

Lexington Center

Lin



Connecting the Bluegrass LGBT community



Lexington 2014

AIDS Walk

May 2014, Vol. 36 No. 5

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Cover photo by Brian
Hawkins, 2014 AIDS
Walk in Lexington, KY.
Sunday, April 13

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GLSO

GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

Editor-in-Chief

Marc K. Blevins

Photographer

Brian Hawkins

Calendar Coordinator

Chad Hundley

Circulation

GLSO Board, Chad Hundley, Kay Garner

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

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Marc Blevins, At Large

Donovan Jefferson, At Large

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GLSO Staff

Chad Hundley, Office Manager

GLSO Pride Center

389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100, Lexington, KY 40504

859.253.3233, www.glso.org

Office hours are:

Tuesday-Friday 1pm-5pm, Sat 10am -12pm

That's What I'm Talkin' About



By Helena Handbasket

We have all heard the saying that April showers bring May flowers. I was a kid the first time I heard that and it always made me wonder “wow, that must be a lot of rain to bring a big old boat to Kentucky.” Of course, it happened to Noah when it rained for 40 days and nights so I guess it can happen but how can a boat that old still be working? Of course, it wasn't long after that I realized the difference between May flowers and the Mayflower.

Anyway, don't you just love flowers? I love flowers of all types. We love them because of the way they look, the way they smell, and the way that people respond when they see or smell a flower. If only we all could be like a flower and offer something of beauty to everyone that we encounter.

Did you ever wonder how some of the flowers got their

names? A rose by any other name would still smell as sweet. Why was that particular flower named “rose”? One of my favorite flowers is the Brugmansia, with a slang name of angel trumpet. The flower has great fortune to be named after such a heavenly idea as the angel's trumpet. Although, if you smell an angel trumpet flower, you will see why someone would name it something with a heavenly reference. The fragrance tops that of the star gazer lilies, another of my favorites. Speaking of lilies, there are many varieties of lilies. The peach lily, day lily, tiger lily, lily of the valley. Each beautiful in their own right.

I also love it when people or things are named after flowers. Do you ever wonder why someone would choose a particular flower to name someone or something? Things like Daisy Dukes.

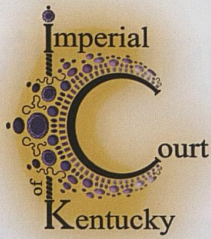
Aren't daisies lucky to be associated with something every gay man of a certain age has owned, worn, or admired at some point in his life, whether he wants to admit it or not? What about the character Hyacinth on the British comedy “Keeping Up Appearances”? Don't we just love her? Even animation has followed suit, like favorites Petunia Pig (Porky's lady friend) or Jasmine, the princess in Aladdin.

Flowers aren't always named after something nice but keep the name because they usually resemble something in appearance. One example would be flowers such as the spider flower. I do hate spiders, although they seem to like to live in flower gardens. As much as I dislike spiders, I hate bees even more, although their existence is necessary for pollination. Now that I think of it, that is a great drag name...

Polly Nation. She would only wear floral fabrics and always have a flower adornment in her hair.

My favorite springtime flowers would have to be the daffodils and tulips. I love to cut them and bring their beauty into the house to be enjoyed. I have to admit that few things bring me as much joy as tulips on my organ. A big vase of tulips on the organ in our home just makes me scream with delight.

So, my challenge to you all, be the flower in the garden today. Or every day. No matter where you are planted, whether it is at your job, or family gatherings, or charity functions, be the flower and not the weed. I will certainly give this a shot! If you walk up and sniff me, though, I might have to slap your face... depending on where you sniff! Until next month.



Imperial Court News

By J. D. Vaughn

Greetings from the Imperial Court of Kentucky. Reign 32 is winding up the eleventh month of fundraising and preparations are underway for Coronation 33. This year, the Reigning Monarchs, His Most Imperial Majesty Emperor 32 Patrick Thompson and Her Most Imperial Majesty Regent Empress 32 J.D. Vaughn, chose "A Night of Elegance – Southern Showgirls and Southern Gentleman" as the theme.

Coronation 33 weekend events will kick off at 9pm on Friday, May 30 at Crossings Lexington (\$5 cover) with the In-Town Show, showcasing local entertainers.

The Out-of-Town Show will be held at 8:30PM on May 31 at the Downtown Hilton Hotel in the Magnolia Room with a \$10 cover. This show will feature out of town guests.

The 33rd annual Coronation Ball event will be held on June

1 in the Grand Ballroom at the Downtown Hilton Hotel. The event will feature the yearly elections. Tenured members of the Imperial Court of Kentucky may vote. Please see any board member or the Reigning Monarchs to retain membership in the Imperial Court of Kentucky or to purchase a ticket to any of the Coronation events.

The Coronation Ball will feature amazing performances from Reign 32 members, special command performances of out of town guests, and production numbers by both the Gilded Cage Divas of the Bar Complex and the Rhythm Showcast of Pulse Nightlife. The event culminates in the formal crowning ceremony of the new monarchs.

The weekend wraps up with a Victory Brunch where the Reign 32 Monarchs present final awards and the new Monarchs for Reign 33 start their reign. The event will be

held at 11am on Monday at the Downtown Hilton Hotel.

This year, the Imperial Court of Kentucky has one monarchical candidate for each race. Tim Logsdon is candidate for Emperor 33 and Christina Puse (Chris Hocker) is candidate for Empress 33.

