

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' surveys sent out to 400,000 service members

[Jim Miklaszewski, "First Read from NBC News", 07 July 2010] The Pentagon today sent out 400,000 surveys to service members for their opinions on the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy barring gay and lesbian personnel from serving openly. The survey includes questions about the impact the repeal might have on morale and readiness, and a service member's willingness to share quarters, bathrooms, and shower facilities with gay or lesbian service members.

The 200,000 active duty and 200,000 guard and reserve forces were chosen at random for the surveys, which were e-mailed and must be completed and returned by Aug. 15. A similar survey will be sent to the family members of service members around the first week in August.

Although the identity of all those who respond will remain confidential, there is a separate link within the survey for those gay or lesbian service members, who wish to provide additional comment without fear of being singled out and separated from the service as required by the existing law.

Once the surveys are completed and analyzed, the Pentagon has until Dec. 1 to come up with an implementation plan for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the open service of gay and lesbian service members.

We Are Family: Two Moms, A Baster And A Baddie

[Bob Mondello, "NPR", 14 July 2010] *The Kids Are All Right*, a film in which lesbian moms played by Julianne Moore and Annette Bening are at once supportive and protective when they sense there's something their teenage son isn't telling them. Is he having a relationship? They say they'll be there for him. He says he is, with a guy named Paul, but as they ask about the circumstances, they get more and more worried. He's only seen Paul once, and under odd circumstances. Who *is* this guy, the moms wonder. You'll have to watch the film to find out. In select theaters now.

**Look for a new layout of the
GLSO News in next month's
edition. There will be a lot of
exciting changes made!**

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GLSO News

Volume 32 No. 8

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Next meeting August 8,
1pm at the Pride Center

**Argentina Approves
Gay Marriage**

[By Alexei Barrionuevo, New York Times "Americas", 15 July 2010]

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina's Senate narrowly approved a measure early on Thursday authorizing same-sex marriages, making Argentina the first country in Latin America to allow gay couples to wed.

The same-sex marriage measure will give gay people the same marital rights as heterosexuals, including adoption and inheritance rights.

Mexico City became the first jurisdiction in Latin America to legalize same-sex marriages last year. Two other countries in the region, Uruguay and Colombia, allow civil unions for same-sex couples.

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GSA Sponsors Anti-Bullying Film

The GLSO Gay Straight Alliance for Youth used its profits from the Pride Festival to become a financial sponsor of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) film "Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case that Made History." The 40 minute film will highlight the experiences of Jamie Nabozny who was bullied throughout middle school and high school.

Nationally, more than 80 percent of LGBTQ youths said their teachers never, or rarely, interrupt homophobic remarks, according to a 2007 survey by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). While some teachers may look away due to their own biases, most teachers fail to interrupt these remarks because they don't understand their obligations or know how to help.

The SPLC film will be distributed free to many schools. The GSA will receive a copy for its sponsorship. We will arrange a screening of the film in the fall. Thanks to all who supported the GSA booth at the festival.

Another focus of SPLC has been the presence of members of hate groups in the U.S. military. In 2006. The SPLC informed the U.S. military about extremist activity among active-duty personnel. For years the Pentagon denied that a problem existed and said that its policy of "no active participation" was sufficient to keep organized racists out of the military.

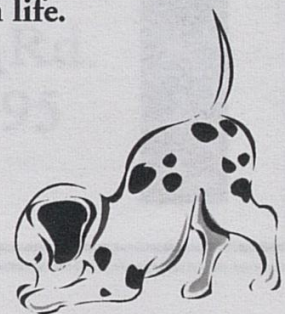
SPCL sends information to the Pentagon when they find evidence that soldiers are participating in hate groups. Numerous active-duty members were found to engage in a range of activities

including posting racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic messages to social networking websites and e-mail lists or maintaining online profiles filled with extremist materials.

An unclassified FBI Intelligence Assessment in Fall 2008 detailed more than a dozen investigative findings and criminal cases involving Iraq and Afghanistan veterans as well as other active-duty personnel engaging in extremist activity in recent years. The FBI report warns that the military training veterans bring to the white supremacist movement increases the possibility of offenders carrying out violence within the United States.

