



**GAY and
LESBIAN
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION**
Lexington,
Kentucky

GLSO NEWS

August 2004

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Volume 19 Number 8

GLSO Fundraiser Robbie Bartlett Concert

On Saturday, August 21, Robbie Bartlett will be performing with her band at the Phoenix Ball Room, 110 Short Street. Doors open at 8 pm and the show starts at 9 pm. There is a \$15 cover to benefit the Gay Lesbian Service Organization and the Pride Center. Cash Bar available.

Robbie Bartlett has been performing in Louisville and central Kentucky since 1982. Her talent and strong sense of musical direction is electric and engaging. Robbie has a warm, smokey alto voice which she puts to good use in a diverse repertoire. She sings loud raucous numbers, torchy blues songs, jazz and R & B favorites and some new wave funk. Bartlett is accompanied by her band, an outstanding group of Louisville musicians.

Robbie's sets include numbers such as "Respect" by Aretha Franklin, "Good Morning Heartache" by Billie Holiday, "Give Me One Reason" by Tracy Chapman, and "Love Sneaking Up on You" by Bonnie Raitt.

She has received many positive reviews. Marty Rosen writes: "If you yearn for the days when R&B was a bone-shaking, hip-twitching music ruled by women with towering voices and goddess-like authority, (her music) will take you back."

In reviewing her CD he adds: "(Her) scorching performance (is) guaranteed to get you shimmying through the house like a barefoot child crossing a hot road in July." Join us for this wonderful evening and wear your dancing shoes.

Dinning Out For Life

Moveable Feast will have its annual Dinning Out for Life fundraiser on Thursday, August 26. Many local restaurants are generously donating a portion of their revenue to Moveable Feast, Lexington. There are some restaurants that will be including their lunch revenue. See ad on page 9 and for additional information. Or see www.feastlex.org.

"Gay Cuba" Film

Gallerie Soleil

Saturday, July 31 7-11 p.m.

Pride Art Gallery Reception

Artist Bobbie Stout

Sunday, Aug 1, 6 til 8

next page for details on both events

Imperial Court Investitures



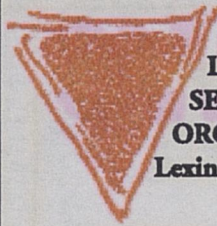
Wed. August 18th

see page 15

Sponsor of the Month



**Unitarian
Universalist
Church
of Lexington**



**GAY and
LESBIAN
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION
Lexington, Kentucky**

The GLSO NEWS

Volume 19 Issue 8

**published monthly by
The Lexington Gay
Lesbian Service
Organization**

389 Waller Ave.

Editors

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Ginger Moore
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**Bill Chandler,
Office Manager**

**GLSO Annual Dues &
Newsletter.**

**Individual - \$15
Couple - \$20**

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

"Gay Cuba" Screening - Gallerie Soleil

On Saturday, July 31st, from 7-11 p.m. Gallerie Soleil, 363 W. Short St, will host "Venceremos," a fundraising event to raise awareness about the Bush administration's policies toward Cuba and to rally support for local activists who traveled to the island as an act of civil disobedience. There will be a showing of the documentary 'Gay Cuba' by filmmaker Sonja de Vries who will be present to talk about her film. The event will also feature poets, the work of local artists, and a report from Leah and Greg. A suggested donation of \$10 is asked but no one will be turned away. see page 22 for more info

**Pride Art Gallery: Bobbi Stout
August 1 - August 31**

Bobbi Stout has been creating and displaying her art since 1990, having shown her art in Nashville, Chicago, Asheville, NC, and Lexington. Her unique style features flat and multi-dimensional images using wide variety of media including paint, markers, pen and ink, and found objects.

The artist says of her work: "The art that I do seems to come from some part of my unconscious mind, as I seldom plan a piece and never know what the end result will be. When I work on a project I lose all sense of time passing. Much of my art is healing and when i look at a completed piece I can get an idea of what was going on inside my head while i was doing it. Often I learn a lot about my work from what other people see in it."

See page 22 for more information.

Pride Art Gallery Opening Reception



**Bobbie Stout
Sunday, Aug 1
6 til 8
Pride Center**

Community News

Voter ID Walks

CANVASS WITH FAIRNESS

Sat July 31, Sunday, Aug 1st,

Sat. Aug 21 & Sun. Aug 22

Meet at KFA office, 110 N. Upper Street, 10 am on Saturdays, 3:30 on Sundays. Netta Brooks will provide training, food, and encouragement. More information on page 16 or call Netta Brooks at 396-5251.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers

There is interest in starting another Frontrunners/Frontwalkers club in Lexington. This club would be affiliated with the International Front Runners. If interested, please attend a startup meeting at the Pride Center Thursday, August 19, at 7p.m. Contact Hal Kutter at 859-294-7944 after 7 or email haroldkutter@aol.com for more information.

International Front Runners is an affiliation of GLBT running/walking clubs that have organized in many of larger cities around the world. The first FrontRunner club began in San Francisco in 1974 and other FR clubs quickly began forming in the United States then in Canada and abroad.

There are currently about a hundred Frontrunner clubs around the world and they are as diverse as where they are situated. Some of the clubs have hundreds of members, others only a few. Many include walkers, not just runners, and at least one club has many more walkers than runners. Some of the clubs elect officers, have bylaws and a membership dues structure, many don't. Most have regular weekly runs/walks and many also get together at local restaurants after their runs.

