



GAY and
LESBIAN
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION
Lexington, Kentucky

The GLSO NEWS

JANUARY 2002

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Vol. 17 No. 1

Bluegrass Fairness-KFA

The Annual Membership Meeting for all members of Bluegrass Fairness will be on Wed. January 30. We will be mailing out invitations later in the month giving location and time. Call 296-7812 if you do not receive one.

This will be a busy year. The Kentucky State Legislature will be meeting from January through March. There has been one bill pre-filed to make discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity illegal throughout the state of Kentucky. We will need many of you to come to Frankfort to help us lobby for this bill.

Another bill is expected to be filled seeking to nullify any anti discrimination ordinances enacted by city or county governments which would probably nullify all local Fairness ordinance, including those in Lexington, Louisville, and Jefferson County. Needless to say, we will be lobbying against this bill.

If you have never lobbied before, we can train you on the day you come to Frankfort. If you haven't seen how our state legislature works, you really need to join us. It is an eye opening experience. Please call to register and attend one of the lobbying days listed below Call 296-7812 to sign up.

Jan. 17 - Transgender people

Jan. 31 - Families

Feb. 12 - Social Workers

Feb. 21 - Religious Leaders & People of Faith

Feb. 28 - Student/Youth

Mar. 7 - Service Providers (Police, Nurses, etc)

Mar. 14 - Educators

Mar. 21 - Swap an Ally

Fairness website at www.bluegrassfairness.org

SisterSound Winter Concert

SisterSound presents its winter concert "Beat The Winter Blues," January 26th at 7:30 PM in Singletary Center for the Arts. We decided that late January would be a great time to lift your spirits and pick music with that in mind.

Come take a musical trip with us as we start the evening in the midst of winter blahs with 'Cold and Flu Season' followed by 'Steam Heat,' 'Grumble Too Much' 'Fever' 'Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive' and Hey, Jo, Nobody's Home.'

Have your spirits lifted by a Jamacian medley, 'Me Island.,' 'A Zing A Za,' 'Mambo Tonight' and 'Jambalaya.' The last part of the concert, subtitled "Take two aspirins and call me in March" includes 'Welcome Spring' and 'It Might As Well Be Spring.' We'll find 'April In Paris' and fly on the wings of song with "Here comes The Sun." We'll end the evening "Under The Boardwalk."

Tickets are available from Singletary Center for the Arts box office at 859-257-4929. Tickets are also available from Chorus members. Ticket sales do not cover all our expenses so Sponsorship donations for SisterSound are tax deductible and always welcome.

Our Spring Concert, "Girls Night Out" will be May 18. We will begin to rehearse again on Sunday, Feb 3. at 6 pm. We are a non audition chorus open to new members.

Come sing with us!

Ticket Information:

Regular \$12.00

Student/Senior \$8.00

Children \$ 5.00

Sponsor of the Month

SisterSound

Concert Jan 26



The GLSO NEWS

Vol. 17 No. 1

published monthly by
**The Lexington Gay Lesbian
Service Organization**
321 Second Street

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GLSO Annual Dues & Newsletter:

Individual. \$15
Couple \$20

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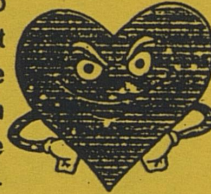
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GLSO & PRIDE CENTER NEWS

Another Holiday Mixer

What a wonderful time we had at the Holiday Mixer! We had a large turnout and packed the Pride Center. There were people from all over central and eastern Kentucky. We appreciate those of you who drove a distance to join us! There were people new to our community as well as old-timers, laughing, talking and generally having a good time meeting each other. Thanks to the Imperial Court, Lexington's Men's Chorus, Lexington Wellness Center, The Bookworm, Donnie Royce, Krogers Gardenside and Karen for door prizes. Many thanks to Davina Warner, Pat Warner, Interweave, Jane Minder, Thomas Collins and Ginger Moore for helping to make this happen.

We had so much fun that we'd like to have another party in February. The GLSO will sponsor a Valentines Mixer on Saturday, Feb. 15th from 7 to 10PM. There will be music, door prizes, lots of food and good conversation. Singles as well as couples are invited. Please join us to meet new people and renew old friendships. This party is for you!



Pride Month



It may seem early to be talking about Pride Month but we need to start organizing, particularly to get major events on the calendar so we do not conflict with each other. We also can get free announcements in national gay magazines if we have some dates set by March 1.

We have set the first planning meeting for Thursday Jan. 17 at 7 pm at the Pride Center. We like to include members of many community organizations on this Pride Month Committee. Please send a representative. If you already have a pride event in mind, we need to know dates as soon as possible. (call Ginger 253-3233)

With a full representative committee, decisions can be made with input from a variety of sources. We also welcome volunteers who are not affiliated with any particular group. This is a great way to meet people and help our community. For information call Ginger at the Pride Center Office 253-3233 from 10 to 3 daily.

GLSO News Deadline

January 16

Send Community News To Both Editors:

John ursaloco2@aol.com marycrone@aol.com

Ad Deadlines


Arrange Ad Space by Jan 16 Deliver by Jan 21

Pride Center 389 Waller

or call Mary 266-5904

COMMUNITY NEWS

Imperial Court Calendar Launch

 On November 28, the Imperial Court of Kentucky launched the Femme Fatale Calendar with a reception and show at The Bar. The calendar launch was a resounding success, with calendar sales in excess of \$4500 for the evening. The crowd for the show at the Bar was standing room only as the participants of the calendar appeared as the personalities they portrayed.

Hosting the evening were Empress 20 Natalie Gaye and Co-founder of the Court, Marlon Austin portraying Mae West and WC Fields. Joining them was the lovely Tina Camero, Empress 7 of the Court of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Appearing as their calendar personalities were Chelsea Pearl, Cammie Dietrich, Chanda Lier, Eden Towers, Rayna Starr, JD Vaughn, Emperor 20 Chris Rhorer, Lady Marmalade, Sioux Anna Danielle, Nicole Diamond, Cavier Towers and Ginger Grant.

