

# Lin



*Connecting the Bluegrass LGBT community*



# Happy Pride Month

June 2014, Vol. 36 No. 6

*A publication of the GLSO*

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Cover photo by keithreed01,  
2013 Lexington Pride  
Festival in Lexington, KY.  
Saturday, June 29, 2013

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# GLSO

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LinQ is published monthly by and for the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization members and community. The Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization envisions a community that accepts and celebrates each individual.

All LinQ submissions and advertisements can be made to the editor ([editor@glso.org](mailto:editor@glso.org)) or to the GLSO Pride Center (859.253.3233). All submissions may be edited for length.

Like us on Facebook at [LinQbyGLSO](#)

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The Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization seeks to educate, enhance and empower the community about GLBTQQA issues.

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Office hours are:

Tuesday-Friday 1pm-5pm

# That's What I'm Talkin' About



By **Helena Handbasket**

**L**ately, I find myself spending so much time at a computer. I sit at a computer for work. I am on my computer at home for social media (which I prefer over my iPhone). I've come up with a brilliant plan with all this computing. We should figure out a way to hook our lives up to the keyboard! Just think of all of the amazing functions on the keyboard that could be very useful as we glide through this life. Here are just a few examples:

You find that you are caught up in a situation that you really don't want to be involved with and no matter how much you try or how much you object to being in the situation, the other people involved just continue to suck you in. Simple solution: press ESC key and it enables you to escape immediately from said situation.

You're in a car and you have been driving for hours. You have no idea where you are at this point and your frustration level is climbing. All you want is to be safe

in your own bed. Simple solution: press the HOME key. Instantly, you are safe at home, back where you were before you started the journey.

It could even take care of you when you need refreshment. A simple press the TAB button and a diet soft drink magically appears (for those of you too young to remember TAB, just hush).

You're trying to make a point but your other half just refuses to hear you. He just isn't paying any attention, whatsoever. Just throw a little CTRL B (bold) and/or a little CTRL U (underline) to emphasize your point. Oh yes, he'll get the message. And if he still doesn't get it, just hit the CAPS LOCK key. He'll surely hear you, then.

Have you ever gone to a big sale, where they had so much stuff there in your size but you competed with 15 other people your size? It's terrible when you aren't able to get to everything you want before other people get their hands on it all. Just be the first to hit CTRL A (all) and then ALL of the stuff you want is YOURS.

I haven't quite worked this next one out yet but I think it could be used for many situations. Have you wanted to put a boot in someone's rump before? Have you just wanted to add a little spice to a date that is just boring as hell? Of course, we've all been there. Simple solution: press the INSERT key and then specify what it is you are inserting (careful now, this could become X-rated real quick).

Who hasn't wanted to just start over? Sometimes all the effort in the world doesn't help. In those situations, simply hit CTRL-ALT-DELETE and give yourself a clean slate.

So, friends, you know what we could do with a "life" keyboard. Don't even get me started on how many things you can do with a "mouse." Use your imagination on what you'd like to click on! I would love for you to email me your ideas on how your keyboard, mouse, or computer could enhance your life if you were able to hook up to or connect with your computer. With technology being what it is today... ya never know!



Send comments or suggestions to:  
[helenahandbasketKY@gmail.com](mailto:helenahandbasketKY@gmail.com)



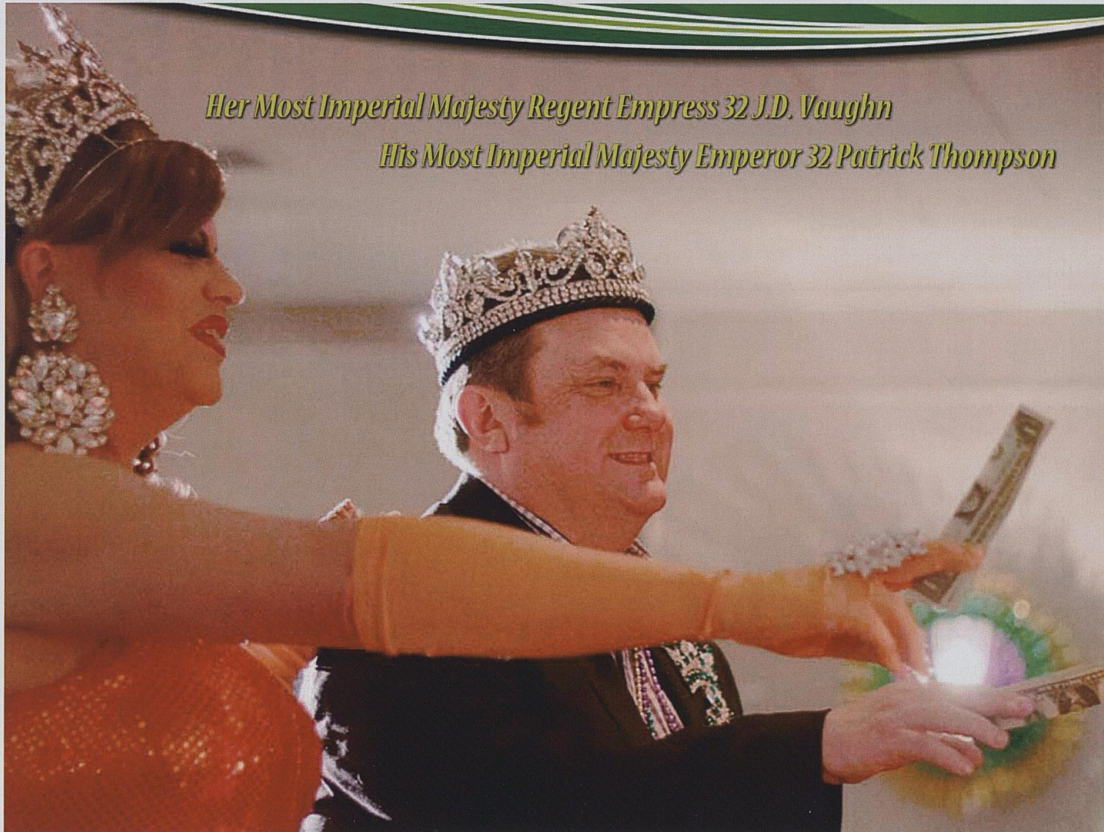
# Imperial Court News

**T**he Imperial Court of Kentucky celebrate a new reign this month. Her Most Imperial Majesty Regent Empress 32 J.D. Vaughn and His Most Imperial Majesty Emperor 32 Patrick Thompson will succeed by Empress 33 Christina Puse and Emperor 33 Tim Logsdon.

