angel Discoteque. DJ's Marvin and Dusty had the dance floor packed with partiers moving to the latest club hits with the occasional classic thrown into the mix. The renovated dance floor, new light system, and video projection screens rival the dance clubs in any major city. Johnny Angel at The Bar Complex is open Thursday - Saturday at 10 pm. Come out and experience it for yourself.

The Bar Complex is also home to the Gilded Cage Cabaret, bringing you the best in female impersonation. Fourth of July gave the standing room only crowd a wonderful show. The opening patriotic production number brought the crowd to its feet. Thanks to new show director Natalie Gaye, production manager Eden Towers and the entire Gilded Cage Diva show cast for a great show.

The Bar Complex is pleased to welcome our newest cast member to the gilded Cage Divas, Miss Latoya BaCall, a national titleholder. Congratulations Latoya on your recent win as Miss Gay USofA Classic 2005. We welcome you to the family.

Show Times at the Gilded Cage are Thurs. - Sat. at 10:30 pm and 12:30 am. For information about Open State Night, please contact Natalie Gaye.

The Bar Complex invites everyone to quench their thirst at tour happy hour in the Living Room Lounge. Happy Hour runs Mon. - Sat. From 4 to 7 pm.. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are filled with fun. Grab your turn in the spotlight on Tuesdays with Karaoke Night. Hosted by Ray Ray Starr (Rayna's evil twin). Karoke begins at 10 pm. Have a great time and win prizes on Wed. With Drago ... Continued on page 6

KY GAY CAMP 2005 AUGUST 26,27,28

It's official! This year's KY Gay Camp will be held August 26, 27, & 28. I would like to welcome everyone to Sloydia, a beautiful place is southwestern Kentucky. There is a river with a shallow swimming pool, rowboat and canoe, and many shady campsites, both for vehicle and tent camping. There are outhouses and a well with limited water. There is also a fully equipped weight lifting gym, access to a nearby hot tub and hiking trails to private mountaintop. A stage with sound equipment will be available.

Suggested donation is \$5 per person per night, Friday and Saturday nights with fun on Sunday. Vehicles with low clearance or over 20 feet long not advised. Sloydia is remote, 20 miles south of Monticello. There is **no** cell phone coverage with any service. Please have good directions before you head out from town.

For directions, pre-registration or questions, call Sloyd at 606-348-0788. you can also get more info at 606-219-2524/606-219-5812. We are on the web http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LakeCumberlandAreaPride/?

Dining Out for life

Plan to go out to eat on Thursday, Aug 25 at one of these fine restaurants. They will donate some percent of their proceeds to Moveable Feast.

Asian Wind - Bistro La Belle Buddy's - Cafe' on the Park Canary Cottage - Quirk - Mia's

Corky's Ribs & BBQ

Jonathan at Gratz Park

Puccini's Pasta & Pizza

Wishing Chair

Wishing Chair has a number of upcoming summer events. On Sat., Aug. 6, catch them at The Alternative, 1032 Story Ave., Louisville at 9 pm. Call 502-561-7613 for information. On Sat., Aug. 27, they will participate in Summer Sounds between 7-9 pm at Cheapside Park, 215 W. Main St., Lexington. This is a free outdoor event; bring a lawn chair.

Wishing Chair will also be playing at the **Ohio Lesbian Festival** on Saturday, Sept 17 in Kirkerville, Ohio. (See page 22)

Lyons Levi & Leather Club

The Lexington Lyons will be meeting at the Pride Center on Monday, August, 8 at 8 pm. We plan to assist The Imperial Court with the Mr. Kentucky Leather 2005 Contest. This two day event will be held Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23-24, at Club 141. Contact Paul at 312-9346 for more information about the club.

Diversity in Gender Alliance

The Lexington Diversity in Gender Alliance (LDGA) will be meeting on Saturday, August 6 at 7:30. Call for location. LDGA is open to all people who transcend gender norms or who are questioning their gender identity including transsexuals, effeminate men, masculine women, gender queers and more. Family and supportive friends are welcome. This is not a therapy group.