Emily Hagihara CD Release Concert

On Thursday, Aug. 26, Emily Hagihara will have a CD Release Concert at the Kentucky Theater at 8 pm. A fullband will be performing with her for this engagement. Her new CD, "Time to Wake", will be available after the show outside behind the KY Theater. Tonya Lewis will be showing her art in the gallery outside the state theater at 7pm.

Jo-Beth GLBT Reading Group

Meredith Whiles

A GLBT reading group, the Lavender Book Group, is forming at Joseph-Beth Booksellers. The first meeting will be on Saturday, August 7, at 3 pm, at the bookstore. We'll be discussing Michael Chabon's *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*. Chabon won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*, his first novel. This later work raises some interesting questions that I can't wait to discuss. Please spread the word! If you have any questions or title suggestions please feel free to e-mail me at mwhiles@josephbeth.com.

Uniform and Leather Night

On Saturday, Aug 21 there will be a fundraiser at Crossings to benefit Ky Fairness and The Moonshine Bears of KY. Join us between 10 pm and 2 am. The evening will be hosted by Bill Howard, International Mr. Daddy Bear 2004 and Mr. Kentucky Bear 2003.

There will be cash prizes for Best Uniform and Best Leather Outfit. There will also be raffle prizes including a DVD player, DVD's, gift certificates, and more. Cover charge \$5, half price for those wearing a uniform or leather.

Miss Gay Club 141

On Thurs., Sept 23 at 9:30 the Miss Gay Club 141 Pageant will be held at the Club, 141 West Vint St., featuring Miss Club 141, the 1st Lady of Kentucky, Latoya Bacall.

Entertainment will be provide by former Miss Club 141's: Wendy Williams, Nicole Diamond, Taylor Bryce, Lady Devane, Tracy Taylor, and special guest Rhonda K. Steele. Judged Categories include Presenttion, Talent, Evening Gown, and On Stage Question. Entry Fee \$30

Winner Receives:; \$125 on the night of the contest, crown, and bookings at Club 141. Contact LaToya at 294 0901 or Club 141 233-4262

40+ CLUB FOR WOMEN

The 40+ Club is a group for women over 40 (and their younger friends) who are interested in attending a wide variety of activities together. In the past we have gone to plays, attended sporting events, visited museums, and enjoyed many meals together. We get together is groups of 2 to 20. If you have something you want to do there is probably someone in the group that would love to join you. With the 40+ Club you don't have to go it alone.

If you are interested in joining the Club we meet every month on the second Sunday at 2pm at the Pride Center to plan the next month's activities. Bring you ideas to the next meeting on Sunday, August 8th and plan to go out to eat afterward. You can also call or email Ginger and Jane at 859-253-0061 or ggldr@yahoo.com.

This month the 40+ Club is planning to attend the performance by Robbie Bartlett on Aug. 21 at the Phoenix Bar on Short St. (see front page) Robbie is a favorite of the 40+ Club and we try to see her every chance we get. The evening is a fundraiser for GLSO and the Pride Center. Be ready for a night full of great music and dancing.

Diversity in Gender Alliance <http://groupsyaho.com/group/lexDGA>

The Lexington Diversity in Gender Alliance meets the first Saturday evening of each month at a private location. Contact Kelli at kellindel@hotmail.com.

We welcome all people who transcend gender norms or who are questioning their gender identity. This includes transsexuals, intersexuals, effeminate men, masculine women, drag Kings, drag Queens, gender queers... and more. Family and supportive allies who would like to discuss trans issues are welcome. This is not a therapy group.

Buddhist Discussion Group

The Buddhist Discussion Group will meet at the Pride Center on Thursday, August 12. We are open to anyone interested in learning and talking about Buddhism. Some of us attend buddhist meditation groups, some do not. We share an interest in becoming more centered and compassionate through reading and contemplation. Please join us.

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER

KY Men of all Colors Together (MACT) is a local chapter of a national gay multiracial organization which fosters a supportive environment where friendships and partnerships can be celebrated free of racial and cultural barriers. For information call 859-351-4453 (Jon) or email MACTky@aol.com, or visit www.mactky.com

Lyons Levi/Leather Club

The Lexington Lyons meet every other month at the Pride Center, the Aug meeting will be on the 9th. We also meet for brunch at Mia's on the last Sunday of each month at 1 pm. You are welcome to join us.



*The Unitarian Universalist Church
of Lexington*

*3564 Clays Mill Rd.
223-1448*

Summer Services 10 am

After Labor Day, Services at 9:15 and 11 am

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



**We actively support
"No on the Constitutional
Amendment."**

See page 20

www.uucl.org
www.uua.org



PRIDE CENTER NEWS and ACTIVITIES

389 Waller Ave. 859-253-3233 Mon-Sat we open at 10 am.
We stay open until 5 pm on most days, and on Wed until 7pm.



Tenemos una persona que puede hablar espanol en la oficina cada jueves desde las 3 pm hasta 5 pm

Discussion Group

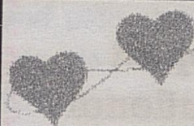
The discussion group meets every Wednesday night at 7 pm at the Pride Center and is open to all. We strive to make this a safe space where you can be yourself. If you are just coming out, or are new to the community, this is a great place to come meet some good people.

If, on the other hand, you have been out forever and would like to participate in some lively discussions, please join us on any Wednesday evening at the pride center. For more info contact Jane at lady-janey@yahoo.com

LESBIAN VIDEO NIGHT

Lesbian video night will be cancelled for August. Please make plans to join us at 8 p.m. Friday, September 10, for Lesbian Video Night. Everyone is invited to join us. We hope to see you then.