Candidate Tim Logsdon said about his campaign: "I envision and reflect on a quote from Harvey Milk, 'All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment to which to achieve their full potential.' As candidate for the Imperial Court of Kentucky's Emperor XXXIII, I plan on using every possible opportunity to promote his belief through communication and outreach. I cannot do this alone. As it has been said, 'It takes a Village.' Though personal and community support, the bringing together of this village will continue to be my main focus."

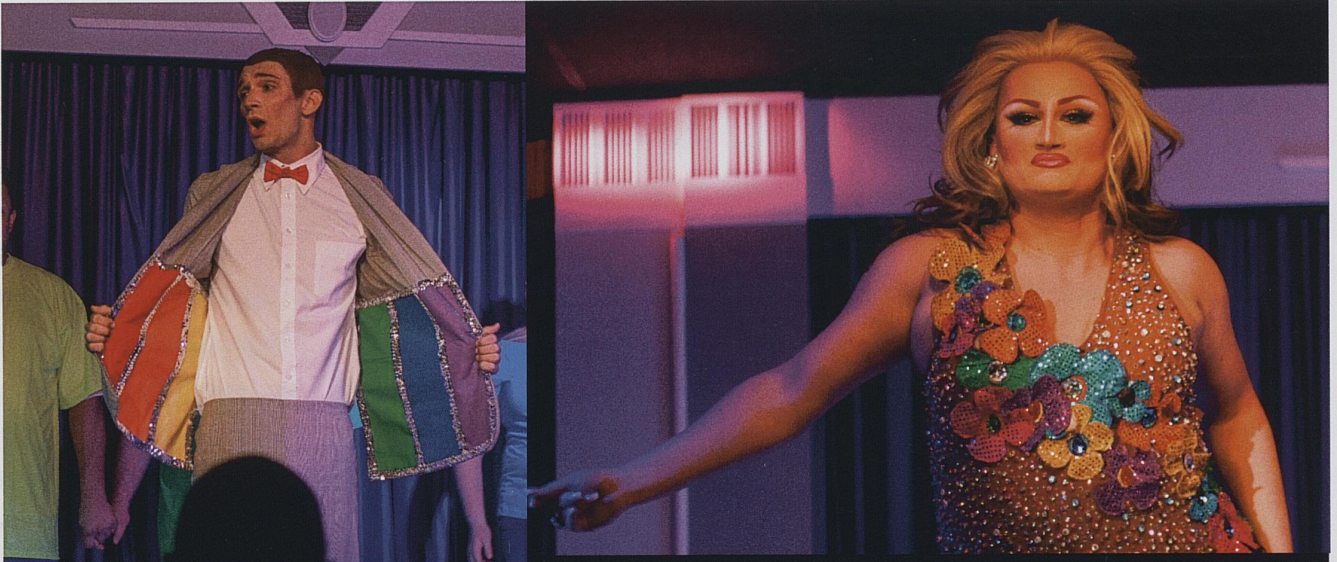
Candidate Tim has Meet & Greet events scheduled at 6-8pm on Friday, May 9 at Crossings Lexington and 6-9pm on Sunday, May 11 at Pulse Nightlife. He also has a Candidate Show scheduled at 9:30 pm for Friday, May 16 at Crossings Lexington.

Christina Puse said: "I would like the opportunity to continue on the traditions and fundraising of the Imperial court of Kentucky with new ways of reaching out to our community." She has Meet & Greet events scheduled at 6-8pm on Tuesday, May 6 at Crossings Lexington and 6-8pm on Wednesday, May 14 at Pulse Nightlife. She also has a Candidate Show scheduled at 9:30 pm for Sunday, May 18 at Crossings Lexington.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to celebrate with the Imperial Court of Kentucky and Reign 32 as they finalize their fundraising and pass the torch on to the new monarchs!

Mr & Miss Lexington Pride

By Brian Hawkins





SisterSound, the Lexington Women's Chorus, Presents

Choosing Hope, Part 2

Saturday, May 17, 2014, 7pm

*St. Michael's Episcopal Church
2025 Bellefonte Drive*

Tickets are \$10/\$5 (age 5 and under), available from SisterSound members or at the door

Gay Cheeseburgers in Kansas: Faith, Freedom, and a Law About Neither

By Rev. Erin Wathen

So, I'm new here. And I realize that Kansas has JUST BARELY moved past the Prohibition. But I am baffled and perplexed by this new legislation, making it totally legal and legit to refuse services to same sex couples.

Granted, this is just one more way Americans have managed to slap a 'religious freedom' sticker on run-of-the-mill discrimination. But as the culture at large makes steps toward LGBT equality, smaller interest groups push back in last, grasping efforts to marginalize and condemn.

This is not surprising. What is deeply disturbing is the framing of this law as 'religious freedom,' when in fact, it has nothing to do with religion. Or freedom.

I heard this story on NPR yesterday about a man in Massachussettes who thought he'd landed his dream job as a school cafeteria manager. But then, in the last round of interviews, the administrators realized he was gay, and renegeed the job

offer. When interviewed by the media he said "I mean, I'm not going to make gay muffins...gay cheeseburgers. What are you afraid of?"

Yes, religious groups have a right to ban certain practices and teachings within their own institutions. I don't get it, and I don't agree with it, but you don't have to hire a gay priest if you believe the Bible condemns homosexuality. You don't have to marry a same sex couple if you believe scripture instructs against it. And—oh, and this is a blog post for a WHOLE nother day—you do not have to hire, or even consider a female candidate for a leadership role, if the Lord has revealed to you the truth that women are to remain silent in churches. (Because Jesus. I guess).

Like I said, I don't like it, and I'll never understand it. But I can at least concede that religious freedom grants this sort of government sanctioned exclusivism. Within the walls of a private institution.

