

Lin



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formerly the GLSO*

INDEX

4

That's What I'm Talkin' About

Helena interviews Nicole Murray-Ramirez, a Latino activist and the Queen Mother of the Americas of the Imperial Court System.

Imperial Court of Kentucky News

Meet her Most Imperial Majesty XXXIV Kali Dupree, currently reigning Empress of the Imperial Court of Kentucky.

6

7

My Soul Is Tired

Carol Taylor-Shim writes of the impact that racism, oppression, and marginalization have on all identities, many of which intersect.

The GLSO Is Now The PCSO

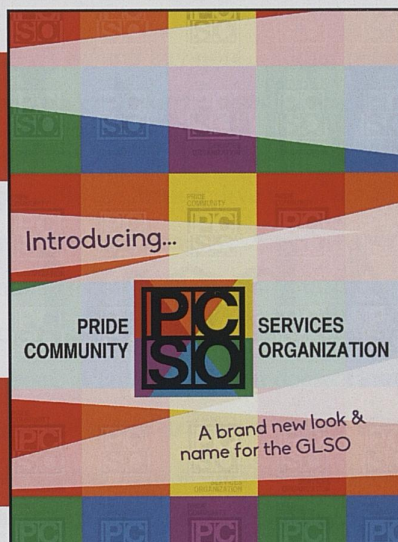
Board President Christopher R. Bauer announces the GLSO's new, more inclusive, name, the Pride Community Services Organization.

16

19

Lexington Pride 2015

Chad Hundley, 2015 Lexington Pride Festival Chair, thanks the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to help bring this year's events together.



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The Pride Community Services Organization seeks to educate, enhance, and empower the community about sexual minority and gender expansive issues.

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That's What I'm Talkin' About

By Helena Handbasket

Seldom in my life have I had the opportunity to sit down, one on one, with someone who has either been part of the positive change in the climate in America toward GLBT issues or has been there to witness, influence, and tell firsthand accounts of how things happened to change America. Recently, I was afforded that opportunity when I sat for an hour-long discussion with a person known to the Imperial Court System as Empress Nicole the Great.

Nicole Murray-Ramirez is a gay Latino activist who has served the last five mayors of San Diego. He is a City Commissioner, the Queen Mother of the Americas of the Imperial Court System, past State Chair of Equality California, and current member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force National Board and the National Equality March National Executive Committee. You can check out the Nicole Murray-Ramirez documentary on YouTube for more information about her.

My intention was to interview her about what makes her tick. I wanted "the story" of who this person is and I wanted "the scoop" of what every

other writer wanted to know but was afraid to ask. This is what came from that interview...

She pulls no punches and makes no excuses for her life so far. She tells, "I've been a street queen. I lived 5 years as a woman. My life was drugs a go-go. That was me. I have overdosed 4 times and have been given last rites twice. When the Priest started in Latin, I shouted, 'Whatchu doin' Father?' I was an altar boy and understand Latin. And I must have been ugly because that monsignor molested everyone but me. That priest was OUTTA HERE. If ya die, ya die! I have lived thru seeing the changing attitudes towards AIDS. I'm a top and like straight Marines. I was once a Republican and supported Barry Goldwater [but adds that she is a Democrat now]. I've been a witness to history. I was a Latino activist before I was a gay activist. I've been called wetback, beaner, greaser, sissy, fag; you name it, I've heard it."

If I had to use one word to describe this impressive yet outrageous person, I would have to say PASSIONATE. She continues to fight for so many causes and participate in so many human rights organizations. She says

that, "Half my causes are suits and ties and the others are gowns and crowns, but I know when to wear them honey."

I asked Nicole, "You must know what an inspiration you are to so many, but who were the people that inspired you to do the work that you do?"

"So many people inspired me. Of course, José Julio Sarria, also known as The Grand Mère, Absolute Empress I de San Francisco, and the Widow Norton and the Founder of the Imperial Court System. In 1961, José was running for office and was the first gay candidate to run for public office. This was in a day when you could be institutionalized by the sign of a pen for being gay.

Cesar Chavez - he was the most humble person and will go down in history as the first civil rights leader that came out for homosexual rights. See the movie on him to learn more.

Coretta Scott King - you knew you were talking to greatness with her. Being in her presence would humble you and make you feel unworthy. She was really something.

Harvey Milk - we were friends. I met him in a bar. He was running for his



Continued on next page

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first office and I told him he better cut that hair, he looked like a hippy. They won't elect a hippy, I said, and sure enough he lost. But when he cut his hair and got a suit he was elected next time. A queen knows how to dress another queen. He was down-to-earth and had a great sense of humor. I didn't go around Harvey for two or three months after he was elected. I was afraid he had changed. But when I saw him at an event, he yelled at me, 'Nicole, how's tricks?' He didn't change after he was elected. I was devastated when he was assassinated. And remember, it was a drag queen organization, the Imperial Court, that launched the effort and got the first stamp named in honor of an openly gay American, Harvey Milk. It was one of the biggest letter-writing campaigns in the country. We did that!

Bill Clinton - when I met him the first time, he was the Arkansas Governor. He was so genuine.

Alan Turing - he broke the code against the Germans in WWII. Where are his statues?

How many know who Bayard Rustin is? He was an American leader in social movements for civil rights, socialism, nonviolence, and gay rights. He came up with the idea for the first Martin Luther King March on Washington and was openly homosexual in the 1950s.

God has blessed me to stay around to tell these stories of what really went down in the '50s and '60s and '70s. I am fighting the fight for those that

aren't around anymore. Young people need to know whose shoulders we stand on. They need to know who made it possible for them to live our lives with integrity and honesty. And there were many people we don't know that fought the fight before us that we'll never read about. A community that doesn't know where it came from doesn't know where it's going. We are losing our history and we are changing it. We have to tell the true story of what happened before us. Every gay person should watch the documentary *Stonewall 25*. Drag queens started and led the fight for gay rights in this country. Many gays are embarrassed by the drag queens. We built the movement!"

What advice would you give the young people that are reading this interview, Nicole?