We are looking for volunteers to keep the Pride Center open. Do you have time to be here from 5 to 7 one weekday? Or some time on Saturday? Give Bill a call.253-



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Pride Center Library Highlights:

Athletes

By Jane Minder

Every four years we witness the spectacle of the Olympic Games. This month they return to their roots in Athens, Greece. So what better time to highlight GLBT athletes and their stories? Some of the names we know, like Navratilova and Louganis but you may be surprised by the stories of the gay baseball umpire or the lesbian bullfighter. We even have some novels and a couple of videos, just in case the Athens Games get a little dull. Check out the following works at the Pride Center Library and enjoy:

Biography:

Behind the Mask: My Double Life in Baseball

by Dave Pallone (GV 865.P32 B419)

Breaking the Surface by Greg Louganis

(GV 838.L68 A3)

Martina by Martina Navratilova (GV 994.N38)

Stardust Girl: A Memoir by Jan Welles

(CT 275.W38115 A3)

Fiction:

Front Runner (track) by Patricia Nell Warren

(F Warr F935)

Iced (women's hockey) by Judith Alguire

(F Algu I15)

Lady Lobo (women's basketball) by Kristen

Garrett (F Garr L157)

Water Dancer (swimming) by Jenifer Levin

(F Levi W325)

Videos:

Gay Games from A to Q (VIDEO GayGm)

Personal Best (VIDEO Pers)

These and many other materials can be checked out from the Pride Center Library. The Pride Center at 389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100 is open Monday-Saturday, 10-3, some weeknights till 7.

ROBBIE BARTLETT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

THE PHOENIX BALL ROOM

Entrance 110 Short Street

A Performance to benefit GLSO & The Pride Center

R & B

BLUES

JAZZ



9 P.M. \$15 Cover at the Door

Door Opens at 8 pm

Come Dance with Us

"Robbie Bartlett...blends elements of jazz, southern rock, and soul into an entertaining musical mosaic..."

Butchertown Pub, Music Fest

"Robbie Bartlett has one of the sexier voices around, a soulful shout with equal amounts gutter and glitter, and she uses it well..."

Jeffrey Lee Puckett, The Courier-Journal

Spiritual Resources

INTEGRITY

INTEGRITY a support group for GLBT Episcopalians and friends will hold their August meeting on Sunday August 8 at 4 pm in the Chapter Room of St. Michael's Episcopal Church on Bellefonte Drive. A special presentation by Dan Bernitt will be given at 7pm that evening in the Parish Hall. This one man performance called "Moments of Disconnect" chronicles the life of a gay high school student. A \$5. donation is requested for this performance. All are welcome to attend!

Society of Friends - Quakers

Do you seek a religious home, without creeds or required statements of belief? Are you looking for a meaningful spiritual community? Are you concerned for peace, justice and reconciliation? We invite you to join with us for silent worship where we do not have the complications of rituals or programs. We believe that in such periods of quiet waiting we can open to spiritual resources which will enable us to live more calmly, more compassionately and more creatively in this chaotic age. Sundays, 10:30a-11:30a, 649 Price Avenue, Phone 254-3319. Everyone is welcomed.

Unitarian Universalist Church

The Unitarian Universalists are proud to sponsor the GLSO News this month. Our UU Church community is made up of liberal individuals who hold a variety of beliefs. We do not have a dogma or creed that defines the beliefs of all members. We are held together by seven principles including a belief in the inherent worth and dignity of each human being and the right of each person to search for truth and meaning in their own way.

Many of us are social activists and are involved in numerous community organizations including GLSO and Fairness. There is information about LGBT marriage from the UUA, our national Association, on page 20. or visit www.uucl.org www.uua.org

St Mychal The Martyr

St Mychal has services each Sunday at 10:30, 1350 Eastland Dr. with Rev. Kenneth Waibel performing mass. St. Mychal is a member of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America, a national denomination that is gay supportive. We welcome all people regardless of the blessings or problems in their lives. The OCCA performs blessings of gay unions, welcomes divorced people, and ordains women to the orders of Deacon, Priest and Bishop.



Gay Marriage

**The state not recognizing it legally
doesn't make it any less holy.**

Call us and we will help you celebrate.

St. Mychal the Martyr Parish (859) 389-9418

"A Christian community celebrating diversity"

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of Lexington's
Dining Out
FOR LIFE



- Alfalfa Restaurant
- Asian Wind
- Bistro La Belle *(in Midway)*
- Buffalo & Dad's
- Café Jennifer
- Café on the Park *(dinner only)*
- Famous Dave's BBQ
- Glass Garden Restaurant
- Hanna's on Lime
- High on Rose
- Jonathan at Gratz Park
- Metropol
- Mia's
- Vigny's Café

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

That's the day when the restaurants listed above will generously donate 20% of the day's revenue to Moveable Feast of Lexington, the volunteer organization that prepares and delivers hot, nourishing meals **FREE** to those living with HIV/AIDS and Hospice of the Bluegrass clients in the Lexington Area.