But if you take the gay man out of the worship service, and out of the class room, and you place him in the cafeteria—does religious freedom extend that far? Can the church say 'we think you're a sinner, so you can't serve our children lunch?'

Some folks in Massachussettes say no. We'll see.

Meanwhile, take that gay man out of the worship venue, out of the Christian classroom, and out of the faith-based facility altogether. Take him to a totally secular, privately owned business. Say, a restaurant.

In Kansas.

And here's how this goes down—You and your family are out enjoying a relaxing dinner. Nobody has to shop, cook, OR clean up tonight, so yay! It's a weeknight, so the place is uncrowded and pretty quiet (except for your children, of course). Two women walk in, with a child in tow, about the same age as your own. These women

look as though they *might* be together. The presence of the kid kind of tears it. It gives them a decidedly family-unit appearance. They ask for a table for 3. The hostess looks uncomfortable. Says she needs to go get the manager/owner.

As your entrees arrive at the table, the manager hurries by. He goes to the family (at least, we all assume they're a family) standing at the door. "I'm sorry," he says, a little more loudly than necessary. "We don't serve you people here. You'll have to leave."

Some of your fellow diners nod in smug approval. More than a few look uncomfortable. The rest of you—well, you're not so hungry any more.

I could write a novella about what happens next. Is there an uprising from a vocal minority who insist this family be served or the rest of you will leave? Do you go open your own restaurant and serve gay cheeseburgers? I don't know.

It might be a great story. But the more important question is: is this the world we want to live in?

And perhaps even more importantly: is this restaurant owner really within the bounds of 'religious freedom' as outlined in the constitution? I mean, he's nowhere near his church. The encroaching lesbians are not threatening him with bodily injury if he wants to post pictures of Jesus or the ten commandments in his place of business.

Say what you will about Dan Cathy and the whole Chic-fil-asco, but they never refuse service to anyone.

They have not established separate drinking fountains.

And technically, I guess, neither has Kansas. But you've got to wonder... what's next?

Because, oh, and this... The Kanss-ackward (Kansas + ass + backward) interpretation of religious freedom here does not just extend to small business owners. No, this bill extends the 'right to refuse services' to state employees. Where does that parameter end?

Can a public school teacher refuse to teach the child of a same sex couple?

Can a fire fighter or a police officer walk away from a burning home if gay people live there?

The thing is, we don't know. This is new, so we don't know what the broader impact on our communities will be. But I do know this—the prospects are frightening, and nothing about it is biblical, Christlike, or remotely related to the life of faith.

I feel like a broken record sometimes, but apparently it bears repeating that the constitution is meant to serve all the people, and not a privileged few. Freedom of religion emerged from a desire to escape the tyranny of government-sanctioned belief and practice. As a matter of fact: that particular article of governance exists SO THAT whomever is in power at the moment cannot subject the minority to his (yes, usually his) particular form of belief or practice. The First Amendment is meant to protect faith from governance. Attempting to write your faith into law, then, abuses the spirit of the constitution, creating the very tension it was meant to destroy.

I hate to see the constitution misused in this way. But of far greater concern to me is how the public understanding of 'faith' has come to bear such toxic implications for humanity. As if it were somehow a basic right of the believer to shape the world into their own narrow image of God.

Whatever you believe about same sex marriage, LGBT presence in church leadership, or biblical teachings on homosexuality, people of faith need to holler back right about now and say that freedom of religion does not extend to the arbitrary mistreatment of others. Even IF you believe that homosexual behavior is fundamentally sinful, you should rail against the notion that the Christian narrative can be used in such a harmful way.

Because here's the truth: faith is the substance of things hoped for. Faith is the conviction of things unseen. Faith is NOT the word for word writ of doctrine, sanctified by the law of the land. Faith is not the promise that you will always be comfortable, or that you will be always allowed to surround

yourself with like-brained people.

To practice any religion is to believe in a power higher than one's self; to trust in a Creative force, alive and at work in the world. Using that force for our own cruel manipulations of the social order is—I'm going to just say it—an abomination.

Even moreso than gay cheeseburgers.

I sometimes doubt the power of petition to affect real social change... However, if you are as good and pissed off about this as I hope you are, you can at least send this little note to...wherever these things go. Put your name on a big fat NO. Kansas has smart people. AND nice people. We should all get together sometime. Note: you do not have to be a Kansan to sign this!

The Rev. Erin Wathen, a London, Ky. native and a former Lexington pastor, is senior pastor at Saint Andrew Christian Church in Olathe, Kan. You can read more on her blog at:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/irreverin/>.

You are cordially invited to attend

Coronation 33

May 30 through June 2, 2014.

Her Most Imperial Majesty Regent Empress 32 J.D. Vaughn

His Most Imperial Majesty Emperor 32 Patrick Thompson



www.imperialcourtkentucky.com

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 30
In-Town Show – Crossings
9:00 p.m. – \$5 Donation

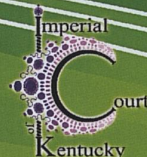
SATURDAY, MAY 31
Out-of-Town Show
Magnolia Rm., Hilton Hotel
8:30 p.m. – \$10 Donation

SUNDAY, JUNE 1
Cocktail Reception – 5:00 p.m.
Doors Open – 5:30 p.m.
Voting Begins – 5:30 p.m.
Opening Production – 6:00 p.m.
\$25 Donation (ICK members)
Lexington Downtown Hilton
Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor

MONDAY, JUNE 2
Victory Brunch
Lexington Downtown Hilton
11:00 a.m. – \$40 Donation

Passport to all events
\$75 Donation
(ICK members)

Hospitality following
Coronation 33



Empathy Found Here

By Ginger Moore-Minder

Empathy – the ability to mutually experience the thoughts, emotions and direct experience of others.