"Embrace the sissy in you. Live your culture. We are about humor, camp, and style. That's what makes us different. Stop trying to assimilate. We are forgetting who we are. Don't be afraid to be flamboyant and effeminate if that is who you are. We shouldn't try to be like everyone else. Be yourself, honey.

Native Americans called us 'two spirited' because we are. Gay Americans have bragging rights. There are reports that when explorers came to the Americas, there were 'savages' who also had men who dress as women who were married to other men. Many Native American cultures accepted and respected the two spirited individuals.



There are books on this. There were some women who were dressed as male 'savages' and had a female as a wife. Native Americans see us as special because of the two spiritedness.

A thinking queen is a dangerous queen, but we have to be in the streets and in the suites. The fight has to be fought in the parades but also in the board rooms, courtrooms, and election ballot booths. And sometimes you have to take your high heels off and kick some ass."

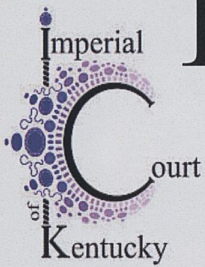
At the end of the interview, I said, "Thank you, Nicole, for your time and your words. Your honesty and humor both inspire and delight me."

Her reply: "I've given you a book, bitch."

(I giggled.)

(Send comments or suggestions to HelenahandbasketKY@gmail.com)





Imperial Court of Kentucky News

By H.M.I.M. Empress XXXIV of the Imperial Court of Kentucky
Kali Dupree

I have had the honor of being a part of this community for almost 12 years, and a member of the Imperial Court of Kentucky for almost 10 years now. I have seen this organization grow over the years, and I am thrilled to have been a part of the experience. This year, on June 7, the Imperial Court of Kentucky played host to guests from all over Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America, to witness "The Bourbon Ball: Coronation 34."

The events over the weekend were kicked off with an "In Town Show" at Crossings Lexington, featuring the Empress and Emperor's lines of descent and showing recognition for their hard work during their reign. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported these individuals. Without the lines' volunteering and their hard work and dedication, our organization and our community would not be what it is. We appreciate you all!

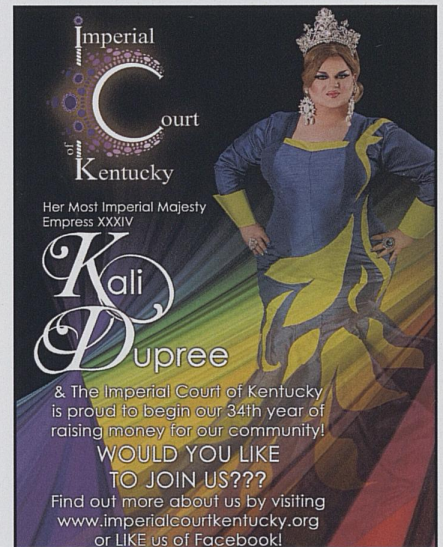
The "Out of Town Show" took place at the Downtown Lexington Hilton and displayed the talents of our guests from all over the three nations. These are individuals who work tirelessly in

their own communities, much like here in beautiful Lexington, KY, to raise funds and to support their respective charities.

On Sunday I had the distinct pleasure of experiencing the first "The Bourbon Ball" firsthand. His Imperial Majesty, Emperor XXXIII, Tim "Pap Paw" Logsdon, and Her Imperial Majesty, Empress XXXIII, Christina Puse, ended their reign, thus bringing another year of fabulous fundraising to an end. But it doesn't stop there. During the evening some spectacular events took place.

First of all, the naming and crowning of our Queen Mother of the Imperial Court of Kentucky and Protector of the South, Nicole The Good, Nicole Diamond, and our King Father of the Imperial Court of Kentucky, Daddy Wayne. To both of you: you are amazing individuals and I am pleased to have shared such an important day with you both.

The evening did come to a close with the introduction and crowning of me, Kali Dupree, as Empress XXXIV of The Imperial Court of Kentucky. I am so excited to represent this amazing



organization and to be here to help raise funds for such a wonderful, dedicated community. I encourage each and every person who reads this article to follow us on Facebook and keep watch on our website, imperialcourtkentucky.org, to stay up-to-date with upcoming events. Never be afraid to ask questions to myself or to any of our board members if you have any questions. Come out and help us support the community, one dollar at a time.

In service with Dedication, Desire, Determination, and Devotion to our community

H.M.I.M. Empress XXXIV of the Imperial Court of Kentucky, Kali Dupree.



My Soul Is Tired

By Carol Taylor-Shim, MSW

Originally, I had planned on sharing some of my experiences in a recent racial immersion institute, or what I lovingly refer to as “racial rehab.” It was the most intensive, painful, soul-searching, and identity-affirming experience of my life. I was full of hope, healing, and nervous anticipation of what the future holds. I was looking forward to doing the messiest of work on myself. I thought, “YES, we can come together, dive into the deep stuff, sit in our own mess, and then rise to the surface together and whole!” Then Dylann Storm Roof happened. Not to me, but to mine. Not to you, but to yours. My people. Our people. What used to be the safest place for so many is now a gut-wrenching reminder of the rotten fruits of racism that we are all forced to devour in some way, shape, or form. A reminder that our society has bred so much hatred and disgust for Black skin that even the sanctity of a church provides us no protection. That was supposed to be the safest place for ANYONE. In 2015. In America. We operate our entire society based on a social construct. Race is not real. It was designed to do exactly what it is doing. While we all engage in Oppression Olympics to figure

out who has it worst, The Source watches, admiring the work that was set in motion centuries ago. WE ARE ALL PAYING A PRICE FOR RACISM.

My soul is tired. But I imagine lots of people in our community are. You see, our racial identities intersect with every other identity we hold: If you are a trans man who identifies as Muslim; if you are a Latina lesbian whose skin tone is closer to Lupita’s than J-Lo’s; if you are a masculine of center but neither brother nor sister and you’re a parent; if you’re an African pansexual agnostic, or a trans woman of color who knows that every day she gets to wake up and take another breath is expression of power with no guarantee of repetition. There are an endless number of intersections that people must navigate in order to simply exist. That’s too many battles at the same time.