Please join us on August 26. For more information and an updated restaurant list, visit our web site at www.feastlex.org

CLUB 141 PRESENTS

THE MISS CLUB 141 PAGEANT

*Featuring Miss Club 141,
The 1st Lady of Kentucky,*

Latoya Baeall



Thursday, September 23rd 9:30 pm

Club 141

141 West Vint St. Lexington, Ky.

Door Cover \$5

Entertainment by former Miss Club 141's:

Wendy Williams Nicole Diamond Taylor Bryce

Lady Devane Tracy Taylor

and special guest Rhonda K. Steele

**Judged Categories: Presentation, Talent, Evening
Gown, and On Stage Question Entry Fee \$30**

Winner Receives: \$125 night of contest, crown, and bookings at Club 141

Contact LaToya at 294 0901 or the Club 233-4262

GLSO Rainbow Sponsor
Imperial Court of Kentucky.....252-3014

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1757 Alexandria Dr., Gardenside

Unitarian Universalist Church223-1448

Seeking a Diverse Congregation

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Windy Knoll Farm299-7410

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Art Work by Bobbie Stout
Throughout August
Pride Gallery - Pride Center

AUGUST

To schedule events at the Pride
Center, call Bill at 253-3233.

www.webspawner.com/users/glsqxnet

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10 a UU Church Service 10:30 a Mass @ St. Mychal the Martyr 6 p Art Opening Reception Bobbie Stout - Pride Gallery Pride Center</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 pm Gay Straight Alliance (Call for place 266-5904) Pride Center open til 5pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7 pm Discussion Group 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA Pride Center Open until 7pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Pride Center open til 5pm Tenemos un persona que puede hablar espanol en la oficina coda Jueves a las 3 pm hosta 5 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pride Center open til 5pm 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Pride Center Open 10 - 5 3p Lavender Book Group, Joseph-Beth 8 pm Diversity in Gender - email for place</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10 am UU Church Service 10:30 a Mass @ St. Mychal the Martyr 4 p Integrity at St Michaels 6 pm Imperial Court PC</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pride Center open til 5pm 8p Lex Lyons AA Step Study (Call for place)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 pm Gay Straight Alliance (Call for place 266-5904) Pride Center open til 5pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7 pm Discussion Group 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA Pride Center Open until 7pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Pride Center open til 5pm 7:00 Buddhist Discssion Group - Pride Center</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pride Center open til 5pm 8 pm Lesbian Movie Night, Pride Center 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Pride Center Open 10-</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10 am UU Church Service 10:30 Sunday Mass, St. Mychal 2 pm 40+ Group- PC 7 pm MACT Pride Center GLSO News Deadline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pride Center open til 5pm GLSO Board Meeting 7:30 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 pm Gay Straight Alliance for youth (Call for place 266-5904) Pride Center open til 5pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) Pride Center Open until 7pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Pride Center open til 5pm 7p Front Runners PC organizational meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pride Center open til 5pm 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Pride Center Open 10-5pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:15 & 11 am UU Church Service 10:30 Sunday Mass, St. Mychal 6 pm Imperial Court PC</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8 pm AA Step Study 7pm GSA for Youth ages 15 - 20 call mary for place 266-5904</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7 pm Fairnes Steering Committee, P C Center Pride Center open til 5pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7 pm Discussion Group 8 pm Gay/Lesbian AA PC Open until 7 pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Pride Center open til 5pm 8 p Emily Hagihara CD Release Concert Ky Theater Tenemos un persona que puede hablar espanol en la oficina coda Jueves a las 3 pm hosta 5 pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pride Center open til 5pm 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Pride Center Open 10-5 pm</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10 am UU Church Service 10:30 Sunday Mass, St. Mychal the Martyr 1 pm Lyons Brunch at Mia's</p>	<p>30</p> <p>AA Step Study (Call for place) Pride Center open til 5pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7 pm Gay Straight Alliance for youth (Call for place 266-5904) Pride Center open til 5pm</p>	<p>More information about many of these events is in this newsletter. You can call or email the group to confirm the date and time, see the directory on back page. Pride Center may be abbreviated - PC. Call for Place may be abbreviated - Call</p>			

*There's No Place Like Home,
There's No Place Like Home,
There's No Place Like Home, ...Dorothy*

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Imperial Court News

The Imperial Court of Kentucky, fresh off a successful year, have already gotten things underway for the coming year of fundraising for local GLBTQ and HIV/AIDS charities.

At the Board of Director's annual transition meeting, the following officers were elected: Wayne Swope, President; Daryl Royse, Vice President; Chris Rhorer, Secretary; and John Ridener, Treasurer.

They join fellow board members Larry Stanley and Bart Steele, along with the current monarchs--Regent Emperor EV and Empress 23 Lady Marmalade.

"Meet the Monarchs," an informal social and show, was held July 23rd at Club 141, marking the first event of Reign 23.

On August 18th, the Court will host its Investitures ceremony and show, in which members of the court will be presented with

honorary and perpetual titles. Doors open at 8:30 p.m., with the show and ceremony scheduled to start at 9:30 p.m. Cover is \$5.00, with proceeds to benefit the charities of Reign 23.

The Imperial Court of Kentucky is a 501(c)3 philanthropic organization whose mission is to raise money for organizations serving the homophile community in Kentucky. Recent recipients of the Court's financial assistance include AIDS Volunteers, Inc., Kentucky Fairness Alliance, KFA's Bluegrass and Gray Dove Chapters, GLSO and the Leather Archives and Museum.

For further information about the Court, contact Board President Wayne Swope or any board member. Wayne can be reached via email at NicoleDiamond1@aol.com.

See you at Investitures →



The Imperial Court of
Kentucky invites you to...

Come Get CROWNED!