Many years ago a young man in our community wanted to give back. He saw a need for support for LGBT persons during the holidays. He knew that many of his peers suffered during this season because they had been rejected by their families or lived in the sort of depression that the holidays only accentuated. His response was to start a weekly discussion group. Eighteen years later his vision of a time and place where people could come to be accepted and heard lives on in the Wednesday Night Discussion Group.

Over these years many stories have been told. We've heard enumerable tales of heartache and loss. "I feel all alone, like I'm the only gay person in the world" is a common refrain. We see students seeking

an accepting Lexington "family" for support when they are so far away from home. In the group they find comfort, they find that they are not alone, and sometimes, they find "family".

For some it is just "To be around people like me. So I can be myself." Some come seeking a sense of belonging to something bigger than the sheltered little world they have created for themselves. Many people already secure in their lives move here from larger communities and experience a level of "culture shock"; they come to group seeking information on how to connect with the LGBT community in their new home. The group can help them find connections.

Protected by confidentiality we see people leaving

marriages who find themselves split between two worlds as they try to find themselves. There are the adult children of parents who come out late in life, who only seek to understand. And, many times there are the newly coming out who also only seek to understand...themselves. In the group they see others who have been where they are and have found their way to understanding.

So many tell stories of rejection; by family and friends, by church and community, and sometimes even by themselves. We have learned over the years that self-acceptance is key, but that it can be very hard to attain; especially when there is no one telling you, "You're okay." Well, when you walk into group the first thing you

are told is that "We accept you just as you are. We are not here to change you."

It's not always sad. Some come to learn. What does it mean to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered? What does it mean to be gay in Kentucky? How is my life going to be changed? How am I going to change? How do I be happy and secure? They find the answers in the stories that others share.

Some just come to be heard because in their daily life they are forced into silence; unable to share even the simplest pleasures in their life with the straight world around them; unable to speak up about the issues that affect them personally and professionally. In group they talk about their lives, from the most mundane to the downright spectacular, and they are heard.

For most the hardest part of group is walking through the doors of the Pride Center for the first time. Who will be on the other side of the door? Will they like me? Will they think I'm weird, or terrible, or damaged? Will they be weird, or terrible or damaged? Some circle the block many times before they come in. Others park far away so no one will know where they are going. But most find that once they open the door and step in they are "home".

Over the years literally hundreds of people have sat around a table at the Pride Center on Wednesday nights and talked about what is going on in their

lives and what is important to them. They have found acceptance, community, camaraderie, comfort, family, and some find, for the first time, that there is joy in being gay.

The group exists today because of empathy. Because a group of people, strangers really, can sit around a table, listen to each other and nod in recognition that "we too have been where you are, and we are okay."

The Wednesday Night Discussion Group is open to adults of every stripe; gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning, intersexed, even straight. (We do not discriminate.) If you could

use a little empathy or have some to share we hope you will join us around the table. There is always enough laughter to be shared and tears to be understood.

We start around 7pm every Wednesday at the Pride Center, 389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100. Come as you are...we do.

Why advertise with us?



47% choose products based on adverts tailored to LGBT audience

23% switched products last year to a more LGBT supportive company

71% remain loyal to LGBT supportive brands and companies, even if costlier or less convenient

75% of non-LGBT adults consider brands LGBT supportive companies

Impress Your Partner with Flowers



Save \$10 online with discount code: **PRIDE**

www.ImperialFlowersLexington.com

Imperial Flowers

393 Waller Ave.
Lexington, KY 40504

859.233.7486 Local
800.888.7486 Toll-Free

Assigned: It's a Boy!



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

A time long, long ago...

There was a period in time where it was believed by everyone that the earth was flat. "It must be flat," one might have said, "I can see the proof in yon horizon where the earth comes to its end."

Eventually, someone had the idea this was a false belief. "What if," that person might have pondered, "the reason you can never reach yon horizon is because the earth is round?"

"Preposterous," the first might respond. "I see what I see, therefore, the proof is by my sight that the earth is flat."

Over time, it was proved, by the experience of travel, that the earth is, indeed, round. The truth that the earth is round is eventually accepted by everyone, even without everyone having the experience of travel themselves.

Fact is, the earth was never flat, even when folks

believed differently.

Let's zoom to modern day.

The expectant parents, eyes glued to the monitor, listened intently as the ultrasound tech showed them their unborn baby's ears, fingers, toes. Finally, they say "Congratulations, it's a boy." The child's gender is assigned even before leaving the mother's womb. Decades ago, prior to the technology of ultrasounds, the child would leave the womb before the doctor would announce, "It's a boy." Gender is the very first proclamation made in the life of every child.

How did the ultrasound tech and doctor determine the child's gender? Of course, the same way it's been done since the beginning of time: the appearance of the genitals. It is believed that a child born with a penis is a boy and a child born with a vagina is a girl.

Eventually, someone had an experience that led them to the idea this is a false belief. "What if," that person might have pondered, "a boy can be born with a vagina and a girl can be born with a penis?"

"Preposterous," is currently the response. "I see what I see, therefore, the proof of gender is by the genitals."

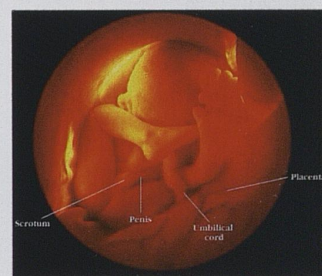
Ever so slowly, the idea that gender is determined solely by genitalia is being challenged as more and more trans* share their experiences. However, the experience of being transgender is a rare one. I have read statistics that show only 1 out of 100 people are born into the trans experience. Only 1% have the experience while the remaining 99% of people still align with the belief that gender is determined by whether or not you are born with a penis or a vagina.