ActOUT Presents Southern Baptist Sissies

On September 2, 3, 9 &10,Act OUT presents Southern Baptist Sissies. This play is a beautifully moving look at four gay boys raised Southern Baptist who must choose between accepting Jesus or accepting themselves. Through laughter and tears, each story unfolds to reveal a struggle for self-discovery. Join us at the downtown Library Theater on Fri. and Sat. nights at 8 pm and at 2 pm Sat. for a matinee. General Admission is \$10 and you can reserve tickets

Unitarian Universalist Church August Sponsor of the Month

The Unitarian Universalist Church welcomes the opportunity to sponsor the GLSO News. We invite you to attend our worship services, Wednesday night discussion groups, or participate in our social justice activities. We also have an active teen program that usually has sons and/or daughters of GLBT parents.

Worship services in August will be held at 10 am every Sunday morning. On August 14th the children of the church will be involved in presenting *The Blessing of the Animals*, a popular event. Everyone is encouraged to bring their pets to church for a blessing. It is a noisy but fun day.

On August 21 the service will celebrate the life of Alice Paul, a suffragist She was arrested in 1918 and went on a hunger strike in prison. Although force fed by the guards, her strike did break the resolve of the opposition and led to the 19h amendment giving women the right to vote in 1920.

Alice then authored the Equal Rights Amendment and initiated gender equality in both the United Nations Charter and in the 1964 Civil Rights Act. So why wasn't she in any of my history books?

On August 28 we will have our traditional end of summer service, the *Water Communion*. Many of us bring back water from our summer travels which we pour together as a ritual of renewal and commitment to our community.

After the service on the 28th Interweave will be getting together to go out to lunch. Interweave is our GLBT and friends support group. We would like to make plans to sponsor a few movie nights or other activities this coming year. Bring your ideas and join us in the lobby after the service,

GLBT people might also be interested in the **Same Sex Wedding Guide**, a wonderful resource that is easily located on the Unitarian Universalist Association web page: www,uua.org. It offers six different

Continued on page 6



Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington 3564 Clays Mill Rd. 223-1448 Summer Services 10 am

The Unitarian Universlaist Church welcomes people of all religious traditions and those of none. We do not have a dogma or creed that defines the beliefs of all members. We are Theists and non-Theists, Christians, Pagans, Jews, Buddhists, and Humanists. We do not always agree with each other and we see lively discussion as a sign of a healthy community. We are a Welcoming Congregation that is enriched by or gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members.



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We are committed to social justice work. If the state legislature tries to limit the civil rights of GLBT people again, we will work with you to educate voters, to open minds, and to change attitudes.

www.uucl.org www.uua.org

Community News

The Bar Complex continued from page 3

with Drago Bingo beginning at 10 pm and, hosted by Alyssa Williams.

Don't let the heat bring you down. Experience The Living Room Ounnge, The Gilded Cage Cabaret, Johnny Angel Discotheque all located at The Bar cp,[;ex. 224 E. Main St. In Downtown Lexington. 859 255-1551. Bar Hop Under One Roof!

AVOL Hires Executive Director

AVOL has a new Executive Director, Jean-Luc Cotto. Jean-Luc was born in New York City and attended secondary school in Puerto Rico. At age seventeen, he joined a Catholic religious order, the Alexian Brother, in Chicago. After the turbulent day of Vatican II, Jean-Luc left the order and entered Wichita State Univ.

After completing his BA in English and an MA in Vocational Rehabilitation, he worked as Director of Education for a state and federally funded substance abuse program where he gained experience working with substance abusers, battered women and children, HIV and AIDS patients, prisoners and the mentally ill.

Jean-Luc was recruited to work for the New York City mayor's office in Public Relations and Community Affairs. After many years, many projects and two mayors, Jean-Luc decided to resume his religious aspirations. He went to see the Abbey Church of Sain Benoit Du Lac in Montreal and there was acepted by the Benedictiine Religious Order.

Jean-Luc left the Benedictine order three years ago, believing that he could accomplish more outside the order. He is excited and enthusiastic about his new position with AVOL and has high expectations for what AVOL can accomplish in the future. He can be reached at AVOLDirector@aol.com or at 859-225-3000.