Investitures for Reign 23

Wednesday

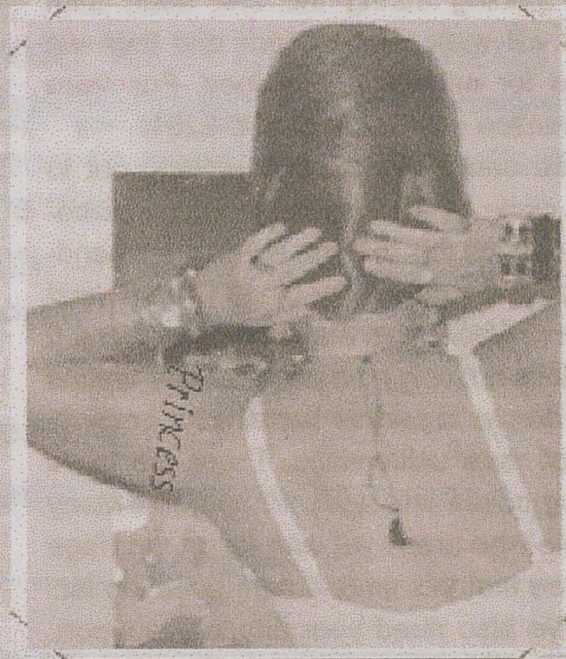
August 18th

Club 141

Doors @ 8:30 p.m.

Show @ 9:30 p.m.

\$5 Cover



*Proceeds to benefit the charities of
Reign 23*

FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN "NO ON THE AMENDMENT"

We need your involvement in this campaign to defeat the Constitutional Amendment prohibiting gay marriage. There are several suggestions throughout pages 16,18,19,20.

We would love for you to join us for one of our door-to-door voter ID walks that are happening every couple of weeks. In the walks we have done so far, the people we talk with have been receptive (or at least polite). This process has worked well in other sections of the country. We will be canvassing on Sat. July 31, Sun, Aug 1st, Sat. Aug 21 & Sun. Aug 22

Meet at the KFA office, 110 N. Upper Street, 10 am on either Saturday, 3:30 pm on either Sunday. Netta Brooks will provide training during the first hour, then pairs will walk door to door and then we return for debriefing and food. For more information call Netta at 396-5251.

You can also help by reaching out to your circle of friends, neighbors, and co-workers and talk to them about the amendment. (see example by Linda Curd in next column) **Make sure they understand that it prohibits not only marriage, but civil unions and domestic partner benefits for employees of state universities.** There are more talking points on pages 19 and 20. Many people who aren't yet with us on marriage will see that this amendment goes too far.

We also need your financial support. Whatever amount you can contribute to the campaign, from \$5 to \$500, will help tremendously. Ask friends or family members to consider contributing. Checks can be sent to this address:

**NO on the Amendment
P.O. Box 2904
Louisville, KY 40201-2904**

Letter To My Cousin By Linda Curd

I have decided to do something to encourage people to vote no on the marriage amendment in November. I'm reaching out to family, friends, and others by writing honest, kind and personal letters. This is a letter I sent to my cousin Jack.

Dear Jack,

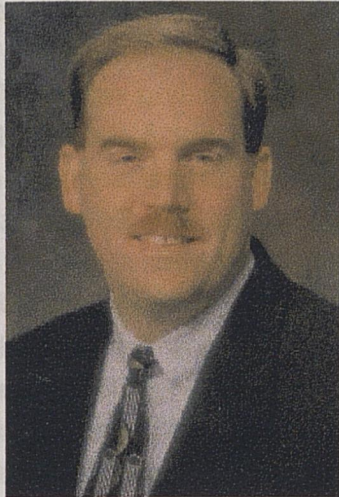
I heard what you said yesterday as you got off the elevator in the parking lot of the state capitol. If I heard you correctly, you looked at the Fairness stickers on our shirts and said "I'm for fairness...the fair thing would be to let the people vote on it" referring to HB245 amending our state constitution to ban same sex marriages.

I made eye contact with you in the elevator and I don't know if you realized who I was or not. I'm sorry that I didn't speak to you; I was feeling so emotional over what I had observed in the legislative session that I was afraid I might say something unkind or unloving if I had opened my mouth at that moment.

If this issue does go to the public to vote on in November and it passes by an overwhelming majority or if it passes by even a slight majority, that doesn't necessarily mean that it is right or fair. To paraphrase a comment one of the legislators made yesterday...If the majority of our constituents want to drive us off a cliff, are we going to allow them to vote on it?

For a long time African-American people were, and are still at times denied rights, as are many other minorities in our society but it isn't definitely right or fair just because that is what the majority thinks or believes or even because that is how one, or many, are interpreting the Holy Bible.

I think I know where you stand on these issues based on your comment in the elevator that day and based on the editorial that you wrote to ...continued on page 18



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GLSO needs your financial support to maintain the Pride Center and to support our other projects that include:

Gay Straight Alliance for Youth

Pride Month Activities

Discussion Group

Pride Library

ActOut

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Mail to GLSO News PO Box 1172 Lexington, KY 40588

the Herald-Leader this past November, but I don't want to make assumptions about you that are not correct.

The basis of this letter is to let you know where I stand. I don't have the same values & beliefs as the fundamentalist Christians, one of whom was literally sticking his bible in my face yesterday as I sat in the balcony watching the legislature fight back and forth. But, just because my values and beliefs aren't the same as these folks, I don't believe it would be right to pass any kind of laws or amend the constitution in any way that would take away their human rights because they deserve those rights as much as me or any other human being.