Of course, the statistics

could also be incorrect. I feel the percent of persons born into the transgender experience is probably much more than just 1%, especially with so many trans* choosing to remain hidden.

Over time, it will be proved, by the experience of being born trans, that, indeed, it is not genitals that determine gender. The truth that some boys are born with a vagina and some girls are born with a penis will be accepted by everyone, even without everyone having the experience of being transgender themselves.

The fact is, gender is not assigned or determined by genitalia... even if folks believe differently.



2014 AVOL AIDS Walk

By Brian Hawkins





Cancer Poems

By Pat Ritz

Waiting for your call, still I'm startled
Your voice raw-sounding, saying my name
and then: malignant

I picture you standing alone in the hallway
Suncoast Medical Clinic at the free phone
(3-minute limit)

Tears slide from my eyes trying to stay
silent and my mind says out loud: NO
They've made a mistake
not you, not my long legged Amazon, and not
your breast, softness cats and I cuddle on.
Only yesterday

We laughed about your biopsy and said
it's not even necessary; you with your fat-free
vegetarian
diet, regular exercise, vitamin supplements,
positive thinking not knowing the enemy
was hidden within

On ramp curving monolith of concrete
funnels our white Plymouth Voyager van
into speeding flow
of steel 4-lane highway stretches before us
no longer dreaming the trip we'll take some day
The journey is now

Your tall black surgeon stands before me in Bayfront
hospital's waiting room murmuring the words
"early early stages"

He took a quadrant of your right breast and ten
lumph nodes the pathology report
is due in two days

October 31, Halloween night The phone rings
your doctor's voice I pass the receiver to you
and holding my breath
hear your soft voice exclaim THE LYMPH NODES
ARE CLEAR? and we bounce like springs unwound
giddy with relief

Radiation side effects: loss of appetite
skin tenderness, burning sensations,
coughing spells, fatigue
Each day the lineaar accelerator cooks
you exactly three minutes leaving you
increasingly weak

Pale sunlight creeps through the bamboo
blinds in your bedroom as we weep
intermittently
calling friends and spreading the incredible
news. Leaning on pilows, I watch your face
It occues to me

We forgot to be happy in this house
too busy doing yard work, running
errands, buying food
never thought to appreciate the faded gold
of late afternoon gathering to share each day's
tragicomic news

Kentucky Bourbon Bears present

Big Basket of the Bluegrass Charity Auction 2014



**Big Baskets &
Buxom Beauties
Friday, May 16th
Campbell House Inn
8PM**



**Tickets: \$5.00 - 100% Auction
proceeds benefit GLSO's Gay
Straight Student Alliance &
Lexington Fairness
After party at Crossings Bar**

LGBT Seniors to Participate in National Study on Aging

By Ginger Moore-Minder

Lisa Fredriksen-Goldsen sent an email to the GLSO because of our pioneering work with the Senior Group. Lisa invited us to participate in a study funded by the National Institute of Health, the first of its kind, that addresses the unique aging and health issues of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals. Phase 1 is already complete and some of those findings will be outlined. The GLSO agreed to participate in the continuation of the study in phase 2. This will include more geographically southern data. Our role is to provide "Caring and Aging with Pride" questionnaires to our community to help gather more qualified data. The goal is 250 completed questionnaires.

That's quite a goal, so we need your help! To participate in this project you must be 50 years of age or older and be LGBT or be someone who is attracted to or has had an intimate/sexual

relationship with someone of your same sex or gender. The roll-out date for the questionnaire is May 2014. We will end data collection in June and report results in October. Copies of the questionnaire are available at the Pride Center. You may also call the Pride Center (859-253-3233) and leave your address to get a copy mailed to you or to get the web address to take the questionnaire online. There will be two booths set up at the Pride Festival to get additional persons to complete the questionnaires.

Your participation in this project will help meet the aging and health needs of adults 50 years of age and older in our communities. The questionnaire takes about 15 minutes to complete and your responses are completely voluntary. The questionnaire is anonymous.

The GLSO is proud to be the sponsor of the Senior Group and to provide socialization, referral, disability

access, transportation, illness support, outings and friendship to persons over the age of 50. Contact the Pride Center for more information.

The following are excerpts from Executive Summary, The Aging and Health Report: Disparities and Resilience among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults written by Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, Hyun-Jun Kim, Charles Emlet, Anna Muraco, Elena Erosheva, and Charles Hoy-Ellis, Jayn Goldsen, Heidi Petry.

"Aging and health needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults are rarely addressed in services, policies, or research, even though diversity is a defining feature of our aging global population."

"Caring and Aging with Pride, the first national federally-funded project to examine LGBT aging and health reveals significant health disparities impacting LGBT older adults as

they age, including disability, physical and mental distress, victimization, discrimination and lack of access to supportive aging and health services. Health disparities must be eliminated to effectively respond to the aging crises in the LGBT communities."

"The first phase of this project, we utilized state-level population-based information from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System in Washington State (BRFSS-WA) to compare key health indicators of lesbian, gay and bisexual adults to heterosexuals. Next, to better understand the risk and protective factors impacting LGBT older adults, we collaborated with eleven community-based agencies across eleven agencies across the country. The executive summary highlights key findings and the recommendations stemming from this ground-breaking project."