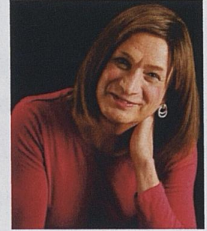
For some of us, it’s a fight to merely survive in a world that doesn’t want nor value your existence. The oppressive weight of racism is always there, in the pit of your stomach. For others, it’s the luxury of moving through the world knowing that race is not likely to ever intersect with any of your marginalized and oppressed

identities. Lots of other identities will, like socioeconomic status, body shape and size, or level of formalized education, but not your race. We share the fact that we will experience oppression and pain in our lives. But please do not equate that to the severity or crippling level of pain that occurs when race and ethnicity enter the picture. To deny it is to deny our humanity and the truth. I recognize yours and I need you to recognize mine. When we don’t, we do horrible, unspeakable, and irreversible harm to both. If you care more about broken windows than broken bodies and broken lives, then I mourn your loss of humanity.

For those of you who are paralyzed by the way you’ve been hoodwinked into viewing race, I write this for you. I see you and I challenge you to do the messy, internal work I know your soul is calling for. Some will read this and refuse to see themselves anywhere in it. That’s ok, I’m not writing it for you nor do I expect you to do a thing. In the words of King Bey, “Carry on.” I’m writing it for the rest of us; those of us whose very survival is an act of revolution. We may be cracked, battered, and bruised, but we are not and will not be broken. We bend but we do not break.



TransKyAdvocate



By Tuesday G Meadows

Tuesday 101

“I don’t give a damn ‘bout my reputation. You’re living in the past, it’s a new generation. A girl can do what she wants to do and that’s what I’m gonna do.” *Bad Reputation*, Joan Jett

This article is not “Trans 101.” There are a lot of very good books that one can read to learn more about transgender people than I could ever tell you in a short article. I know that many of you out there reading this know the right things to say (and what not to say) around and about me and other transgender folks. I don’t speak for everyone, but these are my tips for how to be a more effective ally for the transgender community, and a better friend for me and my transgender brothers, sisters, and siblings. Feel free to use them at your next family dinner when Aunt Sally starts talking about Caitlyn Jenner and you inwardly groan.

Here are a few important terms:

Transgender: Well, that is me. I am a transgender woman. There are transgender men and some transgender folks who are gender non-conforming. When I was born, the doctor saw that I had a wiener (a medical term) and I was “assigned male at birth (AMAB).” Note to everyone: my doctor was wrong. I am not male.

Gender: I do not identify as a woman, I am a woman. Gender is not black or white. Gender is color and different shades those of colors. I

will not let society dictate how I am supposed to behave and neither do many of my sisters and brothers. You should not either.

Gender Dysphoria: GD is a medical term that describes the distress I feel when my outsides didn’t match my insides. I still have dysphoria but I am working on making it better with the help of therapy and medical treatment. One very important thing about treatment for gender dysphoria: the details of the treatments are no one’s business and it can be rude to ask (or presume).

Cisgender: Someone who is not transgender.

Correct Pronouns: For me it is her and she. For anyone else it can be whatever they tell you they are. It would be a mistake to presume. If you are not sure what to use, just ask and then use what you are told. If you make a mistake, just apologize and move on. Remember these are not our “preferred pronouns,” these are our pronouns, and if you refuse to use them then you are just a jerk.

Gender Confirming Surgery: This was previously known as a lot of other terms, but it the name for surgery that makes our outside match our inside. I will say again: it is no one’s business whether or not a transgender

person has had surgery or other procedures.

Sexual Orientation: It is best not to describe a transgender or a cisgender person as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or any other sexual orientation unless that is how they describe themselves. I am a woman who loves another woman. So yes, lesbian does describe me, and I am fine with that description. Someone else may not want to reveal their sexual orientation, and that is fine, too.

There are words that should not be used because many transgender people find them derogatory: tranny, she-male, transgendered (emphasis on the “-ed”), and pass (as in: “she passes as a woman very well”...this is not a compliment). I personally do not like the use of trans asterisk, for it has a much different possible meaning than most might think (Google it). What is the point of putting trans in front of every word? “She lives in a trans-house and drives a trans-car.” (Unless, of course, it is a Chevy Trans Am). Just use transgender instead of trans, please.

When Aunt Sally starts talking about how “understanding” her bridge club is of “those people,” you can only hope that is true.

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However, I, personally, do not want to hear how great a religion, politician, organization, or someone is if they do not recognize transgender people or, even worse, try to wipe us from the face of the earth. I have heard people say, "But the congregation is really nice." I do not care. If an organization only wants me if I hide, repress, or deny my true self, then I do not want to be a member. I have also heard the classic line, "They (political party/TV personality/religious figure) just really care about the children." They do not care about the children unless they also include transgender kids. Newsflash: Children are not born biased and only learn what we teach them about other people. Some might say, "She is a great feminist." Well, she is not for me if she is trans-exclusive. There are groups

that say, "Look at all the good things we do for the gay and lesbian community." Well, if there is one very bad thing that they do, and that bad thing is that they are not concerned with transgender issues, then for me that will outweigh all the good things they do.

There are many things I love to debate: sports, fashion, movies, celebrities, the weather, TV shows, or who has the best cheeseburger in the whole world. Perhaps you debate religion and politics at your family dinners (that feisty Aunt Sally!). However, there are some transgender issues that are just not debatable: reparative (a.k.a. "conversion") therapy, transgender children transitioning, restroom usage, and my or any other transgender person's gender.

Transgender people on the whole have much bigger issues than not being feminine

or masculine enough to suit someone else's taste. It does not matter to us if our make-up, clothes, bodies, or voices meet with others' approval or not. Talk with Aunt Sally about the big issues, because we have way too many suicides, too much violence, much too high of unemployment, too much general harassment, and too much discrimination.