Where is the separation of church & state? I don't see it. I see the ultimate issue of all of this as being people wanting to instill their religious beliefs on to others. People can stand behind their bibles and morals and argue these issues all they want but as I see it, this is discrimination & hate no matter how you slice it. Atheists are not denied rights because they are atheists and gay people should not be denied rights because they are gay.

On a more personal note, my significant other is a woman. Her name is Laura and you met her that day when you stopped by my house on Springhurst Drive to campaign. When you asked that day at my house, if I would go with you and my brother to help you walk door-to-door on your campaign efforts, it was dishonest of me to tell you that I would think about it; I was just not ready to be so open and honest with you about my sexuality and my political beliefs.

Laura and I have been together now for almost 9 years and lived together in a committed relationship for 7 years. Several weeks ago, on March 2nd, Laura's father passed away suddenly from a heart attack

and she was in a state of shock over this. I took off 4 days of work to travel with her to Colorado for her dad's funeral and all that goes along with that - visiting with her family and being there for her & them. I held her brother during the funeral service as he sobbed and when we left Colorado, he thanked me for being there.

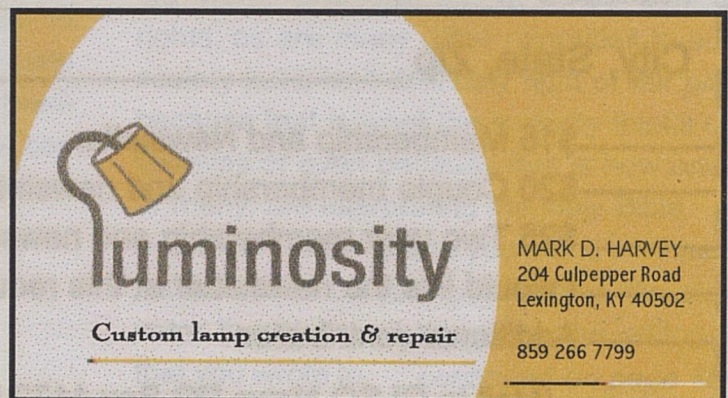
I was denied funeral leave at work for this, except for a 1/2 day that would be granted to me for attending the funeral of any acquaintance in my life. I was required to take the other 3 1/2 days as vacation leave which accounts for 35% of my annual vacation leave. If Laura and I were married, as we would be if we were allowed, then all 4 days would have been considered funeral leave. It was the right & loving thing to do - being there for Laura and her family, and I have no regrets about that. I consider myself to be a very loving, spiritual person of faith who has rights just like any other human being.

Although I don't see you very often or spend time with you, I do care about you and love you, but I don't think we necessarily agree on some of these issues please correct me if I'm wrong. I Hope all is well with you and your family.

Sincerely, Linda

More on Marriage page 19

Room For Rent: in my home in Mt Sterling, KY. Please call Ray 859-398-0231



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Same Sex Marriage Let's Give Them Something Something to Talk About

by Mary Crone

As I hope everyone reading this knows, this November voters in Kentucky will be asked to vote on a state Constitutional Amendment outlawing marriage between two people of the same gender. This vote is part of a national struggle over the meaning and purpose of matrimony. We can all help to defeat this amendment by having discussions with people we know about what this particular amendment might do such as take away employers right to offer some domestic partner benefits.

No matter how this particular vote turns out, the national struggle will continue. Through discussions we have with neighbors and co-workers, we can make points that will slowly move many people to understand our point of view. I see this as a long term project, one that we will eventually win. Each of us can move other people forward into understanding and accepting that GLBT people deserve the same civil rights as other Americans.

As we talk to people about civil marriage or any other GLBT issue, it helps tremendously if we can talk about our personal reality. For example, "my partner of ten years and I bought a house together and we want to be sure we can inherit from each other, marriage would make that legally secure." Or "We are raising children together and we want the legal right and responsibility to share in the decisions about their lives. (medical, school, etc.)"

Most people are not aware of the many privileges bestowed on married couples. We deserve both the privileges and the obligations. Some of these are:

Medical Decisions on Behalf of Partner
Visitation of Partner in Hospital
Family Medical Leave (to care for Partner)
Automatic Inheritance, no property tax
Assumption of Spouse's Pension
Insuring partner on companies insurance plan.
Joint Parenting (School Records, Insurance Coverage, decision making, etc)
Joint Adoption and Foster Care
Bereavement Leave
Burial Determination
Child Custody
Divorce Protections
Domestic Violence Protection
Tax Advantages and Responsibilities

Discussions can turn into arguments. There are some people that don't even want to hear what we have to say. Sometimes it's best to agree to disagree and move on. Others times you may realize that other people are listening who will benefit from your comments especially if you remain calm.

Many people ask questions out of ignorance and curiosity, not realizing that their questions may sound offensive. It is best to be non-confrontational, and to try to answer the question in a way that they can understand. You can also affirm the concern the question implies.

For example "Yes, I have gay friends raising children and they are also concerned about their children's safety and health. Some children of gay parents are harassed at school. How much should a parent get involved in that? We do know that most children that have been raised in our families are straight, love their parents, and are doing just fine."

See the next page for more reflections on the marriage debate. We welcome readers to share your experiences, letters and conversations in this newsletter so we can build on your success. send to marycrone@aol.com. Next month: some thoughts on "traditional marriage."