The Coronation 33 weekend kicked off on May 30 at Crossings with the In-Town Show. The next evening, the Out-of-Town

Show featured the talents of those visiting Lexington at the downtown Hilton Hotel in the Magnolia Room. The 33rd Annual Coronation Ball event took place June 1 at the Hilton Hotel. There, tenured members of the Imperial Court of Kentucky voted to select the new monarchs. After the vote, HMIM Regent Empress 32 J.D. Vaughn and HMIM Emperor 32 Patrick Thompson passed the torch to the new monarchs.

The GLSO is proud to support the new monarchs and our continued partnership with the Imperial Court of Kentucky. We look forward to another great year celebrating our diverse city and the positive impact the Imperial Court makes each year for our community.



*Her Most Imperial Majesty Regent Empress 32 J.D. Vaughn*  
*His Most Imperial Majesty Emperor 32 Patrick Thompson*

Natasha's Bistro and Bar presents:

# "Another Night at the Speakeasy"



featuring  
The First Lady of  
Rhythm, Beauty,  
and Laughter -

## Helena Handbasket

WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT  
BY 'OCTAVIA KEEZ'

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Showtime: 8pm

\$12 per person

Reservations with advance purchase suggested...

Limited seating available

Call 859 259-2754 for tickets

Natasha's Bistro and Bar

112 Esplanade, Lexington, KY

and Special Guest



The man - The voice...  
Kenny Bishop

Some adult humor... parental discretion advised.

# Treat yourself to a Treat!

Friday, June 13, 2014

8am-8pm



## Jamba Juice

Only at the CenterCourt Location

535 S Upper St.

20% of All Sales this day will go to:

LEXINGTON



2014

The Lexington Pride Festival will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2014 from 11am—9pm in downtown Lexington on the Courthouse Plaza. For more information visit [www.lexpridefest.org](http://www.lexpridefest.org).

# PFLAG Lexington Changes name to PFLAG Central Kentucky

By Linda Angelo

**P**FLAG stands for Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays. This national organization began in 1972 when Jeanne Manford marched with her gay son in New York's Pride Day parade with a sign that read "Parents of Gays Unite in Support of our Children." So many young people asked Jeanne to talk with their parents that she organized a support group, which grew into PFLAG. It now has hundreds of chapters across the United States. In appreciation of her leadership, President Obama awarded Jeanne the Presidential Citizens' Medal in 2012.

Despite more awareness and acceptance in our culture, learning that your own child is gay or lesbian or transgender can be challenging, requiring you to provide your child with support even while you have questions and need time to process. Some people find themselves unable to do the most essential thing – to reassure your child, no matter what their age, that you still love them. Some children may be reticent or impatient with their parents. Yet we know that parental responses to their children are THE most crucial factor in the adjustment of LGBT individuals. Parental rejection – blatant or subtle – puts your child at risk of poor self-worth, depression, substance abuse and suicide, as well as academic and

social problems. No one wants that for their children. And these children have already had a difficult journey by the time they come out to you as a parent.

The Lexington PFLAG chapter, which re-emerged 4 years ago, is comprised of parents, straight allies, siblings, friends, gay, lesbian, transgender and "questioning" individuals and couples. The group meets monthly, typically with a speaker or program the first hour, followed by a support group discussion. Participants include parents who seek help dealing with their own feelings as their child "comes out," or those who want to be better educated so they can talk with and support their child more effectively or deal with their acquaintances and relatives more comfortably. Other attendees might include individuals who have not yet come out to their families, or who seek support that their families are not willing to offer. There are LGBT adults, allies and students who care about these issues and want to help.

From one of our parents: "Keep the promise you made when you first became a parent because the person before you is the same child you loved before they told you this news. Take your time to sort out your feelings, to get educated, and to work on acceptance; but love your child anyway, as you always have. Nothing replaces parental love, and nothing hurts more than parental rejection ... PFLAG

is a safe, confidential place for everyone to feel respected, accepted and supported for who they are, wherever they are in their own journey or family struggle. Just as you pledged to love and nurture your child in the life ahead of them, we at PFLAG pledge to support one another as we work toward greater acceptance, love and understanding by all."

PFLAG's mission is that of support, education and advocacy, and the Central Kentucky chapter is willing to provide information or presentations to interested groups. Free publications are available for download at [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) PFLAG welcomes all who would like to assist in their efforts.

PFLAG Central Kentucky is part of a network of services and advocacy groups including the Lexington GLSO (Gay and Lesbian Services Organization); the Fairness Coalition; TransKentucky; AVOL (Aids Volunteers of Lexington); the GSA network (high school, college, and professional school Gay Straight Alliance groups); and JustFundKY -- all working on behalf of the LGBTQ community, from the schoolyard through the nursing home years.