Finally, if you want to be a true ally, supporter, or just my friend, do not ask me or others to be stealth. Do not ask us to be quiet, blend in, and stop being so public. Do not say, "I liked you the way you were before you transitioned." These are not options. We have fought way too hard to get here and I, for one, am not going back. You may write me at tmeadows828@gmail.com or follow me on Twitter: [@TuesdayG_Meadows](https://twitter.com/TuesdayG_Meadows). Now Tuesday is gone with the wind. 🌈



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2015 Kentucky HIV/AIDS Conference

By Mark Johnson

This annual conference, co-hosted by the Kentucky Department for Public Health and Heartland CARES, Inc, in Paducah, is designed for health care and social service professionals who are involved in planning or providing prevention education or direct delivery of services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Kentucky. It is also intended for people who are interested in improving the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS and those who are concerned about the impact HIV/AIDS has on our communities.

This conference may be of special

interest to community members and others affected by HIV/AIDS either personally or professionally, caregivers, service providers, prevention specialists, substance abuse counselors, correction officers, physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists.

The 2015 Kentucky HIV/AIDS Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 830 Phillips Lane, in Louisville, July 28–30. Limited scholarships are available.

Registration costs \$30 for consumers, \$60 for professionals (not requesting

continuing education), and \$90 for professionals registering for CEU, CME, etc.

On-line registration is available through TRAIN Kentucky (<https://kytrain.org>). (Conference Course ID: 1056415)

For more information about the conference, please call 800-420-7431, or visit our website: chfs.ky.gov



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Around The Library:

Sing To The Universe Who We Are, MUSE-Cincinnati Women's Choir

Reviewed by Rachel Hugenberg

Cincinnati Women's Choir is a rich and textured tapestry of story and sound. The singers' voices are strong and clear, and the music relies on complex harmonies and pure vocal tone to create a support structure for the songs' melodies without being overwhelming. I admire this choir's ability to choose pieces that reflect their desire for social change, highlighting the social needs of different cultures, environments, and types of music in a way that meshes together to form a cohesive album that flows well from one song to the next. While this choir's work provides both relaxing and thought provoking songs, a few songs in which the choir sings a cappella would have been an excellent addition, as the instruments sometimes overwhelm the vocal musicians at unexpected points within the songs. Overall, *Sing to the Universe Who*

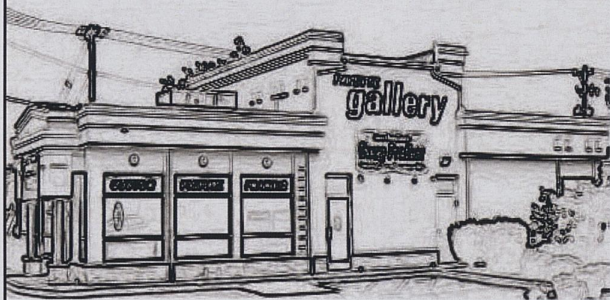
We Are is a powerful and complicated representation of both the choir and of music geared towards social justice.



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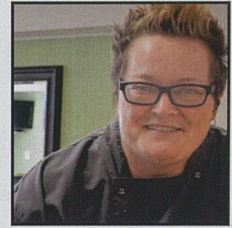


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“NORMALITY IS A PAVED ROAD: IT'S EASY TO WALK,
BUT NO FLOWERS GROW ON IT.”
— VINCENT VAN GOGH

Patriotic And Playful Picnic Ideas



By Ranada West-Riley

Summer is here, and nothing says summer more to me than being outside, noshing, and cocktails! I don't know about you, but I've been on quite a few picnics or outdoor parties in my life, so I've learned a few things through trial and error. Whether you're having a patio party, going boating, or having a quiet date at the Arboretum, food and drink are in order and can make or break the event. Here are a few tips and recipes to pack a punch for your next outdoor party.

1. Choose your spot.

Before you start, remember that you've got to carry everything to your chosen spot. Opt for paper and plastic to lighten the load (remember to recycle!). You want to impress your guests, not have an Ironman Marathon workout.

2. Keep it simple and easy, yet elegant and flavorful.

Whether you're running to the supermarket to pick up some imported cheese and smoked meats or you're cooking your favorite creation, remember that the foods you pick should be simple and easily moved. The possibilities are still endless. Make a summertime chilled soup and bring it in a thermos. Wraps and quiches can be

a great option and can be served cold.

3. Cool it down!

Remember, while packing up the cooler, chill everything thoroughly and toss in plenty of ice. To be safe, food shouldn't sit outdoors for more than 1 hour while on ice or ice packs. Food borne illnesses can quickly set in if food is below temperature for very long.

4. Ambiance can make or break a mood.

People eat with their eyes long before they take a bite, so accessorize and go all-out with nice tablecloths or picnic blankets. Flowers and plants are an even better special touch. Don't forget the lighting, especially if it's in the evening. Votive or floating candles in a fishbowl are perfect for this.

5. Remember the essentials.

Pack the essentials and make sure you're fully equipped for your event. Here's a reliable list of things you will need:

- Picnic basket or cooler
- Bottled water (you can freeze overnight and use as an ice pack)
- Outdoor dinnerware and flatware or plastic silverware
- Napkins
- Glassware

Corkscrew

Tablecloth or T-shirt blanket

Decorative centerpiece (a homemade and beautiful dessert is perfect for this)

Sunscreen

Bug spray or citronella candles

Trash bags

All American Sweetheart Martini

- 2 1/2 oz vodka
 - 1/2 oz peach schnapps
 - 1 oz orange juice
 - 1 oz strawberry puree
- Simple to make and easy to drink. Shake it well, don't stir.

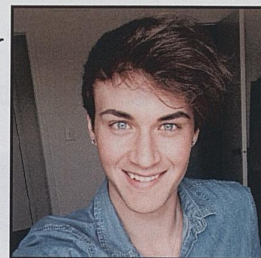
Curried Chicken Salad with Cashews and Raisins

- 1 whole roasted chicken with all the meat pulled from the bone
 - 1 1/2 cups good mayonnaise
 - 1/3 cup dry white wine
 - 1/4 cup mango chutney
 - 3 tablespoons curry powder
 - 2 large stalks of celery, fine diced
 - 1/4 cup chopped scallions, white and green parts
 - 1/4 cup raisins
 - 1 cup whole roasted, salted cashews
- Mix all ingredients together. Mix well. Perfect as a sandwich or on Croissants or Crostini.