"Lesbian, gay and bisexual older adults experience

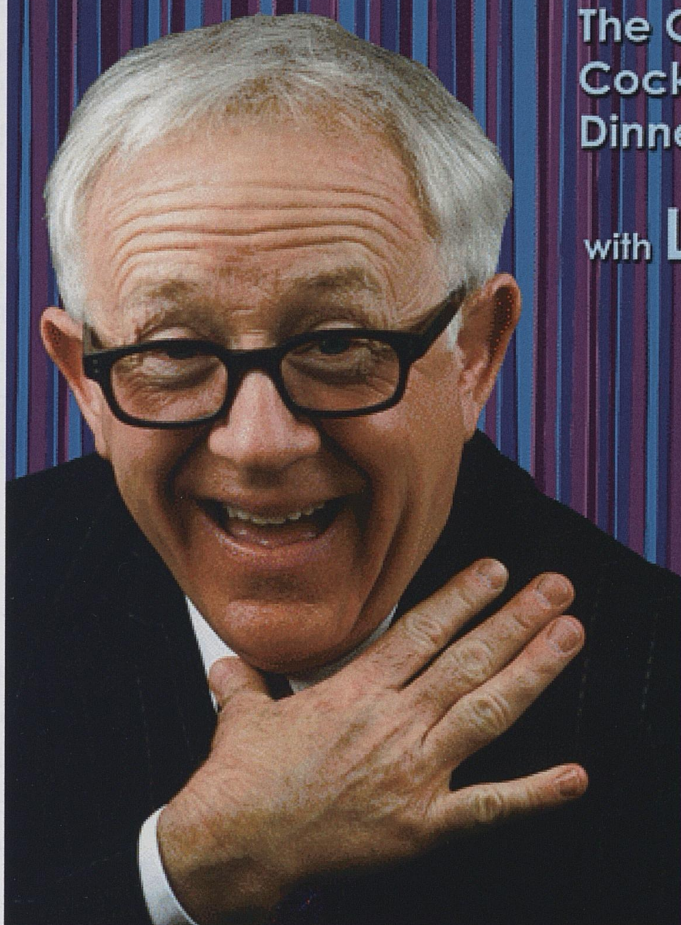
The 7th Annual



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**

higher rates of mental distress and are more likely to smoke and engage in excessive drinking than heterosexuals. Lesbians and bisexual older women report higher risk of cardiovascular disease and obesity than heterosexual women, and gay and bisexual older men are more likely to have poor physical health than their heterosexual counterparts. LGBT older adults are also at greater risk socially than their heterosexual peers. Lesbian, gay and bisexual older adults are less likely to be partnered or married than heterosexuals, which may result in less social support and financial security as they age. Older adults who live alone are at serious risk of

social isolation, which in the general population is linked to poor mental and physical health, cognitive impairment and premature chronic disease and death.”

“Isolation, finding friend support, care giving and health are the biggest issues older gay persons face. Who will be there for us, who will help care for us without judgment? 66-year-old lesbian”

“Contrary to popular belief that LGBT older adults will not participate in research, 2,560 diverse LGBT older adults age 50 to 95 joined in our national aging and health project. Despite the challenging historical context of their lives, LGBT older adults forge onward with resilience, living their lives and building

their communities.”

Addressing the aging and health needs of LGBT older adults is paramount as it sheds new light on the diversity and cumulative risks facing the aging population. A comprehensive approach is required to transform public policies, services, education and research. Understanding aging and health across diverse communities illuminates inequalities and reminds us that resilience often emerges from adversity. The LGBT older adults in Caring and Aging with Pride represent the past and the future, as they create a legacy for generations to come.”

LGBT Older Adult Participants: Aging and Health Findings:

- Nearly one-half have disability and nearly one-third report depression.

- Most LGBT older adults (91%) engage in wellness activities.

- Almost two-thirds have been victimized three or more times.

- Thirteen percent have been denied healthcare or received inferior care.

- More than 20% do not disclose their sexual or gender identity to their physician.

- About one-third do not have a will or durable power of attorney for healthcare.

- Most needed services: senior housing, transportation, legal services, and social events.

Big Baskets of the Bluegrass

The Kentucky Bourbon Bears will host the 4th Annual Big Baskets of the Bluegrass event at 8pm on Friday, May 16th at the Campbell House Inn. This year's Gift Basket Charity Auction will feature Big Baskets AND Buxom Beauties.

The event will feature hot men and beautiful ladies in sexy swim and underwear paired with a matching themed basket of donated items from local businesses

and club members to be auctioned off to the highest bid donation! The Kentucky Bourbon Bears are a 501(C)(3) non profit so all donations go to a worthy cause! The event will feature “baskets” with electronics, UK gear, a Calipari-signed basketball, gift cards, dinners, bourbon tours and much more.

The event and charitable donations go toward

the GLSO's Lexington Gay Straight Alliance for youth. The donations allow the GSA to celebrate their annual Pride Prom, develop educational efforts in local schools, and permit the annual trip to Kings Island. The event also supports Lexington Fairness and their efforts to end discrimination and bullying in central Kentucky.

A \$5 donation at the

door will earn an “Auction paddle” to bid on the baskets. Baskets will be available for viewing before the auction starts at 8:30pm. Additionally, there will be a cash bar and feature entertainment by local performers. The event will be followed by an after party at Crossings Lexington!

Check out the [Kentucky Bourbon Bears Facebook page](#) for more information!