Thanks to a grant from Alternate Roots, Inc and the extraordinary vision of its photographer, Professor Kurt Gohde of Transylvania University, the Court and Moveable Feast have once again been able to produce a fun and exciting fundraising tool. All proceeds from the sales are being donated to Moveable Feast to help in providing daily meals to people living with HIV.

The Imperial Court of KY, we would like to thank all the people who worked so hard in making this calendar a reality: Kurt and Sioux Anna Danielle, Michael Thompson, the Calendar Committee, South Van Events, for they're in kind donation of reception food, and finally thanks to all the divas that grace the pages of Femme Fatale 2002.

PFLAG, Parents, Friends, and Family of Lesbians and Gays, will be meeting regularly on the second Tuesday of each month. In January that will be on Tues. 8, 7 p.m. at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church. The church is on the corner of Tates Creek and Armstrong Mill Rd. Contact Dotti Berry for information at 489-4791 or Dotti@EmpoweringDiversity.com.

Congratulations to Wishing Chair;



their CD "Will Harbut" was nominated for two awards by Just Plain Folks. "The Ghost of Will Harbut" was voted best New Folk Song for 2001 and the CD was runner up for Best 2001 New Folk Recording. In addition, they have been asked to play on the mainstage at the National Women's Music Festival this June. If you have never attended, this would be a good year to go and support one of the longest running women's festival in the country.

Wishing Chair is now working on a new CD. Look for the Lexington release to happen during the first weekend in March. Outstanding guest musicians include Kara Bamard and Jamie Anderson as well as other fine friends. They will not have a lot of bookings in January as they will be in the recording studio but look for them on Feb 1 at 1 Mia's, 9 pm.



Tiffany and Company thanks everyone for their wonderful generosity and support. Our 2nd Annual Christmas Benefit Show was a wonderful success! Your giving came from the hearts and we raised \$300 for the partners and children of the Gays and Lesbians killed on Sept. 11th. Anyone who would like to make a personal donation, please contact Tiffany

Andrews at 225-5103. Please join us at Crossings on Wednesday, January 16 for our next show benefiting Moveable Feast!

Dignity will be meeting on the 13th and 27th and as always, everyone is welcome. For location and information, call Richard at 268-1351.

Integrity continues to meet at St. Michael's Episcopal Church on Bellefonte Dr. We welcome everyone to join us on the second Sunday of each month at 4 pm. Call Rev. David Boyd or Rev. Sandy Stone for info at 277-7511 or JBIntegrity@aol.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

FAITH MCC CELEBRATES SOUL FORCE AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

As a new year beckons, Faith MCC looks to Martin Luther King, Jr., Day for a time of worship, reflection, and recommitment. The work of King has long been a role model for MCC. As King once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." And so, as we do annually, Faith MCC plans for its MLK worship service, scheduled for Sunday, January 20th. And we look forward to seeing you there and at the MLK Day parade. It's a time to celebrate the work of a great man and do all we can to end discrimination.

King made a tremendous difference in our world. And he did so by following in the steps of Mohandas K. Gandhi, a Hindu, who was deeply moved by the teachings of Jesus and others. Gandhi noted, "The Sermon on the Mount went straight to my heart." Gandhi developed a strategy to put those principles into practice. It's called satyagraha (truth or soul force). And later, a young seminary student named Martin discovered Gandhi's soul force principles. It was the guiding light for the non-violent strategies for change during the Civil Rights Movement.

Non-violence has emerged as a strategy to bring about change peacefully. Christ furnished the initial spark and spirit. Gandhi furnished the method. And King applied it in our communities, in our day. But across the country, a new movement has risen to champion those who are oppressed. This movement has become Soul Force and MCC is its parent. Founder of Soulforce, Rev. Mel White has adopted the term "spiritual violence" to describe the assault on gays, lesbians, bisexual, and transgender individuals by the religious right. Groups have gathered around the country to prepare themselves to respond to injustice, hatred, and oppression. "Faithful Dissenters" is a program that encourages GLBT people and their allies to stop supporting churches who continue false teachings. Recently, Rev. Mel White told a gathering of MCCers, "Soulforce is just MCC in disguise." MCC and Soulforce continue to work together to stop spiritual violence against ALL people. As Gandhi once said, "It is as much our moral obligation not to cooperate with evil as it is to cooperate with good."

In December, Faith MCC held its annual Christmas buffet. It's a time we say thanks to so many for all they do throughout the year. The 2001 Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Keith Meade. The 2001 Shepherd's Award was presented to Michelle Kanatzer.

You are invited to Faith MCC each Sunday morning for worship at 10:30 a.m. The church is located at 145 Burt Road, Suite 7, in Zandale. Burt Road is just off Nicholasville Road, across from Ol' Charley's. Turn at the Taco Bell. Call (859) LEX-FMCC for further information. E-mail address

mccrevmel@aol.com

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Faith and Spirituality

Charismatic Christians

Looking for a Christ-centered, charismatic church where people of all genders, sexual orientation and color are welcomed? Then you'll want to join us for worship and study every Wednesday evening at 7pm. For more information and directions please call Beverly or Corina at 264-7006 or e-mail us at cwbm121893@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Interweave

Interweave, the LGBT and friends support group at the Unitarian Universalist church, will meet after church on the second Sunday of January for a pot luck lunch. You do not have to be a church member to join us. For more information contact Davina at 271-6174.