Happy Being Healthy

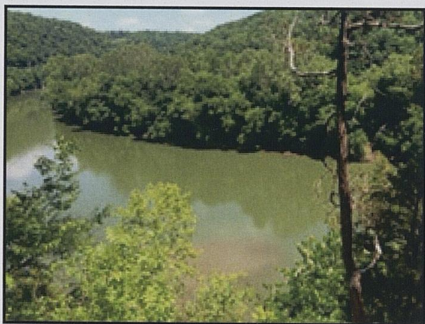
By Angel Algarin



Making Exercise Fun In Lexington

In my short time being here in Lexington, I have noticed that finding fun ways to work out has actually been fairly simple. With a little information navigation, local reading, and going to experience different ways to maintain fitness here in Lexington, I have begun to make a list of my workout ideas and what makes them so great!

1. Crossing the Conservatory-Raven Run Sanctuary (3885 Raven Run Way) is said by LexingtonKY.gov to be a unique, 734-acre nature sanctuary dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of the Kentucky River Palisades and early Kentucky history. Over 10 miles of hiking trails provide access to streams, meadows, and woodlands characteristic of the area. The attached photo shows one of the many beautiful sights I experienced while hiking at the Raven Run Sanctuary.

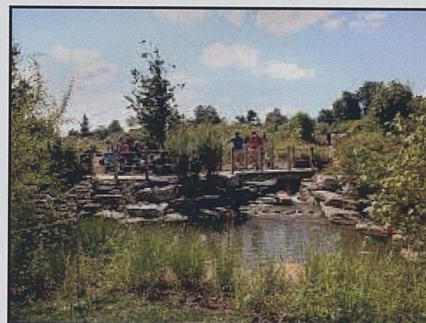


2. Jumping with Gymnastics- Gymnastics is a unique activity that helps develop coordination, strength, and flexibility. The Lexington Gay Sports League's Facebook page advertises a \$5 adult gymnastics class on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at The Academy (3550 Arbor Dr.). Though I haven't been able to make it out, I can't wait until I have a free Wednesday evening specifically to try this class!

3. Gaming with the Gay League- If team exercise is more your style, join the Lexington Gay Sports League Facebook page to find more information on joining a sports league. Some of the sports offered include Volleyball, Softball, and as posted a possible tennis league, provided there is enough interest. Team events not only allow you to reach fitness goals, but also can provide new friendships.

4. Active in the Arboretum- the Arboretum State Botanical Garden of Kentucky (500 Alumni Drive) is rightfully described on their website as, "100 acres of year-round color and plants. Stresses melt away among the marvelous

sights and sounds of our gardens. Once you are there, you feel like you have escaped to a paradise." With their approximately two-mile running loop, from experience I can say that the environment really makes this place a great destination for runners.



5. Yearning for Yoga- I like to think of yoga as a practice that teaches techniques of controlling mind and body. It is a relaxing alternative to intense fitness options. There are many yoga studios around Lexington that offer classes at a reasonable price. Some even offer a free beginners class here and there!

I hope you enjoyed the ideas listed here in this month's article of Happy Being Healthy. Next month I plan on exploring the reason water is so important in our diets!



Coach's Corner

Coach's Corner will be featuring the Captains and Coaches from our various leagues as a chance for you to reach out if you have any questions or would like to get more involved. This month, the Bowling League!



Coach's Name: Chad Hundley

Sports you play: Volleyball in 2005 and 2006, Started with LGSC Bowling

League in 2013

Why You Became Involved: A stress reliever from planning Pride. (As I am not involved in enough things already...)

Favorite Sport Memory So Far: Sixth Frame Spanking for getting the least pins in that frame. I had to endure the spanking of many teammates with amazing spanking abilities. It was Big D's fault. There is a video floating around somewhere of it, thanks to Jim Prince!

Contact for More Information on Rainbow Bowling: chadchundley@gmail.com, or visit our Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/LexingtonGaySportsLeagues>

<https://www.facebook.com/>

LexingtonRainbowBowling

The Lexington Gay Sports Commission is a non-profit 501(c)3 that supports the acceptance, visibility, and participation of members of the LGBT community in professional, amateur, and recreational athletic programs without regard to race, gender, orientation, or age. The Lexington Gay Sports Commission creates and promotes programs that educate members of the LGBT community about the sports and recreational resources available to them. Although the Lexington Gay Sports Commission serves the interests of the LGBT community, all persons are welcome in the true spirit of humanity and sportsmanship.



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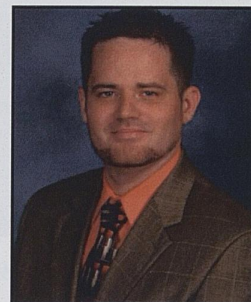


Louise Chaffins: Electrologist & Laser Tech
Allison Chaffins: Electrologist & Laser Tech
Christopher: Instructor, Electrologist & Laser Tech



The GLSO Is Now The PCSO

By Christopher R. Bauer
Board President



The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Gay and Lesbian Services Organization (“GLSO”) has officially changed its name to the Pride Community Services Organization (“PCSO”). Our organization was founded in 1975, and incorporated as the Lexington Gay Services Organization, Inc., on April 28, 1977. Since then, our organization has grown and thrived throughout a time that has brought a lot of positive change for members of the sexual minority and gender expansive community. Although the organization was founded by both gay men and lesbian women, it was not until 2009 that the name Gay and Lesbian Services Organization was adopted in an effort to include the lesbian community in the name of the organization, of which they have always been an integral part. So, you may ask, why are we changing our name again?

The GLSO provides services to a very diverse community. Members of the GLSO come from all walks of life, and span an array of identities. We host discussion and support groups for youth, seniors, young adults, the transgender community, and other affiliated organizations that make up a diverse community of allied individuals under our umbrella. But the name Gay and Lesbian Services Organization only refers to those of us who identify as Gay or Lesbian, and provides a binary and narrow perspective of what it truly means to be a sexual minority and/or

gender expansive individual. What about the rest of us? This is a question that has been expressed by members of the community who did not feel represented by our very name. It is our goal to be inclusive and supportive of all, envisioning “a community that accepts and celebrates each individual.” By constraining our name to Gay and Lesbian, it can seem to many that we are shutting a door to them.