Calling All Pride Volunteers

It is now time to start thinking about contacting us for volunteering for the Pride Festival. We have had many individuals help us in previous years and hope that we have the biggest turnout and response for volunteers for the day of and the duties leading up to the Festival. There are many volunteer opportunities in all areas including merchandising, first-aid, services, activities, stage hands, set-up and breakdown and more. All volunteers will receive a little something as a token of appreciation. Take 2 hours to volunteer and then enjoy the rest of the day and know you had a part in helping to make it possible.

For any and all Pride volunteer inquiries, please contact volunteers@lexpridefest.org or fill the volunteer application out at www.lexpridefest.org and click on volunteer application.

Lexington Fairness Awards

Lexington Fairness will host this year's Fairness Awards Dinner on June 20th at the Grand Reserve. Each year, Lexington Fairness opens the nomination of the Fairness Awards to the public. Nominations will be accepted until May 15. Afterward, all submitted nominations are presented to the Awards Selection Committee, a small but diverse group of people with years of experience in community service. Nominees will have short biographical information published in the event program at the Fairness Awards Dinner. Recipients of the awards will be announced during the evening's festivities. To view the categories for nomination and to make your own, please visit <http://lexfair.org/index.php/fairness-awards/nomination-process>. Ticket sales begin May 1 and can be purchased at <http://lexfair.org/index.php/fairness-awards/ticket-purchase>



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May Calendar

All meetings are hosted at the GLSO Pride Center unless otherwise noted

Thursday, May 1

6:30-8:30PM GLSO Board Meeting

Saturday, May 3

7:30-9:00PM TransKentucky

Sunday, May 4

3:30-5:30PM Company Q Drama Troupe Practice

6:00-8:00PM Imperial Court Meeting

6:30-9:30PM Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, May 5

8:00-9:00PM AA Meeting at AVOL*

Wednesday, May 7

7:00-9:00PM LGBT Discussion Group

8:30-11:30PM ICK Entertainer of the Year*

Thursday, May 8

7:00-9:00PM LOVEboldly Board Meeting

Friday, May 9

7:00-9:00PM Hispanic LGBT Discussion Group

Saturday, May 10

1:30-3:30PM GLSO Fundraising Committee

9:00-10:00PM KYBourbonBears Board Meeting

Sunday, May 11

2:00-4:00PM Raging Grape Ape Committee

3:30-5:30PM Company Q Drama Troupe Practice

6:00-8:00PM Imperial Court Meeting

6:30-9:30PM Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, May 12

8:00-9:00PM AA Meeting by AVOL*

Tuesday, May 13

6:30-8:30PM PFLAG Meeting*

7:00-9:00PM HIV/AIDS Support Group at AVOL*

Wednesday, May 14

7:00-9:00PM LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, May 15

7:00-9:00PM 2014 LexPride Planning Meeting

Friday, May 16

7:00-10:00PM Senior's Bistro Potluck

8:00-11:30PM Big Baskets of the Bluegrass*

Saturday, May 17

7:00PM-10:00PM GSA Pride Prom*

Sunday, May 18

3:30-5:30PM Company Q Drama Troupe Practice

6:00-8:00PM Imperial Court Meeting

6:30-9:30PM Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, May 19

8:00-9:00PM AA Meeting at AVOL*

Wednesday, May 21

7:00-9:00PM LGBT Discussion Group

Friday, May 23

7:00-9:00PM Hispanic LGBT Discussion Group

8:00-11:00PM 5th Annual Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction

Saturday, May 24

1:30-3:30PM GLSO Fundraising Committee

Sunday, May 25

2:00-4:00PM Raging Grape Ape Committee

3:30-5:30PM Company Q Drama Troupe Practice

6:00-8:00PM Imperial Court Meeting

6:30-9:30PM Team Lex Volleyball*

Monday, May 26

8:00-9:00PM AA Meeting at AVOL*

Wednesday, May 28

7:00-9:00PM LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, May 29

7:00-9:00PM 2014 LexPride Planning Meeting

Friday, May 30

8:30-11:30PM ICK's In Town Show*

Saturday, May 31

8:30-11:30PM ICK's Out of Town Show*

* not hosted
at the
Pride Center

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

Telephone Directory



<i>HIV/STD Testing, Services and Information</i>	
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
<i>Community and Social Groups</i>	
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 Lexington	859 338 4393

PFLAG Louisville	502 223 1323
SisterSound	859 806 0243
Social Services, Lexington	211
Speaker's Bureau	859 266 5904
TransKentucky	cassiemt@yahoo.com
Transgender Youth Family Allies	1 888 462 8932
Trevor Lifeline 24/7	1 866 488 7386
United Way	859 313 5465
<i>Religious Groups</i>	
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
<i>College Student Groups</i>	
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 contact information?
Email editor@glso.org and we will add you to our directory.*

THE 5th ANNUAL
**BACHELOR &
BACHELORETTE
AUCTION**

LOCATION

SOUNDBAR Level 2

208 South Limestone, Lexington

8:00 pm

Friday, May 23rd

\$5 Suggested Donation

**Variety of Bachelors & Bachelorettes
to be auctioned off in Silent Auction**

For more information contact fundraising@lexpridefest.org

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www.LexPrideFest.org

2014 Lexington Pride Festival Entertainment

The Lexington Pride Festival Committee would like to announce three of our special guests headlining and appearing at the 2014 Lexington Pride Festival on Saturday, June 28, 2014!

Pop singer Dario was only three years old when his natural vocal talent and charming personality captured adoring hearts and an audience. It was obvious that he was destined to be a sensation. The Tucson Arizona native entertained at this early age, singing and dancing to the musical stylings of Michael Jackson, Marvin Gaye and Cheyanne. Before long he was a successful champion of local competitions and talent shows, earning him a loyal following. Independent record labels invited Dario to audition after discovering him at a "Search for Stardom" convention, catapulting the singer into an exhilarating music career.

