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on the community

Triangle Quarterly
Autumn, 2009



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ON THE COVER ...



Front row are Will Batts, executive director of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, Heidi Cranford Williams president and board chair and Elokin CaPece, vice president of programs. Standing behind them are Len Piechowski, vice president of administration, Tom Crutcher, treasurer, Darlene Fike, secretary, and directors, Matthew Malone, Kenan Gilmore, Mickey Maxwell, Marc Brown, Marian Bacon and Susana Rodas. The board was elected at the membership's annual meeting July 26 and began their terms Aug. 1.



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New MGLCC directors spend day at retreat

Reflections by Jared Burrow

I was recently invited to be a guest at the Aug. 15 retreat for new MGLCC directors. I was amazed by how many things impressed me during that long day of work. Here are just a few:

Never again

Facilitator Kevin Dean asked each board member to state the one thing that they love the most about the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Almost unanimously, people responded that it was the welcoming, home environment. One person even extended it by saying "We save lives." Several people nodded as they recalled all of the hands that have been held during the last several years.

While many lives have been saved through the center, it was a very sobering realization when Len Piechowski, former president, now vice president of administration, spoke of the two persons who frequented the center whose lives had been lost to suicide. He closed his reflections by stating, "This must never happen again."

These words remained in the ears of the directors throughout the rest of the day, as they worked together to form a more unified, focused mission statement for MGLCC. Together, the board decided personal agendas will be put aside, and the mission of the community center and the board of directors will be focused on being an advocate for those members of our community unable to speak for themselves, providing essential resources and protections for those unable to obtain these for themselves, and empowering the members so they will one day be able to do this for themselves.



The working lunch during the Aug. 15 Board retreat.

Unify the Community

Another focus at the New Directors' Retreat was on how to better unify the community and how to "get away from the potluck mentality," in reference to a popular, yet untrue, opinion that MGLCC is just a place for "old white men to come together and have potlucks." The actual composition of the MGLCC Board, held by many to be the face of the community center, shows just how diverse the center really is: Men, women, gay, lesbian, bi, trans, young, not-so-young, black, white, Hispanic, people from every walk of life have come together to represent the diversity of our community, and the unity we wish to foster in our community.

No longer should it be, "I'll do this for the community, you can do that, and we might just meet halfway" but "We will work together for the community."

Expanded youth services

Last summer, Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center began a summer youth program known as "Camp Out" as a way of reaching out to the GLBTQ youth of the Memphis area. After the summer ended, it evolved into Queer As Youth (lovingly referred to as "QAY"), held the first and third Saturday of every month from 7 to 9 p.m.

Many have asked why MGLCC has QAY when just down the street, every Friday, Memphis Area Gay Youth meets as well. QAY, however, is just a stepping stone. For the last few months, the center has also been working toward ensuring safe housing for its youth who would otherwise be on the streets, working towards securing jobs for these youth, and legal counsel for those who need it. At the annual meeting and elections held in July, it was officially announced that one focus for the new Board would be to launch these same services on a full-scale level, with the eventual, long-term plan of comprehensive youth services program. An outside consultant has cautioned the Board to be realistic as to when this can happen, although it is currently planned for this to be possible within the next five years if funding is available.

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Kenan's coming out story

MGLCC board member shares message of honesty, faith and family

by Martha Brahm

For many people, coming out is an experience fraught with questions. Is the oppression and abuse that one is exposed to when coming out worth the personal freedom gained and the stand one takes for the community? Lots of LGBT folks are out and grateful that they found the courage to be true to themselves. In each of our upcoming issues, we will feature a brief coming-out story of one member of our community. It is not the story of their whole life, but a window into this important and life-changing experience. The details of their courage may help others to take this important step, one that is important personally and politically.

Kenan Gilmore (see photo next page) is a writer and a man of great imagination. It is as if stories are constantly flowing through his veins. He has found that the best way for him to give his imagination life is to write these stories down. He is in the process of promoting his second book, the gay suspense thriller *Is This Him?* His first book is a work in progress, chronicling his mother's ongoing struggle with breast cancer. Gilmore is also a successful realtor with Cyre-Leike and was just elected to the MGLCC board of directors.

When did you come out and what was that experience like for you?

In 1999, I was 14 and attending Wooddale High School. One day at school in a class discussion on homosexuality, I raised my hand and said, "I'm gay . . . and this is what it is like for me." Because I am not particularly flamboyant, people were a little shocked, but ultimately, I think it made me more popular in school.

That night, I went home and told my parents. I felt like I was old enough to date and I wanted to invite my boyfriend to Thanksgiving dinner which was a few days away. My mother, whose best friend in high school had been a gay guy, was more upset than my father. She had observed first hand how hard things were for her friend, and that was not what she wanted for me. But she came around really quickly.

That year at our family Thanksgiving dinner, my guest was included. I even introduced him as my boyfriend. My mother told the whole family that my boyfriend and I were to be treated with respect and warmth, and anyone who could not or would not do so was invited to leave. A couple of family members left, but within a month or so things calmed down. Whether or not my family actually approves, they have been courteous and loving to my boyfriends and me through the years.

What about your religious community?

I attend a COGIC church. I have always been very active, and coming out didn't stop that. My boyfriend often attends church with me. While we have not made an announcement to the congregation that we are gay, we also don't hide it. If anyone ever asks me, I always tell them the truth. Church has been comfortable for me despite COGIC's official stand on the issue.

How has your work life been affected?

When I was younger, I worked in fast food. It wasn't unusual for me to get half the shifts that I had been promised. Homophobia was definitely an issue. Currently, I find that people are fairly accepting of a gay realtor. My colleagues experience me as a responsible professional. There have been individuals who don't understand that I have one persona when I am promoting my gay novel, as seen on my Facebook profile, and another when I am negotiating contracts for my real estate clients.