One of my goals as President is for our organization to be more inclusive of all members of the community. When the GLSO Board met in January 2015, we agreed to recommit ourselves to our mission of being open and supportive to all members of our community and decided to throw open that door and create a more inclusive organization. It was then that we appointed Vice-President Theo Meacham as chair of a committee to investigate how we should go about rebranding the organization. The committee included GLSO members and members of other community organizations, with a representation from a variety of sexual and gender identities. After creating a climate survey that was widely circulated to the community, the rebranding committee pored over the information collected and used it as a guide to create a name that would be representative of all and stand the test of time.

PRIDE

Let’s face it, there is no way we can come up with an acronym that includes

all of the varied colors and shades of our rainbow; LGBTQQIAA+... I already know I have left some people out! So going that route was not a viable option to either include all or stand the test of time. However, the new name had to be indicative of the history, struggles, and resilience of the sexual minority and gender expansive community. The word “Pride” was chosen both because it is one of our major services to the community, and because it represents a coming together of all of the different colors and shades of the rainbow by embracing our differences and working toward our common goal: equality of all.

COMMUNITY

“Community” was the one word that came up most in the climate survey. When asked what the GLSO meant to them or what was most unique about the GLSO, and in many other areas of the survey, people consistently wrote that community is what our organization is all about. After all, it is the community that we strive to bring together, be it through the many groups that meet at the Pride Center, outreach and programs on topics important to our community, or big community-wide events like the Pride Festival, youth Pride Prom, and our upcoming Pride Community Prom for adults, community is what it’s all about!

SERVICES ORGANIZATION

“Services Organization” is the only

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

part of the prior names we are keeping. It not only provides a bit of continuity in our name, it is about what we do. In the climate survey, when asked what makes the GLSO unique, "services" stood out. Whether we are hosting discussion and support groups, speaking at a local school, providing a safe space for at-risk youth, presenting speakers, offering free counseling services, putting on a large event like the Pride Festival, or partnering with other community groups, we are providing vital services that are needed to bind and bring together our vibrant community. These services are what we are here for, and why the effort to include our entire community is so important.

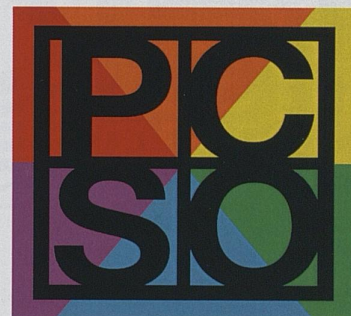
WHAT WILL CHANGE?

I get it, change is hard and it comes with much uncertainty and many risks, and I'm sure many are a little nervous

or upset about this huge change. Let me assuage those fears. The most immediate thing that will change is simply our name. It will serve to include our entire community and welcome into our big tent those who may have otherwise felt shut out. But those programs and activities you have come to love, the groups that meet at the center, our events, and our sense of home will not change; they will only get better.

By aligning closer to our mission, and being inclusive of all members of our community, be it by age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, different abilities, marital status, or socioeconomic status, the Pride Community Services Organization is open to every member of our community who is committed to the core principles of respect and equality of all. As we move forward, we will continuously

PRIDE COMMUNITY



SERVICES ORGANIZATION

evaluate and be open to ways in which we can broaden our programs and services. We want you, the community, to hold us to the fire. The PCSO is YOUR community organization, and if you have any ideas for services we can add or improve, I and the members of the Board are always available to hear from you.



Mendy J Daniels
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Carmella Yates, PhD
Licensed Psychologist

danielsyatesassoc@gmail.com
859-523-6466

1025 Dove Run Road; Suite 210
Lexington, KY 40502

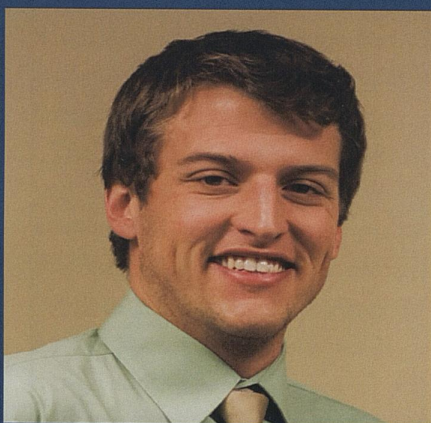
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By Chad Hundley

2015 Lexington Pride Festival Chair

Dear Family, Calling all of you family makes me very proud, and I am saying that to over 20,000 of you. I call you all my brothers and sisters because on this day I think of this as my family reunion. I may not get to see many of you but once a year, so it is very refreshing and exciting for me to see and be part of something so great as the Lexington Pride Festival! We expand every year, much like a real family, and we have our own personalities, just like a real family. We may even fight and disagree on some issues, but at the end of the day we love and support each other.

Each year presents a new and unique set of circumstances. People come up to me every year and ask why I volunteer to help with the Pride Festival. I do this because of the passion I have for our community, and I want to continue to be part of something that is positive, and to help the PCSO, an organization that provides so much support and so many resources to our Pride Community. Since starting on the Pride committee for the 2009 Festival, I have seen and met many individuals who have made

such an impact in my life. I am proud to have especially been part of this year's most diverse committee yet.

The individuals who have worked on the committee have been nothing less than fabulously amazing! This festival today would not be possible without:

Robert Abreu (Festival Vice-Chair and Volunteers), JP Johnson (Festival Secretary), Jacob Boyd (Festival Treasurer), Haley Marie (Activities and Volunteers), Mark Johnson (Entertainment), Todd Ryser-Oatman and Dwight Vires (Fundraising), Kat Wilkie (Sponsorships), Christopher Bauer (Logistics), Kira Goldade (Vendor Liaison), Sarah Brown (Marketing/Advertising), Jessica Garner (Merchandising), Michael Groutt (Social Media), Amy Hatter (Website/Technology), Christi Wilson (Alcohol Manager), Chase Bush (Hospitality Director), and Tuesday Meadows and Nic Brown (Members At Large). We have also had numerous others on different sub-committees who have been amazing over the course of the year! All of these individuals have given so much to make this day possible. The commitment that they have made

started almost immediately after Pride last year and will continue until we close the books a month from now. If you see anyone with a Volunteer or Staff shirt, please stop to thank them for helping to make this day special for everyone.