Jubilee Fellowship

You are invited to attend our Open House Party on August 6, at 713 East Loudon Ave. We will have free food, entertainment and an opportunity to win prizes by participating in games. The day's festivities are scheduled to take place between 11-3pm. A concert will start at 3pm and go until whenever.

We will be having our inaugural service the very next day, Sunday, August 7^h, at 11am. Everyone is welcomed. We are presently meeting on Fridays at 7pm.

We will not only hold our worship services at this location but we will serve the community as a safe place to come and receive the love of Jesus through a variety of resources. If this vision sounds like something you would like to be a part of please contact Pastor Cori Wood @ 859-514-5518 or e-mail us @ jfellowship@aol.com. We have a big vision and a big God.

Please email or call us if you are willing to help get the building ready for Sunday Services. We are also in need of monies and/or items for our day to day operations; just contact Pastor Cori Wood.

More Religious News ... page 19
Fairness News ... page 14
Political Backlash Myth..page 21
Southern Baptist Sissies .. Pg 8



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www.MissKentuckyPride.8m.com

Pride

389 Waller Ave.

859 253-3233

Mon. - Iri. 10:00 - 3:00

Volunteers keep the Center open after 3 and on Saturdays. Call to be sure someone is here.

Save The Pride Center

How you can help

- 1. Donate and buy items at the Garage Sale on Aug. 6th at the Center.
- 2. Make plans to attend Southern Baptist Sissies in early September.
- 3. Volunteer some time at the Center
- 4. Attend our Board Meeting on Aug 15th and consider joining the board or getting involved on one of our committees.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Every Wednesday 7 pm Pride Center 389 Waller Ave. Open to all.

Jane at ladyjaneky@yahoo.com.

LEXINGTON INSIGHT

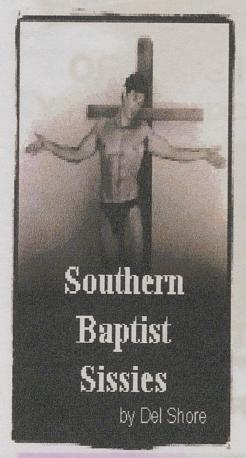
Gay Men's Social & Support Group

Lexington Insight will be meeting on the first Friday of each month. Join us on Aug. 5 at the Pride Center at 7:30 for discussion and planning.

40+ Club

The 40+ Club is a group for women over 40 (and younger friends) who are interested in attending a wide variety of activities together. Our next meeting will be on Sun, Aug. 14 but NOT at the Pride Center. We will meet at the Red Mile at about 7 to watch the evening races. See page 10 for more activities.

ActOUT presents



Southern Baptist Cinia

A beautifully moving look at four gay boys raised Southern Baptist who must choose between accepting Jesus or accepting themselves. Through laughter and tears, each story unfolds to reveal a struggle for self-discovery.

September 2, 3, 9 & 10

Fridays & Saturdays - 8:00pm 2:00pm Matinee on Saturdays

Downtown Library Theatre
General Admission - \$10
Reservations by calling 253-3233

SESTER ON

THE IMPERIAL COURT OF KY PRESENTS

Investitures

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RUMBURS 141
COURTED TO

\$5 DONATION



40+ Women continued from page 8

A favorite of ours and we may return several times during the fall.

On Friday, August 5, at 8 pm, come out to Woodland Park and enjoy an evening of beauty and grace at Ballet Under the Stars. The evening begins with a pre-show production comprised of local dancers followed by the main show at 8:30 pm where dancers from around the world take the stage. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, and beverage and food. Admission \$2.

The Woodlands Arts Fair will be on Sat., Aug. 20th. We will meet near the stage at about 11AM. Parking will be a problem, so leave early or park somewhere near a bus station and ride in.

September plans include an overnight to Cincinnati for the sights and fun. October excursion on My Old Kentucky Home Dinner Train in Bardstown. For more information or to share your ideas email Ginger at ggclr@yahoo.com or call 859-253-0061.

Rainbow Families

Rainbow Families of Lexington (RFOL) is an organization for gay and lesbian parents and their children in the Lexington area. Our mission is to show our children that there are other families like theirs.

We invite parents as well as those who are just starting their journey to parenthood to join RFOL. To become a member call Jen at 533 3083 or join

Http//groups.yahoo.com/group/rfolky.