Pride Month

Planning

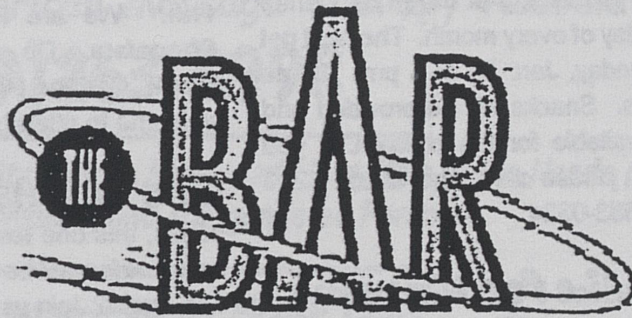
We Need You

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Pride Center

Happy New Year

from



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389 WALLER AVENUE, SUITE 100

Hours Monday through Fridays

10 to 3

Saturdays 10 to 4

Phone 253-3233



Parenting Group

Being a lesbian or gay parent is not as unusual as it use to be but there are still issues that straight parents do not have to face. A GLBT Parenting Group is meeting at the Pride Center on the second Sunday of every month. The next get together will be Sunday, Jan. 13 at 4 pm. Come share your thoughts. Snacks will be provided and activities will be available for the children. If you have any questions, please call Ginger at 253-3233 or Janette at (859) 583-0324

Writing Practice for Everyone

There has been a positive response to the writing practice group so we are adding another day! The group will now meet on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, at 10 am at the Pride Center, This month that will be Jan 12 and 26. Taking exercises from Natalie Goldberg's work, we will experiment with writing and share our work with each other. No experience necessary, regular attendance not required, just bring a pen and some paper and we will have some fun.

Discussion Group

Every Wednesday people gather at the Pride Center for good conversation and some laughs. If you are just coming out, new to the area, want to meet some new people, or just enjoy talking this is the place to be. Contact Jane for information at 276-0673.

PRIDE CENTER SCHEDULE

Discussion Group Every Wed 7-8:30
Parenting Group Second Sunday
Writing Practice 2nd and 4th Sat. 10 am
Lesbian Movie Night Second Friday
Classic Movie Matinee Third Sun. 3 pm
Men's Night Out Third Tuesday 7 pm
Girls Kick Ass Fourth Saturday 1 pm

Family Movies

LESBIAN MOVIE NIGHT



Lesbian Movie Night will continue on Friday Jan. 11th. We are looking for a copy of *Better Than Chocolate*. Do you or your local video store have a copy? Call the Pride Center at 253-3233. Everyone is welcome to attend, bring a snack to share.

Girls Kick Ass Davina is starting another movie series, this one features strong female heroines. *Thelma and Louise* will be the first pick, isn't it time you saw this one again? Join us on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 1 pm.

Men's Night Out is held every 3rd Tuesday and we have keys now so we won't be lock out On Jan. 22 at 7 pm we will be showing *Boyfriends*, a queer 'Big Chill' for the 90's and not bad for 2002.

Three gay couples, each at varying stages of couplehood, converge on a beautiful English country house for a supposedly relaxing Easter weekend. What ensues is a witty exploration of gay relationship in the 90's Sounds like Love! Valour! Compassion!? Yes, this is the English counterpart of that great movie. Don't miss it!

Classic Movie Matinee

Come join us at the Pride Center on Sunday, Jan 27 for *The Lion in Winter* starring Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn. 1183 AD: King Henry II's three sons all want to inherit the throne, but he won't commit to a choice. They and his wife carry out a magnificent cinematic medieval chess game, with every intricate move superbly thought out. Sparks really do fly in this wickedly elaborate game as the family player pieces weave thick webs of deceit and hatch insidious plots against each another, forming unholy, protean alliances that put those "Survivor" contestants to shame. The pure joy comes from seeing all of them try to outmaneuver each other with every new and different playing piece put on or taken off the board, hatching alternative schemes as fast as one can say "Long live the King!"

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COULD SOMEBODY PLEASE DEFINE DISCRIMINATION FOR ME?

by Laurie Davison

As many of you have already heard, Central Baptist Hospital recently made the Herald-Leader for discriminating against little old gay candy striper! "RSVP" stands for the "Retired and Senior Volunteer Program" which is run by the Community Action Council in Lexington. Area hospitals contract with the CAC to obtain retired volunteers to help with odd jobs that do not require medical training.

Central Baptist Hospital and the CAC have worked together without incident until this year, when it came time to renew their contract. The difference? In the spirit of the 1999 Fairness Ordinance, the CAC altered their non-discrimination policy for the RSVP to include sexual orientation.

Other "religious-affiliated" hospitals like Saint Joseph's signed the new contract with no complaint, but Central Baptist chose to scratch through "sexual orientation" in the contract before signing it. When challenged, they said that they do not discriminate against anyone. However, they did feel the need to

consult with their lawyers, who assured them that though they are bound by the Fairness Ordinance in hiring and public accomodation (Central Baptist receives a significant amount of money from state and Federal funds) the Ordinance does not cover volunteers.

Am I missing something here...? I don't think so. Sounds like the same old line to me: "We don't discriminate against anybody - but you people are not welcome here." The Community Action Council has chosen to stand by their non-discrimination policy, so Central Baptist stands to lose at least some of their volunteer force to the same old fear and prejudice

Offended? Make your voice heard! Send your thoughts to Mr. William Sisson, Central Baptist Hospital, 1740 Nicholasville Rd, Lexington, KY 40503. While you're at it, if you can afford the postage, why not send him a copy of Webster's Dictionary. "Discrimination" is clearly defined within.

HUGS of the Bible: Hearing, Understanding & Growing thru Study of the Bible

We are a totally inclusive body of Christ/divine spirit, seeking ongoing community with one another, as well as reaching out to welcome and affirm ALL GOD'S CHILDREN, including but not limited to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allied Persons. We are a spiritually diverse group who is intent on welcoming all people of faith/spiritual journey.

HUGS is an acronym which gets a person's attention. We all need, and could use more, human touch. The acronym stands for, Hearings, Understanding, and Growth, three activities that the program encourages.

Hearing stories of faith will offer us the opportunity to embrace

the message of love and grace found in scripture and to be liberated from the all too frequent use of the Bible to abuse and degrade others. By taking the Bible seriously, we will seek a better understanding of what it means to be created in God's image with the Divine's breath within us. The evaluation of scriptural texts from a variety of angles, will help us to continue growing in knowledge of God and of ourselves.

What does it mean to take the Bible seriously? How is the study of scripture different from a devotional reading? Is it acceptable to question scripture? Is the Bible authoritative and relevant for this day and age? If any (or all) of the preceding questions have ever crossed your mind or if they spark your curiosity, then HUGS of the Bible may be the place for you. As

a group we will be equipping ourselves with tools to approach the Bible as something to be wrestled with, not simply as a pretty book we keep on the coffee table or a shelf.