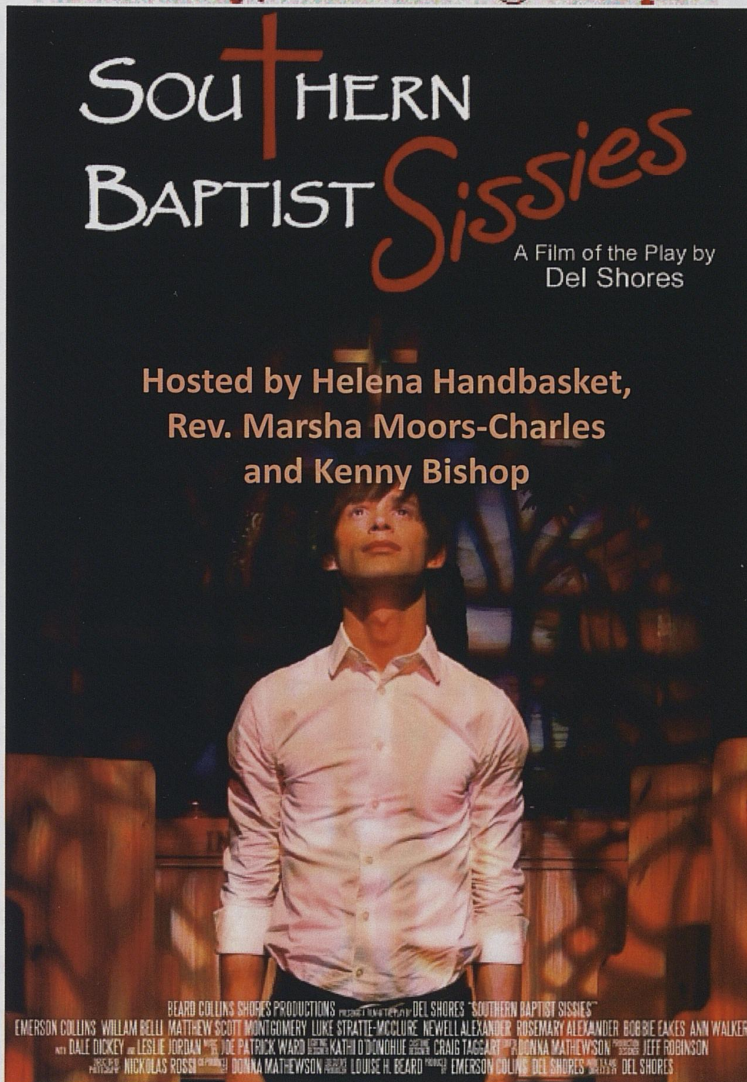
For more information about PFLAG Central Kentucky, which meets the second Tuesday evening of the month, please visit

<http://www.pflagcentralky.org/>





Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm



Hosted by Helena Handbasket,  
Rev. Marsha Moors-Charles  
and Kenny Bishop

**Southern Baptist Sissies**

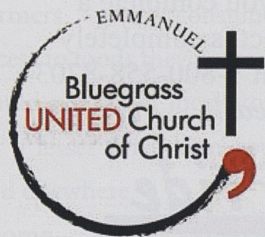
Director: Del Shores

Beard Collins Shores Productions

Running Time: 138 minutes

Presented by:

Bluegrass United Church of Christ



www.bluegrassucc.com



For ticket info, call the

Kentucky Theater

859 231-7924

or go to

www.showclix.com

Co-sponsored by:

First Hop Internet Services



www.firsthop.net

## Around the Library: This Day in June



By Amy Retucci

**T**his Day in June, by Gayle E. Pitman and illustrated by Kristyna Litten, is a children's book that takes place at a Pride event. The pages are beautifully and vividly illustrated. Each page contains a rhyming couplet about some aspect of Pride or the LGBT community. The picture

book itself serves as a great way to introduce a child to a Pride event and the all-inclusiveness of the community. A reading guide delves into the history of Pride, symbols related to Pride, and important aspects of the LGBT community. The reading guide is written at an adult reading level and could provide an answer to many of the questions a child might ask about the book. Along with the reading guide there is a note for parents and caregivers on how to present this book and support the children and teens in their lives. This book is a great resource for same-sex and heterosexual families that want

to encourage acceptance and diversity in their homes. The fabulous and joyful spirit of Pride truly comes to life in the colorful pages of the story. The importance of acceptance and diversity also shines through in the supporting materials. The picture book is best suited for children 3-10. The supplementary material is geared towards teens and up. This item is new to the GLSO library and will soon be found in the Children's Section. Come check it out!

The GLSO Pride Center contains the largest LGBTQ-themed library in the state.




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*Are you 50 years of age or older AND LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender) or someone who is attracted to or has had an intimate or sexual relationship with someone of your same sex or gender?*

**The Gay and Lesbian Services Organization** and the Institute for Multigenerational Health at the University of Washington need your help with a ground-breaking project. Our goal is to understand the aging and health needs of our communities for generations to come. You can enter a raffle awarding a \$100.00 VISA Gift Certificate to three randomly selected individuals by completing the raffle participation form. To enter the raffle and request a questionnaire visit <http://CaringAndAging.org/raffle>, email [AgePride@uw.edu](mailto:AgePride@uw.edu), or call 1-800-558-8703. You are eligible for the raffle regardless of whether you complete a questionnaire or not. Please keep in mind your participation in the project is completely voluntary. If you have any questions about the project, please contact us at 1-800-558-8703 or visit our website at [CaringAndAging.org](http://CaringAndAging.org). *Voice your needs!*

### *Caring and Aging with Pride*

AgePride@uw.edu • CaringAndAging.org • 1-800-558-8703

# It's About Being Locally Proud

*Buying locally is fun, promotes sustainability of your community, and stimulates the growth of a business*

By **Ranada West-Riley**

**A**s a new business owner and chef, I find our diner is perfectly located near the Saturday Farmers Market in downtown Lexington. This gift has opened my eyes to the beauty of keeping my buying as local as possible. A sad statistic is that there are fewer than a million farmers left in our nation, yet it was what our nation was built upon. We have lost nearly 5 million farms in less than 75 years.

Buying locally is fun, promotes sustainability of your community and neighborhood, and stimulates the growth of an essential business. Farmers markets are easy to find in cities, and keeping it local benefits the community as a whole. Farmers give consumers access to foods they normally would not get at local stores for a lesser price than you'll find elsewhere.

Some other benefits include: SNAP and WIC

cards are accepted at many locations and farmers usually have incredible recipes to use with their produce and products. You'll also have an opportunity to try new fruits and vegetables normally not available at chain grocery stores. A hidden benefit, fresh fruits are filled with antioxidants and phytonutrients.

What Farmers Markets do that is the most important of all, is boost the local economy as well as educate the community about healthy factors of fresh foods and the impact farming has on our environment. It's essential.