MACT KY Men of All Colors Together

MACT is a chapter of the National Association of Black and White Men Together. We have social get-togethers regularly. For more info email MACTKY@aol.com.



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5LSO Newsletter Calendar March 2005

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

Saturday Sunday Monday Friday **Tuesday** Wednesday Thursday Pride Center open til 6p 7p GLSO Discussion 8p ICK Leather & Lace Fantasy Show @ Club 141 9a Frontrunners/walkers More information about many of the events are 7p GSA (call for place in this newsletter. You may want to call or email the group to confirm the date and time, see the 7:30 p - Diversity in Gender (Call) 8p ICK Mr. Kentucky Leather @ Club 141 266-5904) Group-PC 7p One World "Free" directory on back page. Films: Mujahid, The Holy Warrior @Public Library ther @ Club 141 Pride Center may be abbreviated - PC Call for Place may be abbreviated- Call Pride Center open til 6pm 7p GLSO Discussion 9:15 & 11a UU Church 10:30 a St. Mychal 4p Integrity @ St. Michael's 6p SisterSound Rehearsal 3:30p One World "Free" ride Center open til 6pr 9a Frontrunners/walkers RFOL -Easter Egg Hunt Pride Center open til 7p GSA (call for place 5:30p Pride Month 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA 266-5904) Committee Mtg-PC Group-PC 8p AA Step Study (call) (call for place) 8p AA Step Study (call 613 for place) 10 a, 1p, 7p One World "Free" Films: Paper Clips Films: Foat-Kine @ UK Student Center @ Kentucky Theater 2p Women 40+ Club-PC Pride Center open til 7p GLSO Discussion St. Patrick's Day Pride Center open til 6pm 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA 9a Frontrunners/walkers 2p Women 40F club-PC
2p One World "Free" Films
When the Spirit Dance
Mambo @ Public Library
4p Integrity @ St. Michael's
6p Imperial Court Mtg.-PC
SoulForce (call Jamie 230-Arboretum Wearin' of the Green 7p GSA (call for place 7:30 p Fairness-PC 8p Gay/Lesbian AA (call) (call for place) contest @ The Bar 8p AA Step Study (call 266-5904) for place) Orthodox Lent begins Pride Center open til 6pm 7:30 p GLSO Board Mtg. 8p AA Step Study (call for 9:15 & 11a UU Church 10:30 a St. Mychal's 7p GLSO Discussion 9a Frontrunners/walkers Group-PC 7:30 p Gay/Lesbian AA 4p Integrity @ St. Michael's 6p SisterSound Rehearsal 7p MACT-PC 8p Gay/Lesbian AA (call for place)
Good Friday place) Paim Sunday Spring Begin 7p GLSO Discussion 9:15 & 11a UU Church Pride Center open til 7p GSA (call for place 10:30 a St. Mychal
2p Women 40+ Club-PC
4p Integrity @ St. Michael's
6p Imperial Court Mtg.-PC
SoulForce (call Jamie 230-266-5904) 8p AA Step Study (call **8piCK Falsies Award** 9:30 The Bar's Annual for place) @ Ky Theater Turnabout Show, to benefit Moveable Feast. 5625) EASTER SUNDAY



Weekly Activities:

8pm - AA Step Study (Call for Location)

Tuesdays:

7pm - GSA (Gay Straight

Alliance)

Wednesdays: 7pm - GLSO Discussion

Group

8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for Location) 9pm - Rainbow Bowlina

League Southland Lanes

Fridays:

8pm - Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for Location) Saturdays:

9am - Frontrunners/Walkers @ **UK Arboretum**

Sundays:

9:15 & 11am - UU Church Worship Services.

10:30 - Mass, St. Mychal The Martvr.

4pm- Integrity @ St. Michael's 6pm - SisterSound Rehearsal @ Landsdowne Presby. Church

7pm - LMC Rehearsal @ St. Michael's Epicopal Church.

6pm - The Imperial Court SoulForce -Call jamie 230-

Monthly Activities:

Mondays: Tuesdays: 7pm - GLSO Board Mtg. (3rd Mon.) 7pm - Fairness (4th Tues)

Wednesdays: Thursdays:

Fridays:

Saturdays: (1st. Sat.)