In 2002, HUGS will be meeting each Sunday at 7 p.m. In January, that will be on January 6, 13, 20, and 27. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Dr. Sherry Rotosky who is facilitating our group and just completing a study of 80 gay and lesbian couples. She will give you directions. Sharon can be reached at. (859)257-7880 E-mail rostosk@pop.uky.edu

Our current study for HUGS is based on Rembert Truluck's website (www.truluck.com) and book (Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse), incorporating a diverse look at faith from a scriptural standpoint.



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AVOL Mardi Gras Ball

Join AVOL for an evening of New Orleans style revelry to celebrate Mardi Gras 2002! On February 2, at 7pm this fund raiser will get under way at the Victorian Square Atrium, located on the corner of Main and Broadway in Lexington.

There will be live music by Zydeco Bon. Channel 27's Brian Collins and his wife Cathleen will be Master and Mistress of Ceremonies.

Enjoy a Cajun dinner buffet, casino-style gambling, a costume contest, palm and tarot readings, a cash bar, and much more!



The dress is Formal or Fabulous—black tie or a costume as outrageous you can dream up.

Admission is \$50 per person, or \$500 for a reserved VIP table of 8. All proceeds will benefit AVOL. For reservations or more information, call 859-225-3000 or email AIDSVolunteers@aol.com

BRCC Volunteer Training

The Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center provides services to individual and families affected by sexual violence. They are in need of volunteers. The next training session will start on Friday evening, Jan. 18 and continuing all day Saturdays, Jan 19, Jan 26 and Feb. 2.

This training will enable volunteers to answer the 24 hr. crisis line, provide support and informa-

tion to victims and their loved ones, and to staff information tables.

Volunteers answer the crisis line in their own homes via call forwarding. A six month commitment is requested and applicant must be at least 20 years old. This is excellent training and is free of charge. Call Brandy at 253-2615 to apply.

Reel World Benefit Concert for Campaign to Dismantle Landmines:

On Sunday evening, Jan. 27, Reel World String Band will give a performance at the Unitarian Universalist Church to raise funds for the Campaign to Dismantle Landmines. Landmines remain in many countries no longer at war, maiming children and adults who accidentally set one off. Details will be posted at the Pride Center.

Your Subscriptions to GLSO News helps to support all our work including

*The Pride Center The Gay Straight Alliance for Youth
Pride Picnic Volunteer Awards Banquet Pride Library
Social Events Discussion Group Diversity Films*

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Call number in
directory for location.

January

2002

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The Bar Complex.....255-1551
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Lexington Men's Chorus.....231-0090
Rehersal every Sunday

Pegasus Travel.....253-1644
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9PM Rainbow Bowling	2 7PM Sistahs 7PM Discussion Group 8PM Gay/Lesbian AA	3	4 7PM Gay/Lesbian AA	5 9-4 Pride Center Open
6 10:30 Faith MCC 10:45 UU Church 11:30 Lex. Mens Chorus 6P SisterSound 7P HUGS	7 7PM GSA 8PM AA Step Study	8 7PM P-Flag 9PM Rainbow Bowling	9 7PM Discussion Group 8PM Gay/Lesbian AA	10 7PM GLSO Board Meeting	11 7PM Gay/Lesbian AA 7PM Lesbian Movie Night	12 9-4 Pride Center Open 10A Writing Class
13 10:30 Faith MCC 10:45 UU Church 12:15 Intersave Pot Luck 4PM Parenting Group 5:30 Lex. Mens Chorus 6P SisterSound 6PM Dignity 7PM HUGS	14 7PM Fairness 7PM Imperial Court 8PM AA Step Study	15 7PM GSA 9PM Rainbow Bowling	16 7PM Discussion Group 8PM Gay/Lesbian AA	17	18 7PM Gay/Lesbian AA	19 9-4 Pride Center Open
20 10:30 Faith MCC 10:45 UU Church 3-7PM Classic Movie Night The Lion in Winter 5:30 Lex. Mens Chorus 6P SisterSound 7PM HUGS	21 7PM GSA 8PM AA Step Study	22 7PM Men's Night Out Boyfriends 9PM Rainbow Bowling	23 7PM Sistahs 7PM Discussion Group 8PM Gay/Lesbian AA	24 7PM Colts	25 7PM Gay/Lesbian AA	26 9-4 Pride Center Open 1PM Girls Kick Ass - Thelma and Louise 7:30 SisterSound Concert Winter Blues
27 10:30 Faith MCC 10:45 UU Church 5:30 Lex. Mens Chorus 6P SisterSound 6PM Dignity	28 7PM Imperial Court 8PM AA Step Study	29 7P GSA 9PM Rainbow Bowling	30 7PM Discussion Group 7P Annual Fairness Meeting - Call for location 8PM Gay/Lesbian AA	31		

Homophobia, Transphobia, and Heterosexism Hurt Everyone

by Mary Crone

We all know there is prejudice against LGBT people in our society but we don't often pause to consider how these oppressions hurt everyone, not just members of our community. Looking at the broader effects of homophobia and talking about them with family and friends as well as with legislators, can help us change minds

First some definitions to distinguish the variety of oppressive attitudes we are facing. Homophobia is the negative beliefs, values, and behaviors learned, manifested and perpetuated in many (but not all) cultures including ours. It is directed toward those perceived to be lesbian/gay. Homophobia encompasses hatred, fear, and revulsion as well as milder forms of discomfort and is based on misinformation, myths, religious teachings, and stereotypes. I will use the term Homophobia in this article to include the following prejudices as well.

Transphobia is the culturally conditioned bias against individuals who by presentation (dress, hair, makeup, personality, etc.) or behavior, cross traditional gender expectations, or who's gender is ambiguous to the observer.

Heterosexism is the culturally learned biased belief that relationships between men and women are preferable, more natural, healthier and better for society than gay/lesbian relationships. Heterosexism comes in the form of ignorance, naivete, and insensitivity to our differences. Heterosexism includes the belief that lesbian/gay/trans individuals want to be as much like heterosexuals as we can be. Most of us value our differences.