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington: GLSO Sponsor

UU's Proclaim Marriage a Civil Right

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has repeatedly taken stands in support of GLBT Rights. In June, the UUA passed a resolution calling for action in opposition to the Federal Marriage Amendment. This resolution proclaims that **civil marriage is a civil right.**

When the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts ruled that same-sex and opposite-sex couples must be given equal civil marriage rights on May 17, 2004, half of the plaintiffs in that case were Unitarian Universalists. There is information about the right to marry including sample letters and talking points on www.uua.org.

Rev. Keith Kron, the director of the UUA Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns, and a Lexington native, has posted several lists of talking points on the issue of Same Sex Marriage. (www.uua.org/programs/ministry/talking_points.html) One point he makes that I see in many lists, is for us to emphasize that the Massachusetts decision was about civil marriage, not religious marriage. Religious institutions are not and will not be required to recognize marriages or perform marriage ceremonies.

Many people do not realize that GLBT people already have access to Holy union ceremonies or other rituals within a number of denominations. Unitarian Universalist Churches, some Episcopal Churches, some Jewish Synagogues, the Orthodox Catholic Church, and others perform rituals of commitment for us. These rituals are wonderful but they do not provide the many legal protections that straight couples enjoy. Civil marriage is important because it comes along with civil benefits and obligations that all citizens should have access to.

UUCL: a Welcoming Congregation

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington is a Welcoming Congregation, we publicly and successfully welcome bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people to our church. More specifically we strive to:

Include and address the needs of GLBT persons at every level of congregational life—in worship, in religious education, in social occasions, and in rites of passage—welcoming not only their presence, but the gifts and particularities of their lives as well.

Celebrates this diversity by having inclusive language and content in worship. Affirm and celebrate GLBT issues and history during the church year.

Offers ministerial support for union and memorial services for GLBT persons.

Welcome same-sex couples, recognize their committed relationships, and equally affirm displays of caring and affections without regard to sexual orientation.

Include an affirmation and nondiscrimination clause in our by-laws and other official documents affecting all dimensions of congregational life, including membership, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals.

Engages in outreach into the b/g/l/t community in its advertising and by actively supporting GLBT affirmative groups.

Speak out when the rights of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people are at stake. Attend to legislative developments and works to promote justice, freedom, and equality in the larger society.

Nurture ongoing dialogue between bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender, and heterosexual persons and to create deeper trust and sharing.

In accordance with this final goal, the UUCL will begin Welcoming Congregation workshops this fall.

Where Are You Growing Next?

www.gentleadventure.net

More than a vacation, Gentle Adventure Retreats is an innovative approach to travel created to rejuvenate your body and your soul. We blend the best of a variety of approaches -- health retreat, arts and culture tour, adventure travel - all in one package, with professional staff, at an extremely reasonable price.

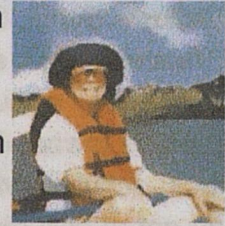
An oasis of quiet and solitude, Pawleys Island is the magnificent backdrop for our September retreat. The Osprey, our beach home for six nights, is poised between the Atlantic Ocean and a serene salt water estuary. Ocean swimming will be right out our front door and kayaks will be available in the estuary.

We offer workshops in movement, creative expression, meditation and reflection practices, journal writing and ways to identify and connect to your sources of joy. We want you to go home from your retreat with a variety of ideas and techniques to draw on for years to come. Whatever your personal goals are, we offer specific techniques to will help you transform your life.

We will tour Brookgreen Gardens, where over 700 pieces of sculpture are set among lovely gardens and pools. We will

Gentle Adventure Retreats Pawley's Island, S. Carolina September 11 - 17

Join with other women in a lovely ocean front home and enjoy great food, kayaking, beach walks, focused journal writing, meditation, a variety of self-exploration workshops, ocean swimming, and Gullah storytelling and crafts.



Where are you Growing Next?

Meriah Kruse 895 276-4962

Mary Crone 859 266-5904

Discount for GLSO members

also visit the Ooman Gullah Store, learn some of the history of the Gullah people, and participate in a craft project.

You will have free time every day to explore on your own, or to do absolutely nothing! Three delicious and healthy meals a day, much laughter, rejuvenation and a professional massage -- what could be better! Visit the Web site for more information or call Meriah or Mary today. (numbers in ad above.) **Discounts for members of GLSO.**

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**Venceremos
Showing of film "Gay Cuba"**

On Saturday, July 31st, from 7-11 p.m. Gallerie Soleil, 363 W. Short St, will host "Venceremos," a fundraising event to raise awareness about the Bush administration's policies toward Cuba and to rally support for local activists who traveled to the island as an act of civil disobedience. There will be a showing of the documentary 'Gay Cuba' by filmmaker Sonja de Vries. Sonja will be present to talk about her film.

The evening will also incorporate poetry and performance and visual art in opposition to the Bush administration's policies toward Cuba. Local artists will include Ed Franklin, Sara Kokernot, Greg Doggett, Emily Hagihara, and many others. A suggested donation of \$10 is asked but no one will be turned away.

Leah Rae and Greg King made this trip as part of the Venceremos Brigade's "Travel Challenge." The Brigade was composed of 80 U.S. citizens who traveled to Cuba despite the administration's travel ban. While there, they helped rebuild a school and learned about the Cuban people and their culture. Upon their return to the United States, they marched visibly and defiantly across the American-Canadian border as a direct action in opposition to the travel ban.

Pink Pages 2004 -2005

Layout has begun.