Sundays:

8pm-Diversity in Gender 2pm-Women 40+(2nd. Sun.) 7pm -MACT (3rd. Sun.)

Kentucky Fairness Alliance

We need YOU to become involved in the KY Fairness Alliance's campaign to defeat a probable attempt to pass a Constitutional Amendment banning GLBT adoption and foster care. To get the campaign off and running, the KFA is hosting a day-long training to give leaders from all over the state a chance to meet and discuss strategy, review resources and participate in a media training.

This session will be held August 6 from 9 am to 5 pm at the Brown Hotel in Louisville. Media training will be in the morning from 9 - 12. A session on strategic planning will occur in the afternoon from 1 to 5 pm. The campaign leadership team will include members working on outreach to business, religious professional, political, civil rights and adoptive families, as well as thirteen different regional teams. Each of these teams will have the opportunity to meet and discuss strategy and coordinate their work with the group.

The Kentucky Fairness Alliance will also be holding its first annual Statewide Fairness dinner the night before this meeting, Friday August 5 at the Brown Hotel in Louisville. Please consider attending both! Visit the KFA website at Kentuckyfairness.org to purchase tickers for \$50 or \$100 or call 502-897-1973.

The meeting of the leadership team will be held during the Equality Federation National Conference in Louisville. There will be activists from all over the country meeting for three days in Louisville at this annual event. Both the dinner and the training are unique opportunities. Please RSVP to KY Fairness Alliance about attending this training (502-897-1973) For childcare, contact Ann Walsh at annwalsh@lycos.com or 502-637-6599. Please specify which part of the day you will attend and whether or not you will join us for lunch.

We are facing a threat which cannot be ignored in Kentucky. We need your help in defeating the proposed anti-gay adoption constitutional amendment.

Bluegrass Chapter Annual Dinner September 25, 2005

Sheraton Suites - Richmond Road Cocktails - Silent Auction 6:00 Dinner 7:00

Proceeds for the benefit of KFA

CLUB Liquid

2331 Woodhlll Drive

Join us for

Drago Bingo

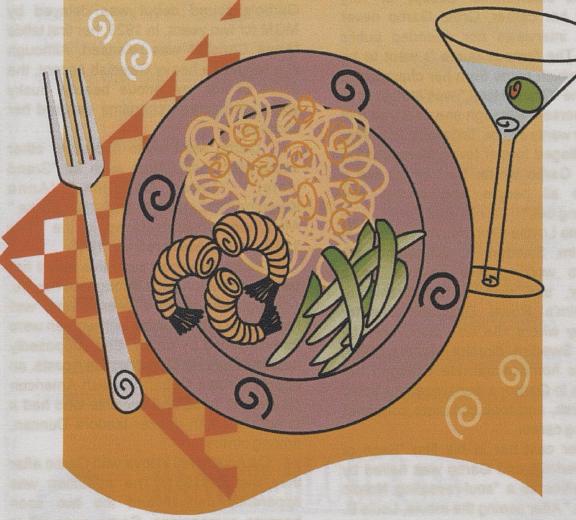
Every Tuesday Night

Proceeds to benefit Pride Center

For more Club Liquid Events visit us on the web at: www.clubliquidlexington.com

Moveable Feast of Lexington's

Dining Out
FOR LIFE



Moveable Feast of Lexington's 7th Annual Dining Out For Life Thursday, August 25, 2005

Lonely Man Circling the Earth: A Profile of Greta Garbo By Lori O'Connor

The sexual orientation of film legend Greta Garbo has long been the subject of speculation. Was she a lesbian? Was she bisexual? Was she the object of the public's voyeuristic curiosity about the sex lives of celebrities? Or maybe her sexuality was the projection of "wishful thinking" on the part of the queer community?