We work to lessen the oppression of homophobia and heterosexism in our society because any form of oppression is wrong and because it is harmful to ourselves, our friends, and our community. It is helpful to consider how these oppressions are hurtful to the larger community. Here are a baker's dozen.

1. Homophobia stigmatizes, silences, and targets people who are perceived or defined by others as gay, lesbian, or bisexual whether or not they self define as such. Homophobia is implicated in many hate crimes and suicides. It is the most common form of harass-

ment in our public middle and high schools. The spiritual and emotional well being of those who are targeted as well as those who do the targeting is put at risk.

2. Homophobia is a destructive force within some families, it separates us one from another. It damages family relationships, impose silences that restrict communication, and leaves young people isolated and afraid.

3. Homophobia, transphobia and sexism create rigid gender-based role expectations that inhibit creativity, personal choice, and spontaneous self expression. For example, it encumbers boys and men in healthy emotional development and expression by teaching that expressions of empathy or grief are unmanly. It imposes artificial restrictions on aggressiveness in females and tenderness in males.

4. Homophobia inhibits the ability of some men to form close, intimate relationship with other men.

5. Homophobic conditioning compromises the integrity of heterosexual people who are taught to ridicule, hate, lie about GLBT people, and act in other prejudicial ways.

6. Homophobia isolates and restricts social interaction and communication with a significant portion of our population. It hinders the appreciation of the talents and gifts brought to society by GLBT people.

7. Homophobia helps to limit the availability of accurate sexuality information to teens and adults. It is one cause of premature sexual activity as some young people have a need to prove that they are not gay.

8. Homophobia contributes to the difficulty male sexual abuse and rape victims have in seeking help and healing. Victimization that is not healed is more likely to be passed on to others.

9. Homophobia inhibits a unified and effective governmental and societal response to AIDS.

10. Homophobia diverts energy from other personal, spiritual, national and global issues that need our attention.

12. Homophobia inhibits appreciation of other forms of human diversity and makes individuals more susceptible to accepting other prejudicial attitudes and practicing discriminatory behavior.

13. Homophobia impedes our national progress towards achieving liberty and justice for all.

Believing Is Seeing

By ReINETTE F. Jones

Three weeks before Christmas it arrived in Masterson Station Park from a dark cloud on a sunny day. It was an early weekday morning, that period of time when households are preparing for a day at work and school. Only one person saw the opaque colors leading from the clouds to the ground. A neighbor's child, four-year-old Emma Jesse, had come outside to look at what she described as a diamond in a rainbow; maybe it was Santa Claus coming to bring her... Her father told her that the rainbow diamond would have to wait, because it was time for Emma Jesse to get her hair combed and braided before she went to school.

The thing, that the child had seen, sautéed from the clouds and landed without a sound. Emma Jesse had called it a diamond; the object looked like two pyramids that had been glued together, base to base. One point was on top and one point on the bottom. The top pyramid was copper-colored and the bottom one looked like gold. Then the colors shimmered and exchanged places, again and again.



There should have been a blinding reflection of sunlight from the object, but there was not. Instead, the sunlight dripped from its sides into the seam that held the two pyramids together. People who were out with their dogs, walked past it and people walked through it. It was as if they were blind to the obvious. The dogs

walked around it.

There is a history to the land. Legend has it that there was a village of people who lived on what are now the grounds of Masterson Station Park and the federal prison. The people of the village had told the first European settlers about the thing, a chunnnga, which comes from the clouds. They also told of the places revealed by the land waves. The places were answers to questions in life. The chunnnga would take you there and bring you back. The settlers regarded it all as superstitious hocus-pocus. Around 1780 the people of the village packed their belongings and left the village, taking the history with them. The area was then used as farmland.

The grounds were surveyed in the early 1900s due a claim that phantom images sometimes appeared within the heatwaves of the land. The easy dip of the small decline that now leads to the subdivision was said to be dockland, an aerial tunnel where warm air and cool air deposit and dispatch throughout the entire year. It was concluded that depending on the tilt of the earth, one might think that they were seeing mountains and other visions because of the distortion created by the refraction of light within the tunnel.

One hundred years later, three weeks before Christmas, a chunnnga arrived from a dark cloud on a sunny day and settled on the dockland half a mile from the area used for parking during special events in the park. It could have been a mirage. But a mirage would not stick around for four days. Would it? Though, the park does ride upon the bald curve of the fourth millennium equator, which

intensifies the slant of the sun's rays during the winter axis.

And that should be enough to explain it all away. But, four-year-old Emma Jesse saw the rainbow and the diamond each morning. On the fourth morning she ran down to the fence that borders her backyard and she yelled to her friend Josiane, who was walking her Labrador, Miss Butter Bean. She asked Josiane if she could see the big diamond in the park. Josiane told the child that she did not see the diamond, but if Emma Jesse could tell her what it looked like and where it was, then she would be able to see it in her mind.



So, Josiane got to hear about the copper and gold diamond that had slid down the rainbow and landed in the park. According to Emma Jesse, it was right there in front of Josiane and she should walk inside of it and tell Santa Claus what Emma Jesse wanted for Christmas, because she was not allowed in the park without her parents and her daddy would be out in a minute, and he was going to tell her that it was time to get her hair braided before her mother took her to school. And sure enough, her father came to the door with the comb and brush in his hands.

Children have very vivid imaginations. Josiane and her partner had no children, though she wanted children. Each time the subject had come up, her partner had told Josiane that if they had children, then she wanted to be an equal parent and not the nebulous housemate who slept in the spare bedroom ...continued on page 14

when family and co-workers came to their house. They had been together for five years. Each time the question of children had come up, there had been a fight. Josiane did not see the connection between outing herself and having children. She had outed herself to her father before he passed away last year and that should be enough.

Single women have children all the time, and of late, Josiane had been thinking that maybe it would be better if she were on her own. She wanted two children and it was a want that lived in every fiber and spirit of her existence. Maybe she should go inside the diamond and tell Santa Claus what she wanted also. Where did Emma Jesse say that it had landed? Josiane was sure the child had pointed near the area where Miss Butter Bean was now raising her leg to water the grass. Her dog had never done that before.