The Pentagon has recently tightened its policy on extremist activity and made it more specific. The policy has been in effect since November 2010 but was announced only a month ago. Under the new policy, military personnel "must not actively advocate supremacist doctrine, ideology or causes" or "otherwise advance efforts to deprive individuals of their civil rights." The new rules specify that "active participation" includes activities such as recruiting, fundraising, demonstrating or rallying, training, organizing and distributing supremacist material, including online posts.

As the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy approaches its end, it will be interesting to see if anti gay harassment increases within the military. If it does, we can count on the SPLC to continue to pay attention to hate crimes involving military personnel and to be an ally in our progress for full inclusion in all aspects of American life.





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Ahava is the Hebrew name for LOVE. The name Ahava is not associated with any one religion. We are an open and affirming community which accepts all religious paths. We are here to embody and express the Divine Love of God that is calling us to transform our personal lives through the practice of universal principles. Whoever you are or wherever you are on your personal journey of discovery, you are welcome here. We are located at 168 Burt Rd., in Lexington. Our services are Sundays at 10:30am.



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Spiritual View & Reviews

Bible Study Group

The gay affirming Charismatic Christian bible study meets on Sundays at the Pride Center at 10:30am. Email Karen at ktaylor@fewpb.net, for more information.

Our mission statement: We are called to reach those who have been wounded by the church with the love and grace of Jesus Christ, to proclaim liberty to those who have been held captive to the false idea that we can not be gay and Christian, and to proclaim God's love to all. We pledge our love and commitment to Jesus Christ and to one another, that we might be the beacon of light to everyone in the greater Lexington area, with specific focus in the GLBT community.



The Unitarian Universalist Church
3564 Clays Mill Rd.

The Unitarian Universalist Church has worship service at 11am each Sunday. We are a welcoming congregation that celebrates our GLBT members. We are located at 3564 Clays Mill Road, just inside Man O' War. Please pay us a visit.

Interweave, the GLBTQS sup-

port group, will be meeting on Sunday, Aug. 21 for a pot luck lunch after the service.

Unitarian Universalism has a liberal religious tradition with room for many beliefs. Our congregation includes people who identify as Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Pagan, Muslim, Atheist, Agnostic, and Humanist.

St. Mychal The Martyr

You are invited to our worship services on Sundays at 10:30 with Rev Ken Waibel performing mass. We are at 1033 Industry Rd., Suite #5, off Winchester Rd. We are a liturgical church, our worship filled with ritual and our hearts filled with joy.

The Mission of St. Mychal's is to provide a church that welcomes people in all their uniqueness and giftedness.

Our church performs blessing of gay unions, welcomes divorced people, and ordains all persons into the orders of Deacon, Priest and Bishop.

Our church is available for meetings and receptions. Rev. Ken offers couple counseling and can also speak to individuals about the spiritual concerns. 859 338-1195.

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Faith

By Karen Taylor

"Come on you can do this, I have faith in you." "If you only have faith..." "Have faith in yourself." "Just take that step of faith and do it." We have all heard these phrases before, but what are we really saying? Aren't we saying, have confidence, know that you can do it, believe in yourself?

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." I have heard it said that to have faith is to have the title deed to whatever it is. It is having the evidence or the proof of the thing. Only in Christ we take it one step further and hold the title deed or the proof even if we don't see it with our eyes.

New Testament faith covers a variety of levels of personal commitment. In Hebrews 11 we see a variety of men of faith being mentioned due to their intense level of faith. We also see the disciples themselves demonstrating a variety of levels of faith. Yet the one common thread with each of these is the fact that they put their faith to work.

James 2:14-26 says that faith works together with our work. Vs. 18 "But someone will say, 'you have faith, and I have works', Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works." In other words to simply said you have faith doesn't mean a whole lot. However, you can demonstrate your faith by how you live and what you do.

How do you handle difficult circumstances that come up in your life? Do you fall apart at the first mention or notion of problems or do you turn your eyes upon Jesus and know (have

confidence) that He has everything under control. I would say that probably most of us fall somewhere in the middle.

Faith is at the center of the Christian live. Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." I would like to be able to say that I have confidence in God and not get upset or worried, but I know (through experience) that I don't always do that. However, it should be our goal to aspire to this level of faith. The Word tells us that if we lack faith all we have to do is ask God and He will give it to us.

Then there is the faith that leads to salvation which is a personal attachment (abiding) in Christ. Apart from God we can do nothing, even believe that He is. He chose me, I didn't choose Him. Unless the Spirit of God pulls at me, I am unable to attach myself to Him.