<http://www.kentuckyfarmersmarket.org>

Since spring is finally here and Summer is upon us. I thought some cool recipes for the upcoming hot days would be perfect. I encourage the use of organic and local produce to make this recipe even tastier!



## *Rosemary Almond Chicken Salad*

- 1 pound boneless chicken breasts (boiled and pulled)
- 1/3 cup chopped red onions
- 1/4 cup chopped toasted almonds
- 1/4 cup plain fat-free yogurt
- 1/4 cup light mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon ground rosemary
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

### Directions

Combine all ingredients, stirring well. Spread about 2/3 cup of chicken mixture over the bread of your choice, exceptionally nice on Croissants or as a Wrap with lettuce and tomato.

**QUEERKY**  
UNITED WE STAND. DIVIDED WE FALL.

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

**Deadline:**  
June 20, 2014

**Prizes:**  
1st - \$200  
2nd - \$150  
3rd - \$100



queerky



queerky.net



queerky.net

What are you afraid to say as a young  
gay or bi-sexual guy in Kentucky?  
SAY IT!

**#speakyourtruth**

**Submission Formats:**  
Essay or Poetry  
(1,000 words or Less)

For all rules and details,  
visit [Queerky.net](http://Queerky.net)

Submit entries to [queerky@avolky.org](mailto:queerky@avolky.org)



By **Bobbie Thompson**  
-aka Alana's Spouse-

# The Same, Really

I was recently asked by Dara Hoffman-Fox, a Gender Therapist ([www.thebohemiansanctuary.com](http://www.thebohemiansanctuary.com)) to submit a guest blog to TransVoices. For my submission to Linq this month, I'd like to share that guest blog as follows:

While writing her memoir, "Hung in the Middle: A Journey of Gender Discovery," ([www.hunginthemiddle.com](http://www.hunginthemiddle.com)), my spouse Alana Nicole Sholar made the comment, "I could never understand how Alan's friends didn't like Alana and how Alana's friends didn't like Alan, when I am the same person."

But, I could understand. I understood because that is exactly where my relationship began with Alana when I saw her for the first time in 2006. I didn't like her even though I had known Alan for 25 years and we had enjoyed an intimate relationship in the mid-1990's. One reason I didn't like Alana was because when she was around, she took Alan away from me. I told her I could be her friend because I can be friends with practically anyone. However, I also told her that she and I could never be as close or share the type of relationship Alan and I had once shared.

Because I knew nothing about the

experience of being transgender, my initial understanding of Alan and Alana were as two separate individuals: one male and one female. Each had individual, different personalities, mannerisms, and especially styles. The only thing I knew about Alana was that Alan wanted to "change" to become her. I think maybe it's that word "change" that bothered me. To me, that meant my friend and former lover was in the process of becoming someone different.

When you change your clothes you put on something different. When you change the tire on your car you put a different tire in its place. While the tires may be very similar, they are obviously two separate and different tires no matter what similarities they share.

As I spent more time with Alana, I

was surprised by the shared similarities between Alan and Alana. For example, I agreed to attend a party with Alana. As I watched her interacting with the other people in the room I had the thought, "Wow, Alana has a very charismatic personality, just like Alan." Then, I giggled to myself as my next thought was, "You dummy, Alana is Alan." It was one of those revelation moments. What I had viewed as two separate entities, became one. I discovered there is no 'they,' but only one.

My grandson unknowingly helped me gain a better understanding of Alana's transition process, too. He came bopping through the house one day with earphones hanging down to an iPod tucked in his pocket. I thought, "My, how that child has grown! It seems like such a short time



I am Alana Nicole Sholar



I am Alana Nicole Sholar

*Continued from page 18*

ago I was changing his diaper.” I began a short trip down memory lane, remembering him as a baby, a toddler, a little boy, and now a pre-teen.

My grandson had gone through tremendous physical change. He had evolved, or gone through a transition from infant to pre-teen, yet he remained the same person. It dawned on me that evolution is how I should view Alana’s transition. Although she has gone through physical changes, the person still remains the same. Isn’t that exactly what every person experiences? Continuous evolution or transition from one phase of life to the next?

## Company Q: A Social Justice Theatre

By **Theo Meacham**

Imagine a place where young people are encouraged to share their lives and their stories through theatre.

Founded in 2012, Company Q provides such a safe place. A social justice theatre ensemble focusing on LGBTQIA+ youth ages 14-22, Company Q explores relevant issues in the lives of young adults and strives to educate the communities in which we live. Through improvisation and devising, we turn our discussions into original theatrical work.

It is with great pride that we announce our second annual performance. June 3rd and 4th at 7:30pm, Company Q will present “Finding the Fierce,” an original play written and performed by Company Q members. Please join

The evolution of our lives fails to cease until the day we draw our last breath.

Personally, I made extreme visible physical changes by losing 100lbs as a weight loss surgery patient. After losing the weight, I also lost a few friends. I can only assume because my appearance had changed, they somehow viewed me as someone other than my previous self. I could easily make this assumption based on the way I was treated after my weight loss. That’s exactly what I initially did with Alana, I viewed her as being someone different because of a change in appearance.

It took me a long time to learn what I believe every transgender person already

us at the Farrish Theatre in Lexington’s Central Library. All tickets are pay what you can.

Company Q will be launching an annual fund in early June. To give to Company Q’s annual fund, please visit our facebook page. We need your help to continue our work!

Company Q is a member of the Pride Youth Theatre Alliance, an international organization serving artists who work in the field of Queer Youth Theatre. For more information about joining or volunteering, contact Company Q at [companyqlexington@gmail.com](mailto:companyqlexington@gmail.com) or connect with us on facebook- [www.facebook.com/companyqlexington](http://www.facebook.com/companyqlexington).



knows: the person is the same, it’s just the process of evolution that makes people seem “different.” That’s true for all people. These days I choose not to view Alana as changing, but rather evolving. I’m so very thankful I realized my friend and former lover is the same person they have always been. That realization led me to marry Alana in December 2008.

If you know someone in the transition process who says to you, “I’m the same person I’ve always been,” believe it. They are the same... really!