Josiane walked toward the area and when she got to the spot that Miss Butter Bean had marked, she raised her right foot and found that she was standing in front of a sign that read Tsankawi Trail, Bandelier National Monument, Santa Fe, New Mexico. She had a backpack on her shoulders and it was filled with a guide map, bottles of water, snacks, a notebook, and pens and pencils. It did not bother Josiane that she might be having an out of mind experience, she had had a few of those when she had been a drug addict, but she was a little upset that Santa Claus might live in the mountains of New Mexico and not the North Pole. How was she going to explain that



to Emma Jesse?

Josiane decided that since she was where she was, whether in person or in her mind, and she had the backpack, it was probably meant for her to walk the two-hour trail. Luckily, it had not snowed. With the guide map in hand, she started on the trail that would lead her to the tan and orange-crème colored cliffs once inhabited by ancestral Pueblo people. The sun was shining brightly and a constant cool, dry December breeze brushed the face of the mountain.

After about an hour, Josiane stopped to have another sip of water and a snack. She found what looked like a seat that had been wind blown and molded into the face of the cliff. For the most part, she had been walking with her head down; the Tsankawi is at a 6,600-foot elevation and the cliffs stand a few more thousand feet in the air. The trail ledge is about three feet



wide and it narrows in some places. Josiane was not afraid of heights, but she did not want to misstep and find herself falling off into yet another world.

It had been a peaceful walk and she had done a lot of thinking and rationalizing about her life. When she sat down on the rock seat, it was the first time that she had noticed that she could see for miles across the land. She also noticed that she was not wearing her glasses, yet everything was so clear. To the west was the Jemez Mountains; to the east were the Sangre De Cristo (Blood of Christ) Mountains and the Espanola Valley. It was a beautiful sight in the



mind of reality.

She had not run into Santa Claus during here walk, so Josiane took the paper and pencil from the backpack and wrote a 'Dear Santa' letter, telling him what Emma Jesse and she wanted for Christmas. She was going to stuff the paper into a crevice of the mountain, but the guide map had specifically mentioned, "Leave No Litter." Josiane put the notebook and the pencil, the water and the snacks back into the backpack. If and when she got back home, she would mail the letter to Santa. She continued on the trail, which ended on flat sandy land near a stream.

The water looked inviting and Josiane wanted to get her feet wet. She placed one foot in the water and she was back with Miss Butter Bean in Masterson Station Park, in the same spot she had left from. The backpack and all of its contents were gone. Her dog, Miss Butter Bean, placed her front paws on Josiane's chest, then licked her face. She was glad to see Josiane was back. Josiane took a minute to absorb the resolve that she felt to be so right within herself.

Emma Jesse was standing near the fence in her back yard. She had two fresh braids, one on each side of her head. Her mother had added a red barrette to the end of each braid. Emma Jesse was frantically waving her hand for Josiane to hurry over to the fence; she had to ask her something.

Emma Jesse wanted to know what Josiane had seen inside the diamond. ...continued on page 15

She wanted to know why Josiane had walked inside the diamond then came right back out. Did Santa kick her out because she had been a bad girl? She wanted to know how Josiane had sent the diamond back up the rainbow into the dark cloud. She wanted to know if Josiane had had enough time to tell Santa what she wanted for Christmas, before he kicked her out. And could Josiane hurry and tell her because her mother was waiting for her in the car.

Josiane told her that she had told Santa what they both wanted for Christmas. And before she could say another word, Emma Jesse started shouting, "Yeah! Yeah!" She thanked Josiane and took off running toward her mother. Miss Butter Bean and Josiane, wearing one wet shoe, headed for home.

National Womens Music Festival

The National Women's Music Festival, our longest running festival, will be held over the weekend of June 7-9. at Ball state University in Muncie Ind. They are in great need of support due to a drop in attendance and donations over the last several years.

This Festival is the oldest and in some ways the easiest. All the events are indoors with stages, shopping, workshops and films close together. The producers are including a variety of music in hopes of appealing to all age groups. Younger women are especially encouraged to give this festival a try.

Wishing Chair will be playing on night stage this year and would love home town support For a complete list of performers see <http://wiaonline.org>. Admission cost and other information will be posted there soon.

This year is particularly crucial because financial stability has to be achieved even though donations to charities are down all over the country. If donations do not come in and if attendance at the festival continues to be low, this festival could disappear as others have. Women in the Arts, that puts on this festival as well as other events, is a 501(c)-3 organization. Tax deductible membership is \$35 for a single \$55 for family and can be sent to .Women in the arts, P.O box 1427, Indianapolis, In 46206.



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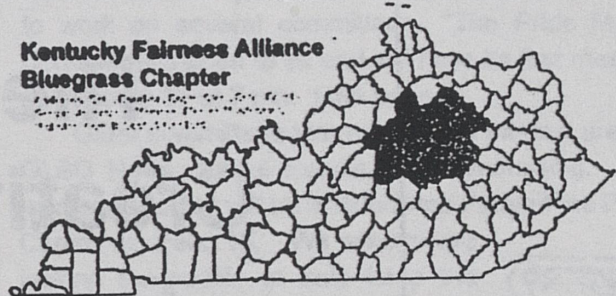
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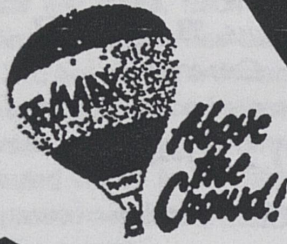
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Women's Spirituality Group



This is a representation of Nut the Egyptian Sky Goddess. The Woman Spirituality Group of the U.U. Church plans to study Nut and other goddesses of the world included in the curriculum Rise Up And Call Her Name. We will be meeting every other Friday nights starting January 18. The first meeting is introductory and open to all women. After that we will be asking people to commit to a series of six or so sessions. For information call Mary Crone at 266-5904.