Once I understood this, I changed how I prayed for the lost. I now ask God to begin to speak to the person, to woo them to Himself, to open their spiritual eyes to see. I can have faith (confidence) that God hears this prayer because I know that is His desire, to have intimate communion with each one of us.



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Will I always see it come to reality? No, it may not come in my life time. It may not come at all because we all have our will, the right to choose or not to accept Christ as our personal Savior. This is part of what use to confuse me so much about faith. I can have the faith, but in this instance, the person has to choose as well. It takes both.

The Bible defines faith in the book of Hebrews. Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The substance of things hoped for, or in other words, the concrete evidence of things hoped for. To have faith is to know that you know a given thing is here, or on the way, even if we don't see anyway for it to happen.

Faith in Christ is confidence in Christ. God told Sarah she would bear a child and she believed God even though she was entering the age of being unable to bear a child. Hebrews 11:11, "...and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised." Abraham was willing to offer his son to God as a sacrifice because of His faith in God. He knew God would provide for him and he did. (Hebrews 11:17-19)

Moses who could have had a very comfortable life being the son of Pharaoh's daughter, but he refused. Instead, he chose to suffer and call himself a child of God. Hebrews 11:24-25, "...choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasure of sin." Hebrews continues on in verses 34-40 showing all the turmoil, difficulties, and heartaches of those who chose to follow Christ. This tells me that having faith doesn't mean we will not have difficulties in live, but rather it shows me that through faith we are able to endure the difficulties.

A footnote in my Bible says, "The same faith that enables some to escape trouble enables others to endure it. The same faith that delivers some from death enables others to die victoriously. Faith is not a bridge over troubled waters, but is a pathway through them." This truth brought me a long way into my understanding of Biblical faith. Whether or not I see an answer to my prayer is not the important part. It's the attitude of my heart. In my heart, I know God to be true to His word. How He chooses to answer is totally up to Him. How I respond to His answer is totally up to me.

The first part of the book of Jude talks about how false teachers have come in trying to teach something other than the true faith. In verse 3 Jude pleads with the saints to hold on to the faith handed down to them, the faith of their forefathers like Abraham, Isaac, and Moses. Jude 3, "...I .. urgently appeal to and exhort (you) to contend for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints - the faith (which is that sum of Christian belief) which was delivered verbally to the holy people of God." (Amplified Bible)

This is my plea to the body of Christ, hold fast to the faith of our forefathers. Don't allow the ideologies of this world to creep in and overtake what you know to be true in God's word. Have confidence in Christ. Know that He will do that which He says He will do. Has my understanding of faith changed as I've grown in God? Absolutely! Do I still wonder at times why God chooses to do a certain thing a certain way? Sometimes, but the difference now is that even though I don't understand why, I know that He is in control and that I can rest in that truth.

The 2010 Lexington Pride Festival A Horse of Every Color



Summer of Celebrations

By Craig Cammack

This has been quite the summer of pride-filled celebrations in our community! Lexington Fairness is very proud to have taken part in many of the events.

On June 25, Lexington Fairness brought you the 3rd Annual Fairness Awards, with the Summerfest cast of RENT, Jubee and Hal Sparks. This wonderful night was filled to the brim with 350 guests taking part in the sold out night. The true meaning of the night came when Lexington Fairness was able to present Sandy Linville, Jack Cofer, Nicole Diamond, Wesley Nelson and Joey Rose with Fairness Awards. Each individual was honored for their leadership in the LGBT community in Central Kentucky.

The next day, Saturday, June 26, Lexington was given the opportunity to experience entertainment, education and time with friends during the Lexington Pride Festival. Lexington Fairness was proud to be the Platinum Sponsor for this event, helping bring a day filled with celebration to our community. Our organization was able to also have a booth for the event, giving the community an opportunity to understand our work and sign up to volunteer for future events and projects. The Lexington Pride Festival allowed everyone to come together, learn, and celebrate and Lexington Fairness is proud to have been a part of this wonderful day.