## PFLAG Central Kentucky Meeting

Our presenter this month transitioned from female to male at the age of 36. He will talk about his self-discovery, decision to take action, the response of his family, employers and peers, and his partner journeys.

We meet 6:30 to 8:30pm on Tuesday, June 10 at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church (2025 Bellefonte Drive). Presentation will be the first hour, followed by a support group meeting the second hour.

We welcome LGBTQs, their family members, friends and allies. PFLAG meetings are a safe, confidential setting where all are accepted and respected.



# Lexington GSA Needs You

By Robert Cardom

The Lexington Gay-Straight Alliance is a program aimed at providing a safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\*, questioning, and queer teens to get support, learn, and have fun. In addition to our weekly meetings from 6-8pm on Tuesdays, we also host the Lexington Pride Prom, the Halloween Dance, and a new leadership development initiative funded by a JustFundKY grant. All of our work is made possible by the work of our volunteers.

That's where you come in! LexGSA is looking for volunteers to help us to maintain and grow our program so that we are responsive to the evolving needs of our teens. There are several

opportunities to volunteer:

Advisors facilitate at least one meeting per month at the GLSO Pride Center on Tuesdays from 6-8pm. Experience leading small groups is helpful. Advisors must be at least 24 years of age and submit to a criminal background check.

Chaperones help us to offer inclusive dances, where students are free to be themselves and not worry that their gender or that of their date will bar their attendance. Chaperones must be at least 24 years of age, submit to a background check, and be willing to fill in as needed during our dances. Chaperones often take turns helping students register at the registration table, serving food in the refreshments

area, and patrolling the dance floor.

Local school GSAs often ask us for speakers on a range of topics ranging from healthy relationships, career development, living as an LGBT adult. Speakers must be available during the afternoon, when most school GSAs meet, and must submit to a background check.

Are you interested in getting involved with LexGSA? Email Robert Cardom at Robert@glso.org for more information or to apply. All new volunteers will be required to attend a weekend orientation to be scheduled in August.



## Pride Festival Volunteer Orientation

When: Monday, June 16 at 7pm or Wednesday, June 18 at 2pm

Where: GLSO Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave, Suite 100, Lexington, KY 40504



Help us make the 2014 Lexington Pride Festival the best year yet. Volunteers like you are the ones who make the Lexington Pride Festival successful year after year. You can visit the GLSO Pride Center or visit online to sign up for specific jobs and time slots! It is an open door, come and go whenever you can make it arrangement. We will instruct you what we need help with and where to go and when to be there. Please contact Roberto at [volunteers@lexpridefest.org](mailto:volunteers@lexpridefest.org) for more information.

Signup online at: <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=2126632624>

# A Message from LexPride Chair

It's that time ladies, gentlemen, and all shades in between (as well as those that refuse to be defined by boundaries). It's time to let your colors show as Pride Month is finally here. This year Lexington is going all out! It feels like it's been less than a year ago that a group of first-time volunteers (along with two or three seasoned veterans) sat down to put into motion the most ambitious Lexington Pride Festival yet. The first meeting identified that we all had one major goal in common: expanding Lexington Pride Festival into a tier one event that not only provides a one-of-a-kind day full of fun, food, and fellowship but that also goes the extra mile to ensure everyone can find their place among the festivities.

Now, you might be thinking "wow that's a lot of hyperbole" or "what can this introduction really tell me about Lexington Pride Festival?" Well, will have ninjas for the first time. Yes, that's right. Lexington's own Urban Ninjas will be on grounds all day. Despite months of trying to infiltrate their ranks and decipher their plans, I'm still not sure what they have planned. They are ninjas, after all. I can tell you that it will be a youth event unlike anything we've seen before.

If ninjas caught your attention, you might also be interested in knowing that Fagbug, an act of vandalism turned activism, will be joining us. You can watch the documentary, Fagbug, on Hulu and Netflix. The story details the reactions then actions of Erin Davies after her VW bug was spray painted with the word "fag" and "u r gay." You can watch the second documentary FagBug Nation, which details Erin through her national advocacy campaign during a pre-release screening the Sunday right after the Lexington Pride Festival. That's right, we managed to land one of few national screenings for FagBug Nation. So, wake up Sunday morning, put on your "red carpet finest" and join us to watch Fagbug Nation before the official worldwide release.

Ok, so you might be thinking "Sure, they have ninjas and an awesome VW Bug but where is the kaboom?" Before I go any further, you need to know that up to and during the planning for the entire Lexington Pride Festival, I have lived by one rule and one rule only: "If it's good enough for Katy Perry, it's good enough for me." While this rule has led to some bad decisions about dating British men, it has otherwise been a flawless strategy in life. With that said, I am proud to announce that Dario will be the headliner for Lexington Pride Festival 2014. Dario who? Whoa, wait you didn't know that Dario is an opening act for Katy Perry this year? Or that his "Save Me" single hit the radio this April? Or that his album "Evolution" dropped a few weeks ago?

If this wasn't enough, we will see the return of Josh Zuckerman. We'll also have local performers Kung FU Grip, SisterSound, Mr. Lexington Pride Colton Bacall and Miss Lexington Pride Mya St. James, the March Madness Marching Band, Lexington School for the Creative and Performing Arts, a DJ battle featuring DJ Crow, DJ EA, and DJ Brady, two drag shows and a whole lot more.

I hope this introduction made you laugh or at the very least smile. So, with that said, I would like to invite you to join us and celebrate love, faith, families, and diversity.

Chris Wiggins  
Lexington Pride Festival Chair



LEXINGTON

PRIDE

presented by the  
**GLSO**  
GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

2 0 1 4

# 2014 T-Shirt Release & Pride Welcome Party

Friday, June 13th

**CROSSINGS**  
117 N. LIMESTONE  
859.233.7266  
**Lexington**

Hosted By: Mr. & Miss Lexington Pride 2014  
Colton Bacall & Mya St. James

Tee Shirt Party at 9 PM - Drag Show at 9:30 PM

**NO COVER! JELLO SHOTS!**



# Growing Older, Growing Bolder

## *Lexington Fairness and the Senior Pride Initiative Partner on LGBTQ Aging*

By Glenn Means III, MPA

Health care poses unique challenges to many older LGBTQ people, and this is especially true for those who feel the need to “return to the closet” when accessing long-term care, assisted living, and other types of housing. Many fear being treated poorly or neglected due to homophobia or care providers not understanding their sexual orientation or gender identity. It is crucial that senior housing and aging services understand the LGBTQ experience, and provide culturally competent personalized care for LGBTQ individuals and families.