**You may receive a phone call if
we haven't heard from you.**

Or you can call us.

We still have room for your ad.

Pride Center 253-3233

**Pride Art Gallery: Bobbi Stout
August 1 - August 31**

Bobbi Stout will have her art work on display at the Pride Center during the month of August. See page 2 for more information.

Bobbie grew up in a small town in Illinois and Indiana and began her art career with extensive doodling in her classes. Though she did go on to earn a masters degree in psychology at Ball State University, she has received little formal art training. She has worked in the fields of child psychology and addictions, and has also worked as a backstage technician, a log cabin builder, a food buyer, and an activist aide in a nursing home.

Human rights, child welfare, and peace and justice concerns are key areas of focus in her life and she has volunteered extensively. She helped to coordinate a prisoner's art show with the Lexington Art League and volunteered with AVOL at three HIV-AIDS health fairs at the Federal Correctional Institute in Lexington when it was a woman's facility.

The artist says of her work: "The art that I do seems to come from some part of my unconscious mind, as I seldom plan a piece and never know what the end result will be. When I work on a project I lose all sense of time passing. Much of my art is healing and when I look at a completed piece I can get an idea of what was going on inside my head while I was doing it. Often I learn a lot about my work from what other people see in it."

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GLSO Pride Center
389 Waller Ave.**

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GLSO Directory

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GLSO Pride Center (Bill)253-3233
GLSO Board (Thomas)225-0094
GLSO Discussion Group (Bill)253-3233
GLSO News (Mary)266-5904
 Subscriptions (Bill)253-3233
GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary)266-5904
Youth Gay Straight Alliance (Mary) ..266-5904
GLSO on Linelexingtonglso@yahoo.com
 www.webspawner.com/users/glsoqxnet
Pride Gallery (Thomas).....225-0094

Student Groups

EKU(Sue)ekusue@aol.com
UK Lavender Societyuklavender@yahoo.com
Morehead State University (Ned) 606-783-2294
UK Lambdainfo@uklambda.com
Berea College ACE League (Ryan)..859-985-3633
Centre College (BGLAD-Mykol)... .238-5332

Anonymous HIV Testing

Jessamine County885-4149
Lexington-Fayette County288-2437
Madison County859-723-7312
Woodford County873-4541
U.K. Adolescent Medicine323-5643

HIV/AIDS Info/Services

AIDS Volunteers, Inc225-3000
Lexington Health Department (Julie) ...288-2362
HIV/AIDS Legal Project502-584-1254
HIV Support (Somerset) ..679-7478 or 678-5814
Cumberland Region (SEKY-Pat) ..606-864-3776
 or 888-425-7282
Barren River Region800-559-4448
Louisville Region (Geri)502-574-0161
Northern Kentucky Region859-341-4264
Purchase Region800-522-8289
Moveable Feast252-2867

Community

Alcoholics Anonymous (Brian)619-5294
Office276-2917
AL-Anon (Office)277-1877
Bluegrass Belles502-346-5298
C.O.L.T.S. (Morris)225-9169
Bluegrass Fairness859-806-4114
Council for Peace and Justice
 (Richard)277-6101
Fairness of Louisville502-893-0788
First Link (was Ask-U's)313-5465
International Gay Bowling (Steve) ..276-3058
Imperial Court of KY859 269-7756
 imperialcourtkentucky@yahoo.com

KY Leather Productions (Larry)253-0185
Kyians For The Commonwealth254-3585
 jlynjenks@msn.com
Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club
 (Paul)312-9346
Lexington Dress & Gender Alliance ..433-8388
Lexington Human Rights Commission 252-4931
Lexington Men's Chorus (Kenneth) ..255-1974
Louisville Youth Group502-894-9787
Men of all Colors Together (Jon).....351-4453
 mactky@aol.com
Moonshine Bears of KY. (Jim) ..859 299-2047
 www.mooshinebears.com
People for Unity and Fairness803-1130
 CUFCKT@aol.com
Pride Alliance of Central KY(Gary) 859-236-4547
 (Shane)859-854-0596
 Pridealliance@yahoo.com
PFLAG (Ed)859 200 9512
Pegasus Travel253-1644
Rainbow Bowling League (Steve) ...276-3058
Sistersound (Patti)806-0243
 paowens@excite.com
Sistahs in the Life (Joan)252-2657
24 hr. Crisis Line1-800-928-8000
24 hr. Teen Crisis Line1-800-999-9999

Religious Groups

Dignity (Don)299-4458
Interweave (Unitarian-Mary)266-5904
Integrity (Episcopal-Rev. Stone)277-7511
Lexington Friends Meeting (Quakers)..254-3319
MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev.Cathy) ..888-340-6223
MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee)502-587-6225
MCC-Paducah (Rev. Lillian)270-443-3339
Norse Pagan Community (Rev. Pat) ...268-1640
KY Pagan Forum ...http://go.to/kypaganforum/
RainbowWind (Pagan-Sarah)273-2455
Soulforce (Jamie).....859-230-5625
 www.SoulforceLexington.org
St. Augustine's Chapel(Episcopal) ...254-3726
St. Mychal (Independant Catholic)
 (Rev. Ken)389-9418
Open Door (Christian-Rev. Pam) ...396-7636
Wiccan/Pagan Group.....(Iggie) 492-9904

NEWS DEADLINES

Articles and Ads: Aug. 15

Put Newsletter in subject line

marycrone@aol.com

lexingtonglso@yahoo.com