When I see everyone enjoying themselves and all the smiles upon everyone's faces, that is when it will hit me and I will realize that the last year of planning this festival was worth it all. All the tears I cried when I felt overwhelmed and all the late nights of working hard and sending emails out will be nothing but a memory that will be forgotten! You never know that this day may save hundreds of lives!

So, in closing, I want to thank every one of you for showing up and OUT on this amazing day! Thank you to all the volunteers who volunteer for any and all of our positions. No matter how you define yourself, know that you are always welcome and accepted amongst our big 'ole Pride Community! The important thing to remember is that you have to keep Pride going in yourself all year long!



2014-2015 Members and Donors

With the help of these members, our programs to help all of our community are able to continue and expand to reach more than what we normally could! These members have fulfilled their listed level of commitment from the fiscal year starting on July 1, 2014, and ending on June 30, 2015. Thank you for your donations!

RAINBOW (BUSINESS):

Imperial Court of Kentucky and Kroger

GOLD:

Roberto L. Abreu, Christopher R. Bauer, Jacob Boyd, Paul Brown, James Carpenter, Kentucky Eagle, William F. Loggins, M.D. & Tony Burgent, Tuesday Meadows, Patricia Nichols, Shelby Reynolds & David Bartley, Dell Rosa, and Jeffrey Sauer.

SILVER:

Ahava Center For Spiritual Living, Michael Aldridge, Ray Archer, Douglas Burnham, John Scott Butler, Teresa Combs, Deborah Core, Jennifer Crossen & Joan Callahan, Judy Goldsmith & Andrew Klapper, Lee Guice, Jill Hanna & Richard Haley, Tony Huston, Kimberly & John Lawless, Liza Levy, M.D., John B. Martin, Danny C. Matherly, Ti McNalley, Sam Molloy, Jeffrey Moore, Sharon Rostosky, Barbara Stead & Paula Geran, Alan Thacker, John A. Wade III, and Frank Winchester.

BRONZE:

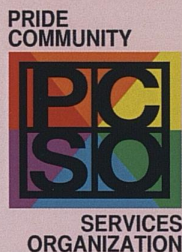
Linda B. Angelo, Michael Averdick, Mary & Ronald Baker, Rebecca Callihan, Jackie Cobern, Mary Freitag, William Glover II, Stephen Goodlett, Edwin Hackney, Gerald Hann & Allen Williams, Amy Hatter, Chad Hundley, Adam Imperato, Thomas Johnston, Irvine Jones, Jeff Jones, Theo Meacham, James Miller, Jerry Neff, Anna Gayle Parke, Arturo Sandoval, Thomas Smith, Sue Strong & Barb Scherrer, Christopher Steele, Dorothy Tice, Van Hoose & Associates, Mike Werger, Shane Wilson, and Pamela Wood.

2015-2016 Membership and Donor Levels Are Now Out!

To make your donation, you can either send a check to the PCSO at:

389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100, Lexington, KY 40504 or access our secure PayPal site by clicking on the DONATE button on the top left of our homepage (www.pcsoky.org)

Remember, all donations are tax deductible!



Pride Community Services Organization

DONOR LEVELS & BENEFITS

(July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016)

BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
<p>\$60 Annually or \$5/month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PCSO Membership Card *Name on Website 	<p>\$120 Annually or \$10/month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PCSO Membership Card *Name on Website *Pride Wristband and Cup 	<p>\$300 Annually or \$25/month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PCSO Membership Card *Name on Website *Pride Wristband and Cup *FREE 2016 Lexington Pride Festival T-shirt *Subscription of LinQ magazine mailed monthly to your residence 	<p>\$600 Annually or \$50/month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PCSO Membership Card *Name on Website *Pride Wristband and Cup *FREE 2016 Lexington Pride Festival T-shirt *Subscription of LinQ Magazine mailed monthly to your residence *Special PCSO Donor Reception
<p>All Donations are Tax Deductible!</p> <p>All Donor's Names will be included in the July 2016 Issue of LinQ Magazine as PCSO Supporters.</p> <p>Free Merchandise will be given as donor fulfills the level of commitment.</p>			

PFLAG Central Kentucky

Tuesday, July 14 @ 6:30 to 8:30

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

2025 Bellefonte in Lexington

We will hear from a gay couple who have been together for over 40 years. Imagine the changes they have seen and how it has impacted their lives! They anticipate the Supreme Court ruling and what it means for them and others in our community.



Support group discussion will follow.

We welcome LGBTQs, friends, families and allies to our confidential group meetings. For more information, go to www.pflagcentralky.org



2015 Lexington Pride Powered with Pride Crew, From Left to Right: Adam Imparato, Rebecca Elliston, Laura Silvey, Chad Hundley, Todd Ryser-Oatman, Tuesday G Meadows, and Angel Algarian.



2015 Lexington Pride Committee Members at Merchandise Release Party, From Left to Right: Tuesday G Meadows, Jacob Boyd, Todd Ryser-Oatman, Haley Miller, Sarah Brown, Chad Hundley, Christopher R. Bauer, Amy Hatter, and Roberto L. Abreu.

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Keep Your Investments From Going On “Vacation”

It's that time of year when many of us hit the road for a summer vacation. If you are fortunate, you will be joining them — after all, “all work and no play” is a difficult way to live. But while you may not think it beneficial to work all the time, the same can't be said of your investments and your investment strategy — because, ideally, they should never stop laboring on your behalf.

How can you avoid “taking a vacation” as an investor? Here are a few ideas:

Don't let your portfolio get “lazy.” Laziness is fine for vacations, but it's not so great for an investment portfolio. When you invest, it can be easy to let things drift along and stay the same as they've always been. But over time, things can change: Your goals can change somewhat, your family situation can certainly change and even your investments themselves may change. That's why it's important to review your portfolio and your investment choices regularly, possibly with the help of a financial professional. You may not need to make drastic changes, but even modest-seeming adjustments may make a big difference down the road.