The Senior Pride Initiative was formed 2013 to help LGBTQ seniors become

engaged with their peers and strengthen their visibility in the community. The Senior Pride Initiative is dedicated to improving the quality of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people by raising awareness of the unique issues and needs they may face in aging.

Recently, the Senior Pride Initiative became a standing committee of Lexington Fairness, a leading LGBTQ rights organization in Lexington, Kentucky fighting for the full legal and social acceptance of the LGBTQ community. Lexington Fairness has advocated for fairness through education, advocacy, and other avenues to share the vision our state needs to help equality be reached in the LGBTQ community. Most notably,

the organization has focused on encouraging safe schools. When the Senior Pride Initiative reached out to Lexington Fairness for organizational support, it saw an opportunity in Senior Pride to “book end” its community programming from childhood to adulthood.

As people over 65 becomes the largest segment of the United States population, helping LGBTQ seniors access competent and affirming care is urgent. Working in long-term care for 10 years I have seen the good, the bad, and the ugly. I have seen overt discrimination and I have seen things that have truly changed my perspective on providing services for diverse elders. For example, I have had

*Continued on next page*

Volunteer for one of these committees to improve the lives of our LGBTQ elders !

Marketing - Fundraising - Social Media

Senior  
PRIDE

Contact Troy Johnson at [TroyJohnsonMSW@Gmail.com](mailto:TroyJohnsonMSW@Gmail.com) for more information about how you can volunteer with the Senior Pride Initiative today.

*Continued from previous page*

hard conversations with residents that identify themselves as 'gay' and fear to come out because they won't be treated the same. I remember one older male resident telling me "Life was very hard for me as a gay man in my time." He couldn't risk identifying himself as gay for fear of how others would view him. Residents like him have their quality of life diminished by not feeling comfortable enough to come out to their peers and caregivers.

The Senior Pride Initiative is an important support for encouraging our LGBTQ elders to not go back into the closet and to helping them access resources that

may enable them to remain open about their sexual orientation or gender identity. This is especially true in services that may help them age independently and with dignity.

On November 14, 2014 the Senior Pride Initiative will be hosting its second annual conference in Lexington, Kentucky where volunteer opportunities will be available. The Senior Pride Initiative also has many ongoing opportunities for people to get involved. The organization is seeking volunteers in marketing, fundraising, and social media, as well as participation in their advisory council, and conference planning committee.

You can "like" The Senior Pride Initiative

on Facebook to find out more details and keep updated on all the projects that are occurring at this time. You can also reach the Senior Pride Initiative's director, Troy Johnson, at [TroyJohnsonMSW@gmail.com](mailto:TroyJohnsonMSW@gmail.com) for more details.

I hope you will get involved in this initiative and help our LGBTQ elder population in receiving not only the best individualized care possible but making sure that they always remain comfortable in who they are and remain happy the rest of their lives.



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# Hope Lives this Pride

By Marsha Moor-Charles

I don't know about you, but I am relishing in all the flavors of spring and early summer! Our winter here in Kentucky was one for the record books—weather-wise and as related to LGBT equality and, more specifically, on the marriage equality issue. Across our country, we have seen individual states go back and forth from granting equal marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples—only to have them taken away, sometimes only hours after judicial decisions. It is a rollercoaster of emotions and can leave us wondering 'is there really hope?'

I see the promises of hope every day—in the faces of tireless advocates (gay and straight) who are doing grass-roots work for the LGBTQ community; in the outstretched hands of those who are willing to make personal sacrifices of time, energy, and financial resources to give dignity to their LGBTQ brothers and sisters; and, in churches, synagogues, and mosques where doors are being opened and people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are welcomed and affirmed.

As a pastor, I share with our congregation that the best place for people to experience the love, hope, and peace of God is when they experience it through us. All of us have different journeys—and our own rollercoasters of sorts. How wonderful it is to celebrate good times in our lives—good health, the intimacy of genuine love

from a significant other, the blessing of dear friendships, a satisfying career—and the basics of safe shelter and plenty to eat. And then, there are those curves in our journey—when an unexpected health challenge takes us off our feet; or a meaningful relationship with a partner, friend, or family member becomes estranged; or we lose our job which then brings anxiety about where we will live or what we will eat. We give thanks for those who celebrate with us in good times and walk beside us in the challenges of our journey.

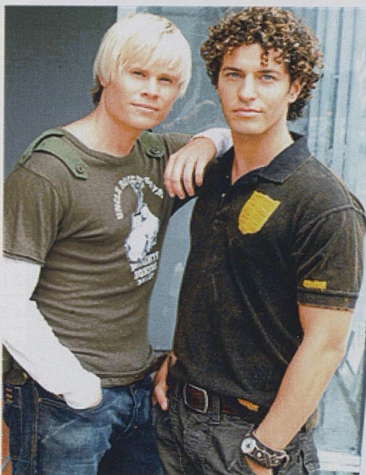
Across our nation during the summer, many cities will focus on PRIDE, a time of celebrating the contributions of the LGBTQ community and a time of acknowledging the work ahead that is needed to ensure full equality. There will be more successes—and more challenges—to come our way. And no matter what lies ahead, we can be assured that hope remains. Because hope lives every time we take action to educate, to advocate, and to claim our presence in the world.