The answer is neither simple nor very clear cut, especially in light of Garbo's notorious elusiveness. Except for very early in her career, Greta Garbo never granted interviews nor attended public events. The famous quote "I want to be alone," which came from her character in the movie "Grand Hotel," was attributed to Garbo herself, although she declared that she only wanted to be "let" alone. In a letter to her alleged former lover, Mercedes De Acosta, Garbo wrote: "I close up like a clam to all people who always find everything out,"

Greta Lovisa Gustafsson was born in Stockholm, Sweden, on September 18, 1905, to working-class parents. As a teenager, she won a scholarship to Stockholm's Royal Dramatic Theater Academy where she was discovered by famous Swedish director Mauritz Stiller, who was homosexual. He changed her surname to Garbo, a word meaning 'spirit' in Swedish, and took complete control of her acting career.

Stiller cast her in his film "Saga of Gosta Berling" and Garbo was hailed by Berlin critics as a "soul-revealing Nordic princess." After seeing the movie, Louis B. Mayer, the production chief at MGM, offered Stiller a contract but Stiller only accepted the offer on condition that Greta was also hired. Mayer reluctantly agreed.

Garbo soon revealed her extraordinary talent for film acting to American audiences. With the release of her first MGM film, "The Torrent," she

became an overnight sensation. Stiller on the other hand, argued with MGM executives and soon left Hollywood.

While filming her third film "Flesh and the Devil," Garbo began an affair with her co-star, matinee idol John Gilbert. The couple's affair was the subject of much gossip and fueled the success of "Flesh and the Devil" and their second film together "Love." The relationship ended two years later when Garbo failed to appear for their wedding ceremony.

With the arrival of talkies in the late 1920s, many European actors' careers were destroyed because of their inability to speak English clearly. Because of this, Garbo's sound debut was delayed by MGM for two years. In 1929, her first talkie "Anna Christie" was released. Although she still had a heavy Swedish accent, the allure of her mysterious beauty, husky voice, and screen charisma assured her success.

Garbo went on to appear in other acclaimed classic films such as "Grand Hotel," "Queen Christina," "Anna Karenina," "Camille," and "Ninotchka." After her popularity faded in the early 1940s, she chose to retire in 1942.

Garbo remained secretive about her personal relationships throughout her life. Although her affairs with men were well known, her relationships with women were forever veiled by rumor. She supposedly had an affair with Mercedes De Acosta, an openly lesbian Cuban-Spanish-American playwright, poet, and socialite who had a torrid affair with dancer Isadora Duncan, among others.

De Acosta fell in love with Garbo after they met in 1931. The attraction was apparently mutual and the two soon became companions. Garbo once left to be "utterly alone" for six weeks, but returned to De Acosta after two days telling her,"I am on my way back. I have been to the island but I am returning for you." Garbo's affection eventually waned but De Acosta's passion grew even stronger.

... Continued on page 18

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Garbo grew wary and discontinued communication.

In 1968, De Acosta donated her letters, including fifty-five letters written by Greta Garbo, to the Rosenbach Museum and Library in Philadelphia. The much anticipated letters were finally opened on April 15, 2000, ten years after Garbo's death. According to most reports, the letters revealed no affair between the two.

However, Garbo biographer Barry Paris states that three letters overlooked by the collection's curators and by the news media suggest that the two did indeed have a love relationship, albeit a complex one. While De Acosta's affair was profound and torrid, Garbo's was a brief but troublesome fling. Paris' ultimate conclusion is that Garbo was most likely bisexual with a tendency toward lesbianism.

Garbo reportedly had many other affairs with women including a brief affair with another sexually ambiguous silent film star, Louise Brooks. In 1928, Brooks was invited to the home of Alice Glazer and sat across the breakfast table from Garbo whose suggestive gaze was so intense that Louise had to leave early. According to Brooks, Garbo was "a completely masculine dyke" and "a "charming and tender" lover.

Her androgynous appeal was undeniable for both men and women and added to the mystery of her onscreen and offscreen presence. In fact Garbo often privately referred to herself as male. She once stated "I am a lonely man circling the earth" and "when I was a young man in Sweden...." Before the film "The Picture of Dorian Gray" was cast, Garbo sent to Louis B. Mayer a photograph of herself dressed as Dorian Gray. On the back she had written "This is the part I was born to play."

Although she acknowledged homosexuality's "exciting secrets" to her gay friend Cecil Beaton, Garbo felt that "public flaunting of these things is obnoxious." In addition, while the Hollywood elite loathed gays, as Louise Brooks wrote, "they hated lesbians even more." Garbo was acutely aware of the lesbian stigma and took precautions to keep her private life private.