FOR RENT: nice 3 bedroom ranch style house Landsdown area. Near shopping center & mall. \$700 a month . no smoking- will consider pets
NOTE: The phone number for this ad has been misplaced. Owner and those interested in renting call Ginger at the Pride Center 253-3233. We will put you in touch with each other. Very sorry

GLSO Needs You

GLSO is a membership organization run by a Board of Directors with elections held at the Pride Picnic every year. Due to the time pressure most of us live with, the GLSO Board usually has a one or two resignations during the year. We are looking for a few new board members and would like to invite anyone interested to give us a call or attend one of our meetings. We meet at 7 pm on the second Thursday of each month. In January that will be the 10th.

If becoming a board members seems like too much responsibility, we also have a need for volunteers to work on several committees. The Pride Month Committee is open to all and will have its first meeting on January 17 at 7 pm. (see page 2)

Other committees that might be of interest are the GLSO News, Social Events, and Fundraising. Our next social event will be a Valentines Party at the Pride Center on Feb. 15. We always are looking for people to help keep the Pride Center open on Saturdays. Give Ginger a call at the Center for information or to volunteer. 253-3233.



Moveable Feast Lexington is a non-profit organization devoted to providing free, nutritious meals to those with HIV/AIDS living in Fayette Co. Volunteers are always needed. Call 252-2867 for more details.

Thanks for Supporting Calendar

by Marlon Austin

"As Co-founder of the Imperial Court of Kentucky, I must express my gratitude to the out pouring of support for the "Femme Fatale Calendar 2002" by the Lexington Homophile Community! As a participant of the project, I was hopeful the response would be positive, as where all concerned. Imagine how truly pleased we were by the charitable spirit demonstrated by the public to our endeavors!

There is always joy inherent in any project that aims at good works, but it is multiplied greatly by the appreciation of others for an effort well achieved! And the calendar worked not only as a fund raising project but demonstrates to greater Lexington that there is a vibrant gay community in central Kentucky of caring, giving individuals!

This Calendar was made possible thought the dedicated efforts of such individuals who gave of their time, talents, and artistry to make such a financial reward possible for the good souls of "Movable Feast Lexington" and their clients! All Lexingtonians should be pleased that through your generosity these clients will receive the food and support they deserve. With your continued support "Movable Feast" will carry on it's great work and We,"The Imperial Court of Kentucky" will be able to bring you another Calendar for 2003! Please contact Michael Thompson at "Movable Feast", 252-2867, for donations and more "2002 Femme Fatal Calendars!"

See related story about the Calendar Debut Party in Community News on page 3.

Imperial Court of Kentucky News

Members of the Imperial Court of KY have been busy during November and December representing the Court out of town as well as working on local functions On the weekend of November 17th, Empress 16 Chanda Lier, Emperor 16 Elvin Harkins, Emperor 19 EV and Empress 15 and 20 Natalie Gaye attended the Imperial Court of Massachusetts Coronation held at the Sheraton Braintree outside Boston. The ICM is a brother court to the Imperial Court of KY and we were honored to be at their first Coronation Ball Emperor EV enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday with Emperor I Kevin and Marquis Tim before returning.

On Dec. 2 we attended Investitures for the 4th Reign of the Barony of Louisville. Held at the Rudyard Kipling to a capacity crowd, members Jeff H, Dame Ruby Keene, Duchess Cavier Towers, Prince Royale Orvis Keene, and Emperor 19 EV were in attendance. The monies raised by the Barony at their investitures went to the Angel Tree fund in Louisville, which provides holiday meals to families in need. Congratulations to Baron IV Shane and Baroness IV Gypsy on a successful event.

Finally, on the weekend of Dec. 7, Empress 15 and 20 Natalie and Emperor 20 Chris went to the Old Town Bar in Monroe, OH for a "KY invasion Show." The bar, which is owned by Emperor 8 Dale and Empress 9 Booshee of the Cincinnati court, allowed our female line to do a show their to raise money. Participating in the show were Natalie and Chris, ICP 20 JD Vaughn, Cavier Towers, Sioux Anna Danielle, and Jenna Jive. A total of \$651 was raised and a big thanks to Dale and Booshee for asking our Court to do this event.

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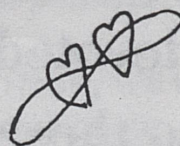
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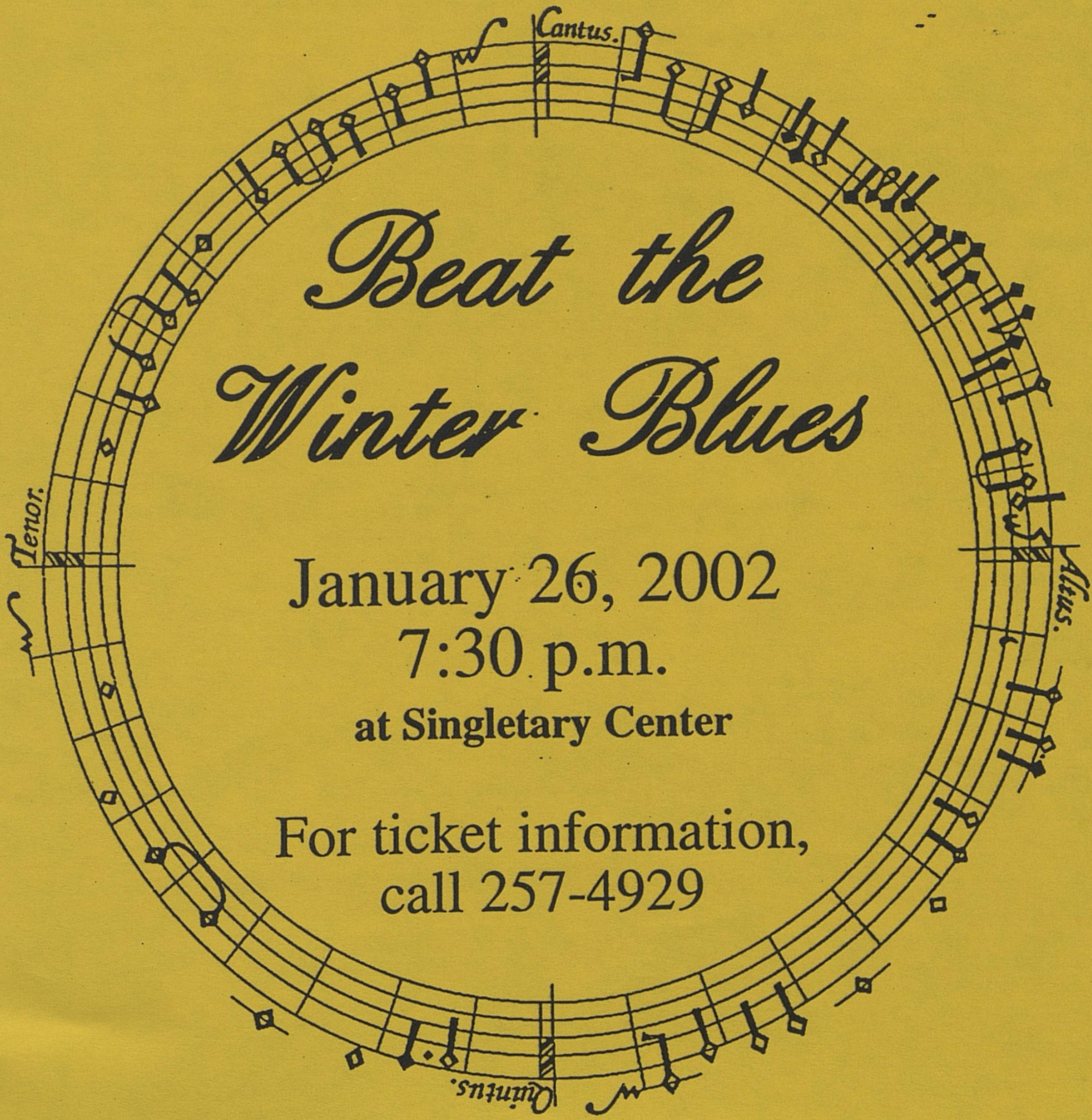
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GLSO Directory