Dario's distinctive vocals and dynamic stage presence landed his first single "Be" at number one on the Independent Sales Chart in April 2004. His

follow-up single, "Lies!" as well as two full-length albums, "Dedicated," and "The Up Side of Down," were commercial hits. He has since toured with Destiny's Child, KC & JoJo and other established recording artists. In 2011, the pop star wrapped a national, five-month headlining tour to promote "The Up Side of Down," which was released to rave reviews. Dario's solid reputation as a singular force in the industry has landed him multitudes of public appearances, including televised red-carpet events such as the Grammy's and The American Music Awards. He has also graced the covers of more than 40 entertainment and lifestyle magazines.

The reality series "Dario Undiscovered" offers a revealing glimpse into the making of Dario's fifth album, as well as his personal and professional struggles

and triumphs. Collaborating with leading UK DJ Les Hemstock, Dario explored the world of dance music in "Talking Loud". Dario explains, "I love the idea of creative musical people taking something I've done and making it different and new!" While Dario enjoyed the opportunity to dive into new musical territory, he remains dedicated to his roots and will be releasing a Pop and R&B follow-up album titled "Evolution" April 29th 2014, produced by David Pramik. "This is the defining record for me in my career," Dario states. "Working on

this album has been so therapeutic and emotional!"

Never one to rest on past achievements; Dario is committed to giving back to the community. He works with numerous foundations that educate, research and fight to cure HIV/AIDS, breast cancer and sickle cell anemia. His favorite foundation is Building Futures Inc. (BFI), where he serves as a passionate mentor to struggling children and young adults in Los Angeles, helping them to envision their dreams and work to make them come true.

In a recent interview, Dario



Loose Item

was asked to reveal the secret to his success. His answer: "Hard work, the support of my friends and family, and of course, the loyalty of my amazing fans! But really, there is no secret—success has always been the only option."

Dario has also been announced as one of Katy Perry's opening acts in 2014 at selected venues. For more information on Dario and his music, check out www.darioonline.com.

Seven years ago Erin Davies, an art education student at Sage College of Albany made national headlines. On April 18, 2007, the 11th Annual National Day of Silence, Erin Davies became a victim to a hate crime in Albany, New York. Because of sporting a rainbow sticker on her Volkswagen Beetle, Erin's car was vandalized, left with the words "fag" and "u r gay" spray-painted placed on the driver's side window and hood of her car.

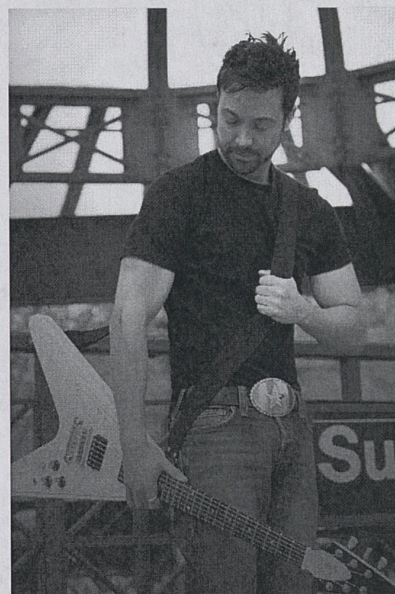
Despite initial shock and embarrassment, Erin decided to embrace what happened by leaving the graffiti on her car. In response, she put her studies on hold, took her car, now known worldwide as

the "Fagbug," and embarked upon a video-documented 58-day trip around the US and Canada. During this she interviewed 536 people and spoke out against hate crimes.

Along the way, Erin discovered other, more serious hate crimes, had people attempt to remove the graffiti, and experimented with having a male drive her car. Not only did she want America to see the spray-painted words, she wanted help with a solution. Her trip in the Fagbug led to a 2009 award-winning documentary about her adventure.

After a year, Erin gave her car a makeover and now tours with her rainbow Volkswagen Beetle, speaking at over 300 colleges and universities across North America to bring awareness of hate crimes and homophobia. Erin's been a guest on BBC, NPR and ABC News, and has been written about in Newsweek, Vanity Fair, The Advocate, Curve Magazine, and in Clara Lewis' book titled "Tough On Hate? The Cultural Politics of Hate Crimes."

Recently, Erin received her Master's in Art Education from Sage College and got



married in Manchester, and intriguing.

Josh released a new single in 2013 with "The Turn Around" and is in studio recording his soon to be released album, "Background Static of Perpetual Discontent".

The discography includes 3 CDs with 'Got Love?', 'Out From Under', 'A Totally New Sensation' and the single "All I Want For Christmas". Distributed nationally by Burnside, Josh's music is an infectious mixture of pop rock and soothing ballads, all of them electrified with a powerful message of love and self-acceptance.

Josh Zuckerman is a singer songwriter musician expanding his musical horizons with each original song he composes and records.

Josh's lyrics are said to be truthful, surrounding life's challenges and quest for spiritual growth. His musical conviction and well articulated melodies are spirited

Josh released a new single in 2013 with "The Turn Around" and is in studio recording his soon to be released album, "Background Static of Perpetual Discontent".

The discography includes 3 CDs with 'Got Love?', 'Out From Under', 'A Totally New Sensation' and the single "All I Want For Christmas". Distributed nationally by Burnside, Josh's music is an infectious mixture of pop rock and soothing ballads, all of them electrified with a powerful message of love and self-acceptance.

Josh was a headliner at our 2009 Lexington Pride Festival. He was so well received that we have invited him back. He has been wanting to get back to perform ever since.

Loose Item