*The Kentucky Theater will show Garbo's film Ninotchka on September 7 as part of their Summer Movie Classics program. This brilliant comedy was written by Billy Wilder, Charles Brackett, and Walter Reisch and was directed by Ernst Lubitsch. It co-stars Melvin Douglas.

Couples Union Ceremonies

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Religious/Spiritual Resources

Integrity

Integrity a support group for GLBT Episcopalians and friends meets the second Sunday of every month. A ministry of Saint Michael's Episcopal Church on Bellefonte Drive, it will meet Sunday August 14 in the Chapter Room of the church. All are welcome to attend. To contact Integrity email us at stmintegrity@yahoo.com or call Markus at 859 243 0998.

St. Mychal The Martyr

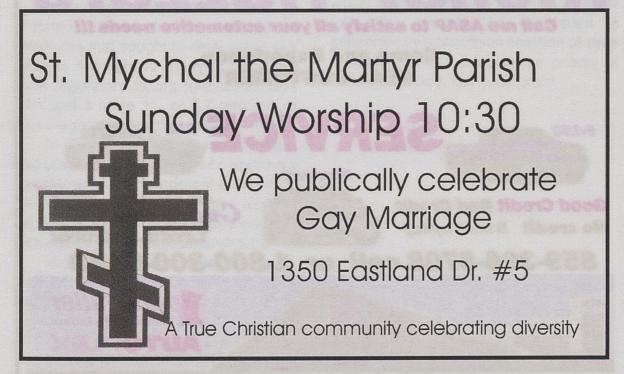
St. Mychal The Martyr Parish invites you to our services on Sundays at10:30 am. We are located at 1350 Eastland Dr., Suite #5, off Winchester Rd. St. Mychal is a member of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America, a national denomination that is gay supportive, performs blessing of gay unions, welcomes divorced people, and ordains women into the orders of Deacon, Priest and Bishop. Call 859 389-9418 or email kypadre@aol.com for information

Lexington Friends Meeting

The Lexington Friends (Quakers) invite you to our Sunday Service at 10:30 am. We are located at 649 Price Ave. Between 6th and 7th streets parallel to N. Broadway. There is singing for 15 minutes before the service and adult discussion between 9 and 10:15. Child care is available during the discussion period and religious education for children is held during the service.

Our services are unprogramed meetings which means we sit together in silence until someone is lead to speak from the silence. Such spoken words are usually brief, and there may be several messages or occasionally none. Our form of worship is similar to meditation but is definitely a shared experience.

We have no clergy or sermons and we believe that all of us have access to spiritual truths within ourselves. We believe in the equality of all people and work for social justice on a number of fronts. Visit us and learn more about our varied beliefs.



GLSO operates the Pride Center which cost \$1,250 a month including rent and utilities. We need your financial support to keep the Center open and to continue these community based projects.

Pride Library The Gay Straight Alliance for Youth **Pride Mont**

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GLSO Discussion Group

40+ Women The Dress & Gender Alliance The Pink Pages

Speakers Bureau

Lexington insight - men's social & support group

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The Backlash Myth Summarized from a release by the Human Rights Campaign

TV and print media reports have described the 2004 elections as a "backlash" against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans resulting from court decisions and marriage amendments similar to the one that passed in Kentucky last fall. In reality, the country is continuing to make progress toward full equality for GLBT Americans in groundbreaking ways.

GLBT Americans and their allies celebrated May 17, 2005, as the first anniversary of the implementation of marriage rights for same-sex couples in Massachusetts where a recent poll indicates that a majority of voters in the state support the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Attempts to deny rights to GLBT Americans are failing more often than not. Fourteen state legislatures defeated anti-gay constitutional amendments in 2004 (compared to the 13 states where these measures passed) and six legislatures have defeated them already in 2005.

In addition, voters re-elected 94 % of state legislators who had voted against measures that sought to deny same-sex couples the right to marry. Of the 640 such legislators facing re-election, 604 won and a mere 11, or 1.7 percent, of these legislators lost their races.