The following weekend, Lexington Fairness was honored to be joined by the Imperial Court of Kentucky and PFLAG in presenting our community's pride float in the Lexington Fourth of July Parade. Even though the event took

place on Saturday, July 3, Central Kentucky came out in droves to watch the parade. With over two dozen walkers/riders with the pride float, we join Imperial Court of Kentucky and PFLAG in thanking all the volunteers who helped make the float a success. We hope you will join us again next year and hopefully we can get even more community-wide organizations to help bring this exciting float to Lexington. Again this year, the Lexington Fairness booth during the Lexington Fourth of July Festival let Central Kentucky know more about the issues LGBT citizens face. We are so happy to note the booth was flooded with support from so many during the festival.

Finally, Summerfest's RENT production brought the LGBT community and Lexington Fairness more exposure to our region. Partnering with the production, Lexington Fairness was able to reach new voices in our community and bring the needs of the LGBT community to the limelight. Using a Broadway Cares approach, Summerfest shone the spotlight on fairness by helping raise funds and explaining the work of our organization. We are so excited about this partnership and the possibilities that will continue to rise from it.

Please join us in thanking all the volunteers and supporters of this summer's pride events. It has been an amazing few months. At the same time, it has been an exhausting few months! But, the work doesn't stop there... we must continue to forge the fairness path in Kentucky. Stay tuned for exciting news from Lexington Fairness.

In fairness,

Your friends at Lexington Fairness

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The Imperial Court of KentuckyImpCtKY@aol.com

www.ImperialCourtKentucky.org

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Spotlight on the Beautiful People

by Helena Handbasket

This column shines the spotlight on people in the community that deserve recognition. Beauty is not always skin deep and these "beautiful people" either devote their time and energy to a worthy cause or just plain make our lives better by entertaining us. Either way, it is time that they are recognized for their talents and efforts.



Our spotlight for August is shining on someone that devotes much of his time staying active with community projects and organizations. The one and only, Orvis Kean, who is sometimes known as Champagne Taylor.

He is on the Regional Advisory Board of the Kentucky Alzheimer's Association, the Chair for the Memory Walk for 2010 and 2011. He works with the Salvation Army kettle program during Christmas, and with the Angel Tree. He donates time to the United Way and American Cancer Society. He also donates some time to the HOPE Center. He serves on the Board of Directors for the GLSO and this past year was the Finance Chair for the Pride Festival. "I have been a member of the Imperial Court of Kentucky for 10 years and have served on the board for three years and was also Imperial Prince Royale 20."

He is originally from Russell County, Kentucky but has been living in Lexington for 15 years. Orvis is partnered with James Carie (aka... Caviar Towers) and has been for 10 years. They share their home with their babies, Angel (Chihuahua), Sheena and Precious, who are both mixed breeds (aren't we all).

Champagne has been performing on

and off for about 8 years now. He says that his favorite artist to perform to is Bette Midler and names Tracy Taylor as his drag mother. One of his dreams would be to perform with RuPaul.

He lists his favorite charitable organization as the Alzheimer's Association because his mother had this dread disease. If he was ever stranded on a desert island, the 3 people he would want to be there with him are Jamie of course, and two hunks so the time would fly by (we don't have a clue what he means by that, do we readers?) The quality he most admires in a man is honesty. Honest hunks... mmm (lunchtime).

Orvis' favorites: color, blue; music to listen to, anything but rap; dream vacation, Hawaii (not exactly a desert island but a good choice); favorite TV show, Law and Order; favorite movie, a tie between Steel Magnolias and Sordid Lives; book he is reading right now, by James Patterson.

When asked what he thought the biggest misconception or false rumore about his was he said, "That I am stuck up. Never have been – never will be. I just have to get to trust someone before really opening up." He says that the thing he would most want to be remembered for would be for "just being a good, decent person."

Last question... complete this sentence. The world would be a better place if... "everyone would realize they are just a piece in the overall puzzle."

Orvis, on behalf of myself and our city, we thank you for all you do behind the scenes to make our world a better place. You inspire us all and we are lucky to have you in our corner.

*** If there is someone in the community that you feel deserves to be honored in this column, send your request to AdvicefromHelena@aol.com and let's be facebook friends. Just look for Helena Handbasket.

See ya'll in the funny papers.