I will be honored to officiate at least three weddings in the next two months, one of which will be at our church on the Saturday of PRIDE weekend. At that ceremony, the two brides will welcome friends and family members who are gay and straight; partnered and single; advocates and struggling to understand the LGBTQ community. But we will gather—all of us—in the assurance of God's presence with us. We will pray and we will hear commitments from two people who share a mutual love and commitment

to one another. We will celebrate God's blessing on their union and we will recognize their 21 years together. We will lament that they had to travel to another state for their union to be legal, as many other couples here in Kentucky have had to do because of our Governor's appeal of a judicial decision granting marriage equality in our own state. It will be a rollercoaster of emotions for the couple I will marry and for all those present. But there will be PRIDE. And there will be hope!

This PRIDE season, whatever celebration you find yourself being a part of or whatever challenge you may find yourself in, I hope you will take time to embrace all that you are. God created each one of us uniquely and so, we have our own way of making the world better. Do not allow others or society to define who you are or whose you are! You are a beloved child of God, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. Claim your identity fully and allow God's hope and love to live through you as only you can. And perhaps, you might consider finding a welcoming, inclusive, affirming community of faith to join to meet your needs. For on this rollercoaster, we need faithful and faith-filled people of all religions, cultures, races, sexual orientations, and sexual identities to stand up and proudly, boldly proclaim that hope lives! It lives in you and in me as we will let it.





Jason & deMarco's new release entitled "SAFE", was released in conjunction with their non-profit, S.A.F.E. (Safe, Affirming, Family Environment), an organization that aims to support families of diversity, foster children and those aging out of foster care who often become homeless. Their most recent release, "The Oneness of Praise", is an inspirational album reminding us all that we are part of one human family, one Spirit, and that we can make this journey together in peace, harmony and love

## Bluegrass United Church of Christ celebrates PRIDE!

JOIN US FOR THESE GREAT EVENTS!

**Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m.**  
**"Southern Baptist Sissies"**  
 Historic Kentucky Theatre  
 214 E. Main Street

**Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
 Come visit with us at our booth and hear our Pastor and members share what makes our church a great place to be!

**Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.**  
 The Grand Reserve  
 903 Manchester Street

A special concert featuring **Jason and deMarco** – an internationally known duo fresh off their "Come Together" tour!

Opening the concert will be Lexington's own **New Song in the Bluegrass**, a new LGBT and LGBT-friendly singing group in Lexington! Join us for this amazing **FREE** concert!

**Bluegrass United Church of Christ**  
 500 Don Anna Drive  
 Lexington, Kentucky 40511  
 859-233-0208  
 Find out ALL you need to know about us at  
**bluegrassucc.com**



# June Calendar & Telephone Directory

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

<p>Sunday, June 1 Coronation 33 3:30pm Company Q Drama Troupe Practice 6:30pm Team Lex Volleyball Monday, June 2 8:00pm AA Meeting hosted by AVOL Tuesday, June 3 6:30pm GLSO Board Meeting 7:30pm "Finding the Fierce" a Company Q Original Production Wednesday, June 4 7:00pm LGBT Discussion Group 7:30pm "Finding the Fierce" a Company Q Original Production Thursday, June 5 7:00pm 2014 LexPride Planning Meeting Saturday, June 7 1:30pm GLSO Fundraising Committee 7:30pm TransKentucky Meeting Sunday, June 8 2:00pm Neon Jungle Planning Committee 3:30pm Company Q Drama Troupe Practice 6:00pm Imperial Court Meeting 6:30pm Team Lex Volleyball Monday, June 9 8:00pm AA Meeting hosted by AVOL Tuesday, June 10 6:30pm PFLAG Meeting 7:00pm HIV/AIDS Support Group hosted by AVOL</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 11 7:00pm LGBT Discussion Group Thursday, June 12 7:00pm 2014 LexPride Planning Meeting Friday, June 13 8:00am Jamba Juice Pride Fundraiser 7:00pm Hispanic LGBT Discussion Group 8:30pm T-shirt Release &amp; Pride Welcome Party Saturday, June 14 9:00pm Kentucky Bourbon Bears Board Meeting Sunday, June 15 3:30pm Company Q Drama Troupe Practice 6:30pm Team Lex Volleyball Monday, June 16 7:00pm LexPride Volunteer Orientation 8:00pm AA Meeting hosted by AVOL Tuesday, June 17 Legal and Financial Planning for Dementia Care* Wednesday, June 18 2:00pm LexPride Volunteer Orientation 7:00pm LGBT Discussion Group Thursday, June 19 7:00pm 2014 LexPride Planning Meeting Friday, June 20 All day Editorial Deadline for LINQ Newspaper 6:00pm LexFair's 7th Annual Fairness Awards 7:00pm Senior's Bistro (Potluck) 7:00pm LexPride walking in Louisville's Pride Parade</p>	<p>Saturday, June 21 7:30am LexPride at Powered with Pride 5K 12:00pm LexPride at Louisville Pride 1:30pm GLSO Fundraising Committee Sunday, June 22 2:00pm Neon Jungle Planning Committee 3:30pm Company Q Drama Troupe Practice 6:00pm Imperial Court Meeting 6:30pm Team Lex Volleyball Monday, June 23 8:00pm AA Meeting hosted by AVOL Tuesday, June 24 3:30pm Alzheimer's Basics: Is it Normal Aging or Something* Wednesday, June 25 7:00pm LGBT Discussion Group Thursday, June 26 7:00pm 2014 LexPride Planning Meeting Friday, June 27 7:00pm Hispanic LGBT Discussion Group Saturday, June 28 11:00am Lexington Pride Festival* Sunday, June 29 9:00am "Fagbug Nation" Screening Premiere w/ Q&amp;A 3:30pm Company Q Drama Troupe Practice 6:30pm Team Lex Volleyball* Monday, June 30 8:00pm AA Meeting hosted by AVOL*</p>
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## Community and Social Groups

24-Hour Crisis Line	800 929 8000
24-Hour Teen Crisis Line	800 999 9999
Alcoholics Anonymous	859 967 9960
AA/Alcoholic Teens	859 277 1877
Council for Peace and Justice	859 488 1448
Discussion Group	859 253 3233
Fairness of Louisville	502 893 0788
Gay-Straight Alliance, Teens	859 266 5904
GLSO Pride Center	859 253 3233
Imperial Court of Kentucky	859 619 7521
International Gay Bowling	859 539 3058
Lexington Fair Housing Council	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	cassimt@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@glso.org and we will add you to our calendar!*