Don't choose an investment mix

that just “sits around.” If you were to put all your investment dollars in conservative vehicles, such as certificates of deposit (CDs), your principal would likely not experience much volatility — which is good. But your money almost certainly would not have the growth potential to help you reach your long-term goals — which is not so good. That's why you will need to own some investments, such as stocks and stock-based instruments, that offer growth potential. It's true these investments will fluctuate in value, and there's no guarantee you won't lose money on them. You can help address this risk by focusing on the long term and by creating an investment mix that is suitable for your situation.

Don't become a “spend-happy” investor. It can be pretty easy to spend more on vacations than you had planned. For some reason, perhaps the carefree nature of a vacation, the act of spending money seems less grounded in reality — until you get home and see the bills. As an investor, you can also get carried away with your transactions — and it can cost you. To be specific, if you are constantly buying and selling investments, you'll be making it harder for yourself to follow a unified, long-term investment strategy. As

mentioned, you will need to make changes as needed, over time, to your portfolio, but making moves such as chasing after “hot” investments, or giving up on other investments after one bad period, will likely not benefit you and could prove detrimental to your progress.

As someone who spends most of your life working, you may very much appreciate your vacations. But as someone trying to achieve important financial goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you shouldn't take a “vacation” from investing — and you shouldn't let your investments take one, either. As you know from your career and your other activities, making a consistent effort may pay off — and it's the same with investing.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Questions?
Let us help - contact
Financial Advisors
David DeBrot or
Stephen Robertson at
859-263-0516





July Calendar & Telephone Directory

All meetings are hosted at the PCSO Pride Center unless noted with *

Wednesday, July 1

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, July 2

6:30 p.m. PCSO Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Saturday, July 4

7:30 p.m. TransKentucky Meeting

Sunday, July 5

6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, July 6

7:00 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group

Wednesday, July 8

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, July 9

7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Saturday, July 11

12:00 p.m. Entre Nosotros (Between Us)

9:00 p.m. Kentucky Bourbon

Bears Board Meeting*

Sunday, July 12

6:00 p.m. Imperial Court Meeting

6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, July 13

7:00 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group

Tuesday, July 14

6:30 p.m. PFLAG Meeting*

Wednesday, July 15

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, July 16

6:30 p.m. PCSO Board Work Session

7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Friday, July 17

7:00 p.m. Seniors' Bistro (Potluck)

Sunday, July 19

6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, July 20

All Day Editorial Deadline
for LinQ Magazine*

7:00 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group

Wednesday, July 22

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, July 23

6:30 p.m. 2015 LexPride Wrap-Up Meeting

7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Sunday, July 26

6:00 p.m. Imperial Court Meeting

6:30 p.m. Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, July 27

7:00 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group

Wednesday, July 29

7:00 p.m. "Heart To Heart"
LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, July 30

7:30 p.m. H.E.A.L. HIV Support Group*

Community and Social Groups

24-Hour Crisis Line	1-800-929-8000
24-Hour Teen Crisis Line	1-800-999-9999
Alcoholics Anonymous	859-967-9960
Arbor Youth Services	859-254-2501
AA/Alcoholic Teens	859-277-1877
Council for Peace and Justice	859-488-1448
"Heart to Heart" Discussion Group	859-253-3233
Fairness of Louisville	502-893-0788
Gay-Straight Alliance, Teens	859-266-5904
PCSO Pride Center	859-253-3233
Imperial Court of Kentucky	859-619-7521
International Gay Bowling	859-539-3058
KY Survivors Area of Narcotics Anonymous	859-253-4673
Lexington Fair Housing Council	1-866-438-8617
Lexington Fairness	859-951-8565
Lexington Human Rights	859-252-4931
Lexington Pride Festival	859-253-3233
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1-800-273-8255
PFLAG Central Kentucky, Inc.	859-338-4393
PFLAG Louisville	502-223-1323
SisterSound	859-806-0243
Social Services, Lexington	211

Community and Social Groups

Speaker's Bureau	859-266-5904
TransKentucky	cassiemt@yahoo.com
Transgender Youth Family Allies	1-888-462-8932
Trevor Lifeline 24/7	1-866-488-7386
United Way	859-313-5465

College Student Groups

Berea College ACE	859-958-3633
BCTC Gay-Straight Alliance	859-246-6365
Centre College BGLA	859-238-5332
EKU Alphabet Center	859-622-5041
EKU Pride Alliance	859-622-1027
Morehead State University	606-783-2071
TUnity (Transy)	859-445-3822
UK Gay-Straight Alliance	859-257-8701
UK OutSource	859-323-3312

Don't see your group's events or contact information?
Email it to editor@pcso.org and we will add you to our calendar!

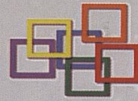
HIV/STD Testing, Services & Information

AIDS Volunteers of Lexington (AVOL)	859-225-3000
Health Department, Fayette County	859-288-2437
Health Department, Woodford County	859-873-4541
HIV/AIDS Legal Project	502-584-1254
Moveable Feast	859-252-2867
Northern KY Region	859-341-4264
UK Adolescent Medicine	859-323-5643

Religious Groups

Ahava Center for Spiritual Living	859-373-8910
Bluegrass United Church of Christ	859-233-0208
Embrace Fellowship	859-358-0580
Faith Lutheran Church	859-266-7621
First Presbyterian Church	859-252-1919
Hunter Presbyterian Church	859-277-5126
Lex Friends, Quakers	859-254-3319
Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church	859-255-1075
St. Martha's Episcopal Church	859-271-7641
Unitarian Universalist Church	859-223-1448
Woodland Christian Church	859-266-3416

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2015 is presented by



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GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

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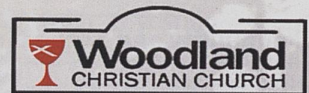
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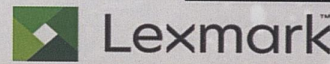
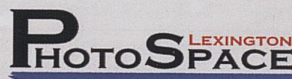
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