Fairness Awards 2010



Ally for Fairness Award
Awarded to: Sandy Linville
(pictured directly above)

Fairness Leadership Award
Awarded to: Wes Nelson &
Nicole Diamond
(pictured at top)

Jennifer Crossen
Out for Fairness Award
Awarded to: Jack Cofer
(pictured at top on the left)

Ernesto Scorsone
Political Leadership Award
Awarded to: Joey Rose
(pictured directly above)

Pride Center

389 Waller Ave., Ste. 100 Hours 10am to 3pm M, Tue, Thur, & Fri.

Phone 859-253-3233

DISCUSSION GROUP

Every Wednesday at 7pm
Pride Center 389 Waller, Ste. 100
All Are Welcome

Insight Group

Friday, August 6 - Potluck
Friday, August 20 - Games Night
Pride Center 7pm
Josh at beautifulsouls78@aol.com

PFLAG

Sunday, June 6, 1-3
Pride Center

Sunday, June 21, 1-3
Rochdale Room at Good Foods Café.

Newsletter

Submission, Inquiries, & Comments

To be sure we get your articles and ads on time, please send them to one of these addresses.

- articles@glso.org
- ads@glso.org
- info@glso.org

PFLAG

PFLAG Lexington continues to meet the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month. May 2nd's meeting will be at the Center from 1-3p. May 16th's meeting will be at Rochdale Room at Good Foods Market & Café.

If you have questions or need more information, please visit pflaglex@blogspot.com or feel free to contact Sandy at pflaglex@gmail.com or 859.388.4393. All forms of correspondence is entirely confidential.

TransKentucky

TransKentucky is a support, social, and resource group serving Lexington and Kentucky. The group provides a safe place for transgender individuals and people who feel they do not fit into the standard gender norms to express their true selves.

While the group is not therapeutic in nature, we can provide information, advise and share resources from our unique experiences. Family and friends are encouraged to attend meetings to gain understanding and be supportive of their loved ones.

TransKentucky meets the first Saturday each month at 7:30pm, doors open at 7pm. Meetings are free. You may dress however you feel comfortable. For more information call 859.253.3233.



The GLSO Directory

* Have emails or websites

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 GLSO Board President.....Dennis Wheatley
 Contact number.....859-253-3233
 Discussion Group (Bill)859-253-3233
 GLSO News (Jesse).....859-253-3233
 Subscriptions.....859-253-3233
 GSA -Teens (Mary).....859-266-5904
 Speakers' Bureau (Mary).....859-266-5904

Student Groups:

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 Centre College (BGLA (Mykol)
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 Morehead State Univ. (Ned)606-783-2294
 OUTsource (UK)859-323-3312
 UK Gay Straight Alliance (Matt)
859-559-7464

Anonymous HIV Testing:

Jessamine County859-885-4149
 Lex. Fayette County859-288-2437
 Woodford County.....859-873-4541
 U.K. Adolescent Medicine.....859-323-5643

HIV/AIDS Info/Services:

AVOL859-225-3000
 Lexington Health Dept.859-288-2437
 HIV/AIDS Legal Project502-584-1254
 Cumberland Region (SEKY-Pat)
606-864-3776
888-425-7282
 Lex. S.T.O.P. Program (Jeff)
859-254-3469 x 230
 Louisville Region502-574-0161
 Northern Kentucky Region859-341-4264
 Moveable Feast Lex., (Terry).....859-252-2867

Community Groups:

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 Fairness of Louisville502-893-0788
 Social Services (formerly First Link).....211
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 Lexington Fairness859-951-4450
 Lex. Human Rights Comm.859-252-4931
 Lex. Insight Group (Dana)859-230-2428
 Lexington Pride Festival859-253-3233
 IMACT859-358-8335
 PFLAG Louisville502-329-0229
 Rainbow League.....859-420-6398

United Way (Ask Us).....859 313-5465
 SisterSound (Patti).....859-806-0243
 TransKentucky.....859-963-6606
 24 hr. Crisis Line800-928-8000
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Religious Groups:

Interweave (Unitarian-Mary).....859-266-5904
 Integrity (Episcopal-David).....859-396-9691
 Lexington Friends (Quakers).....859-254-3319
 MCC Paducah (Rev. Lillian).....270-443-3339
 St. Mychal.....859-338-1195
 Unitarian Universalist Church.....859-223-1448

Email & Website Addresses:

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dennis@glso.org
 GLSO/Pride Center Website.....www.glso.org
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September 15

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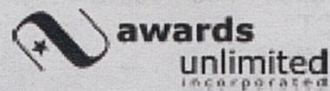
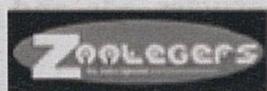
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