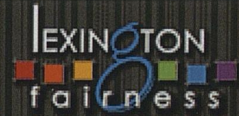
## HIV/STD Testing, Services & Information

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

Bluegrass United Church of Christ	859 233 0208
Faith Lutheran Church	859 266 7621
First Presbyterian Church	859 252 1919
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

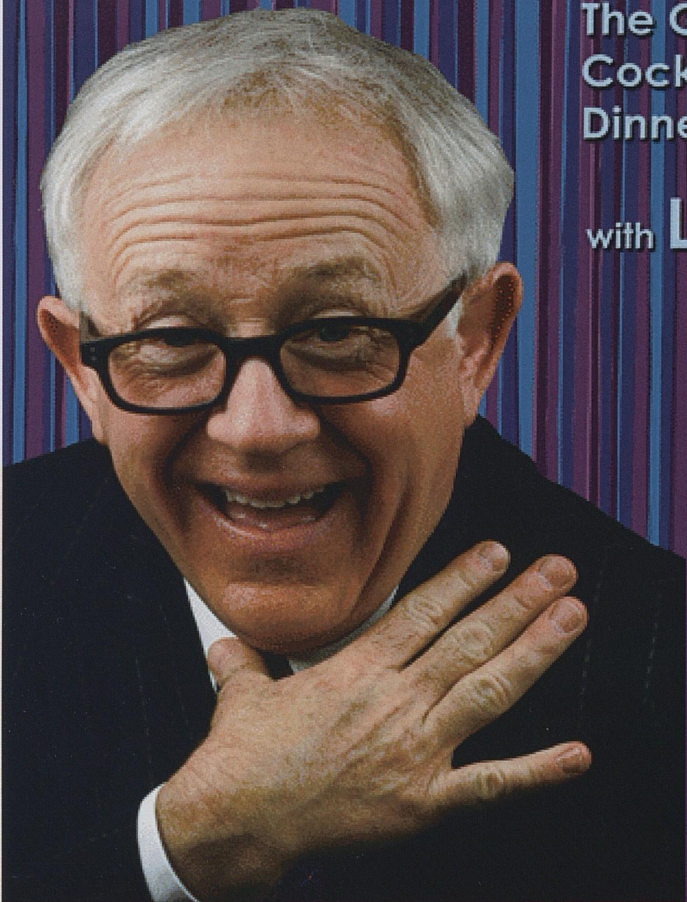
The 7th Annual



# Fairness Awards

Friday, June 20th, 2014  
The Grand Reserve  
Cocktail Hour at 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner & Show at 7:00 p.m.

with **Leslie Jordan**



**STAY  
TUNED**  
MORE DETAILS  
TO COME

**TICKETS AVAILABLE  
STARTING MAY 1ST**

**Saturday, June 28**

**11 am to 9 pm**

**Courthouse Plaza**

**Downtown Lexington, KY**

**Over 70 Booths From**

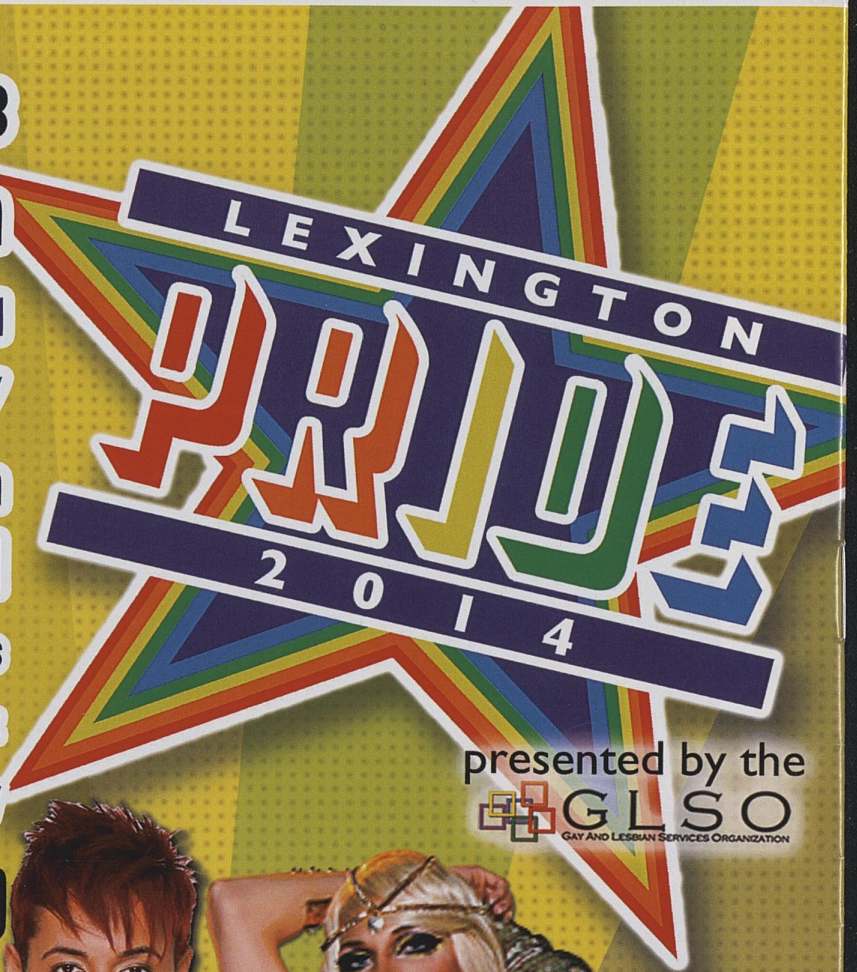
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**GLSO**  
GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION



Band  
**Kung FU Grip**

Drag Star  
**Jade Jolie**

Headliner:  
International  
Recording Artist

**DARIO**

Musician  
**Josh Zuckerman**

Mr & Miss Lex Pride 2014  
**Colton Bacall & Mya St. James**

**Erin Davies**  
from the documentary

**fagbug**

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