In Georgia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Utah, the same voters who approved constitutional amendments banning marriage for same-sex couples also reelected 97 percent of the legislators who had voted against these amendments.

Voters in three states elected openly gay or lesbian candidates for state legislative office Jeannette Mott-Oxford in Missouri, Nicole LeFavour in Idaho and Julia Boseman in North Carolina.

Voters in Cincinnati overturned a provision of the city charter prohibiting

the city council from passing any legislation intended to help GLBT residents.

In 2005

On March 1 voters in Topeka, Kan. rejected an attempt to repeal the ordinance prohibiting discrimination against city employees on the basis of sexual orientation. On April 21, Connecticut became the first state to enact civil unions without the prompting of a court decision. Same-sex couples in the state are now provided with almost all of the state-level spousal rights given to opposite-sex couples.

In Maryland, the General Assembly passed a bill that establishes a life partnership registry for unmarried couples and confers 11 rights, such as medical decision-making, hospital visitation and the right to share a room in a nursing home, on registered couples. The General Assembly also passed a bill that would exempt individuals from the taxes incurred on adding domestic partners to the deeds of their homes an exemption already extended to most family members.

Oregon continues to move forward on a bill introduced in their Legislature that would allow same-sex couples to enter into civil unions. The legislation is supported by a bipartisan coalition of state legislators and is a legislative priority of Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

Quirk Café & Coffee

Just fifteen miles from Lexington, Quirk Café & Coffee, can be found on Railroad St. in Midway, KY. The café is located in a beautifully restored early 1900's building with original tin ceilings, brick and wood interior and a charming patio. It is decorated with an eclectic collection of abstract art and local photography, gifts, handcrafted pottery, cards, Elmwood Inn teas, whole bean coffee, and coffee and tea ware. owned by Laura Joans and Sherry Patys

We feature a variety of live music in the café every Tue. night from 5:30 p-8 p. The ever changing musical talent includes jazz, folk, pop, classical cello, dulcimer, the blues and more. We also featured great local groups including Beleza and The Bats! We serve our full menu on Tue. evenings and our neighboring bookstore, the Odyssey, remains open.

Our menu offers a variety of salads, soups, sandwiches and wraps. We serve 23 different gourmet press pot coffees & teas along with fresh baked scones. Dropping in for one of our luscious desserts, a cup of coffee and a long talk with a friend or a good book is the perfect afternoon!

The café is open Tues 10a - 8 p, Wed - Sat 10a - 5 p and Sun 11a - 4 p. Carryout, large party seating and catering available. (859)846-4688. Check out our website at www.kygallery.com/quirk for upcoming music events and more café information.

Ohio Lesbian Jestival

Tickets are now on sale for this years' Ohio Lesbian Festival to be held September 17, 2005 at the Frontier Ranch in Kirkersville, Ohio. Tickets cost \$30 (presale only) for students or seniors (age 55 and up), \$35 general presale, or \$40 day of the festival.

The Ohio Lesbian Festival is proud to have local, regional, and national acts fill the Day and Night Stages. Artists such as Frozen Feet, Donna Mogavero, and Kim Batey will headline the day stage. Nationally known performers Paprika, Wishing Chair and Sister Funk will keep you up and dancing during the night stage and comedienne Lisa Koch will keep you in stitches. For a full listing of the performers visit our website www.ohiolba.org.

Along with music there will be a multitude of workshops throughout the day and a full spectrum of vendors in the merchant's area, who will be selling everything from t-shirts to jewelry. Newer additions to the festival include the Games Tent and the 2nd Annual Euchre Tournament. No matter if you plan to spend the day relaxing and listening to great music or getting an early start on your holiday shopping, don't forget to stop by the concessions stand and sample some of Pat's famous chili (also available in vegetarian style!).

Rain or shine the festival goes on. We hope that all women will join us for this remarkable, fun-filled day. For more information on the festival or to buy tickets visit www.ohiolba.org. You can also purchase tickets through the mail. Send a SASE along with a check or money order made out to the LBA to: PO Box 82106 Columbus Ohio 43202. The festival is open to all women: gay, straight, bi, or transgender.



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Please send all articles, ads and directory information to:

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