GLSO Board

GLSO Pride Center.....	253-3233
GLSO Board (Terry).....	252-2867
GLSO Discussion Group (Jane).....	276-0673
GLSO News (Mary).....	266-5904
Subscriptions (Ginger).....	253-3233
GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary).....	266-5904
Pink Pages (Jordan).....	269-2094
Youth Gay Straight Alliance (Mary).....	266-5904
GLSO on Line.....	lexingtonglso@yahoo.com www.bluegrasspride.org

Student Groups

Morehead State University (Ned).....	606-783-2294
UK Lambda (James).....	254-6021
Berea College ACE League (Rich).....	859-985-4106
Centre College (BGLAD-Mykol).....	238-5332

Anonymous HIV Testing

Jessamine County.....	885-4149
Lexington-Fayette County.....	288-2437
Madison County.....	606-723-7312
Woodford County.....	873-4541

HIV/AIDS Info/Services

AIDS Volunteers, Inc.....	225-3000
Lexington Health Department (Julie).....	288-2362
HIV/AIDS Legal Project.....	502-584-1254
HIV Education Youth Group.....	278-7494
HIV Support (Somerset).....	679-7578 or 678-5814
Cumberland Region (SEKY-Pat).....	606-864-3776 or 888-425-7282
Barren River Region.....	1-800-559-4448
Louisville Region (Geri).....	502-574-0161
Northern Kentucky Region.....	859-341-4264
Purchase Region.....	1-800-522-8289
Moveable Feast.....	252-2867
VOA (Mark).....	254-3469

Community

Alcoholics Anonymous (Brian).....	245-7471
Office.....	276-2917
AL-Anon (Office).....	277-1877
Bluegrass Belles (Marjorie).....	278-2608
(Ann).....	502-672-8673
Bluegrass C.O.L.T.S (Morris).....	225-9169
Bluegrass Fairness.....	296-7812
Council for Peace and Justice (Richard).....	277-6101
DOJ Pride (Robin).....	231-8526
Fairness of Louisville.....	502-893-0788
First Link (was Ask-Us).....	313-5465

GLSEN-KY (Gina).....	606-676-9412
G/L Defense Fund.....	502-589-2896
International Gay Bowling (Steve).....	276-3058
Imperial Court of KY.....	bluegrassempire@hotmail.com
KY Leather Productions (Larry).....	253-0185
Kyians for the Commonwealth.....	jlynjenks@msn.com
Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club (George).....	885-7777
Greggers.....	792-6117
Lake Cumberland Gay Alliance.....	roger@hyperaction.net
Lexington Human Rights Commission.....	252-4931
Lexington Men's Chorus (Milton).....	253-4816
Louisville Youth Group.....	502-894-9787
Moonshine Bears of KY (Bobby).....	621-4943
Pride Alliance of Central KY (Gary).....	859-236-4547
(Shane).....	859-854-0596 or pridealliance@yahoo.com
P-FLAG (Jim).....	266-3934
(Dottie).....	489-4791
Pegasus Travel.....	253-1644
Rainbow Bowling League (Steve).....	276-3058
Richmond Q Club (Larry).....	859-623-7720
Sistersound (Patti).....	243-0243
Sistahs in the Life (Joan).....	252-2657
(Missy).....	335-1441

Religious Groups

Dignity (Catholic-Richard).....	268-1351
Interweave (Unitarian-Davina).....	271-6174
Integrity (Episcopal-Rev. Stone).....	277-7511
MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev. Cathy).....	800-484-8489
MCC Lexington (Rev. Mel).....	539-3622
MCC Louisville (Rev. Dee).....	502-775-6636
MCC Paducah (Rev. Donna).....	270-441-2307
Norse Pagan Community (Rev. Pat).....	268-1640
KY Pagan Forum.....	http://go.to/kypaganforum/
RainbowWind (Pagan-Sarah).....	273-2455
Soulforce (Angie).....	489-0223
soulforcelexington@yahoo.com	
St. Augustine's Chapel (Episcopal-Rev. Chris).....	254-3726
Open Door (Christian-Rev. Pam).....	396-7636

DEADLINES:

Article and Ad Space: Jan. 15
 Ads we know are coming: Jan. 20
 Mary: marycrone@aol.com
 John: ursaloco2@aol.com