What advice do you have for people who are think about coming out?

Trust in yourself. Believe that

you will be able to handle any outcome. If you cannot accept who you are, then you cannot expect others to. Give the people in your life a chance. When you confide in them, it lets them know that you trust them. It is important to me that the person I am in a relationship with is "out"; otherwise, our relationship is based on a lie. My present partner of six years is from the Bahamas. It is not unheard of for gay people to just suddenly come up missing there. When we first got together, his family didn't know he was gay. He couldn't bring himself to tell his mother, so he asked me if I would help. I did speak with his mother. Despite the enormous prejudice that is a part of her culture, she comes to Memphis for visits and stays in our home. When we visit her, she is gracious and accepting. You just have to give people a chance!

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Kenan Gilmore
see story on preceding page



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Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center works on strategic planning process

Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center is enthusiastically beginning its strategic planning process which will result in many improvements to the existing programs of MGLCC. The plan will be comprehensive, including a new mission statement, vision statement, five-year strategic plan and new marketing materials for the organization.

Kevin Dean, director of development for Hope House, is facilitating the activities of the strategic plan pro bono. "I'm happy to be providing this service for MGLCC," Dean said. "There has been an overwhelming amount of public support and encouragement for this process, and I truly feel that this work will take the center to the next level."

The process has featured significant levels of participation by the community. In April, the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center held a series of 21 focus groups to launch the

beginning of its strategic planning process. Within these groups, 112 gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight and transgendered participants gave feedback on the various programs, fundraisers and resources. A subsequent 30-page document was produced with focus-group results as well as recommendations from Dean for board review. The report will be made available to the public very soon.

Will Batts, executive director of MGLCC said, "We are very pleased with the results of the focus groups and thankful for the generous donation of time by the participants. In the focus groups, we found that the community is very supportive of the programs we already have, but they want to know more about the center and many things we do. MGLCC has programs that are helping people cope with difficult situations, providing empowerment to LGBT youth, and so much more. We're going to be working very hard in the upcoming months to ensure that the entire

community is aware of the many resources we are providing to the LGBT community — and to tell the stories about the lives we are saving by providing essential resources to the underserved."

In August, board members spent a full day at a retreat, which focused on revising the mission, vision and strategic plan of the organization. At the retreat, board members reviewed the focus group findings and worked in small groups to make important decisions on the future of the organization. In creating the new mission and vision, board members were reminded to ensure that the critical services MGLCC provides to those in need were reflected.

"We're looking forward to showing how vital our services are to the community," Batts said. "Based on the focus group results, we have a community that wants to get more involved. Now we have the tools to show them how they can help."

Madam President ...

by Jamie Griffin



Heidi Cranford Williams first became aware of MGLCC at a Cooper-Young festival long before there was an actual building for LGBT Memphians to call home. She felt that she was destined to become an activist although she had no idea how to launch that dream. Her career had not yet taken off and money was scarce. She approached the MGLCC booth, however, and dropped a \$20 bill into the "building fund" jar, hoping that her meager contribution would make a difference.

Fast forward a year: An e-mail popped into her inbox. She had received an invitation to

attend the dedication of MGLCC's new building at 892 S. Cooper. Wow — who knew that \$20 could buy so much? Included also was a request to attend a strategic planning meeting to help decide the future direction of MGLCC. She was thrilled to be a part of the process and honored when then-President Len Piechowski saw leadership potential in her and encouraged her to run for the board.

Williams served two years as vice president of the board and worked with many dedicated volunteers to help a struggling non-profit establish a core group of supporters, increase membership, expand programming and diversify. Piechowski became her mentor and she learned the basics of management, community organizing, program development and fundraising.

These skills led her to a career as an activist on the national level: a dream launched at last. Her advocacy work took her to Washington, D.C. to work for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and then to Atlanta to serve as the Southern Regional Director for Lambda Legal.

Williams recently returned to Memphis to pursue her masters in communication at the University of Memphis. She was happy to move back home and anxious to share the new skills and talents she honed at HRC and Lambda Legal with MGLCC. During her first tour of duty on the board of MGLCC, Piechowski often spoke of how the current board operated more like staff. He also spoke of his vision for a sophisticated board that guided the organization and focused on

procuring funding for the life-saving programs of MGLCC.

As the newly elected president of the MGLCC board, Williams is energized about leading the organization as it continues its evolution. According to Williams, "MGLCC has so many things going for it right now. Not only is the board full of enthusiastic and dedicated members, but we are also in the advantageous position to have Will Batts as our executive director. I have long respected Batts and seen him as an essential resource in the LGBT community. We just can't be stopped!"

Williams plans on focusing her energy mentoring new board members and establishing a comprehensive development plan for MGLCC. She wants to ensure that MGLCC has the financial resources needed to continue and expand programs and to guarantee that MGLCC retains the talent Batts offers.

Williams' wife, Erin Cranford Williams, works for PFLAG and they reside in Midtown with their two kittens, Sappho and Naxos. They picked their Midtown neighborhood in part because it was within walking distance of MGLCC. If you frequent Midtown, you are sure to see them running through the neighborhoods as Erin is in the process of being certified as a personal trainer, and Heidi is preparing for the St. Jude Marathon on Dec. 5.

Another great way to run into Williams is to drop by MGLCC!

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Endorsements for National Equality March grow

Diverse ranks continue to deepen as "Equality Across America" expands

Support for the National Equality March (NEM) has been growing exponentially during the past few weeks, according to event organizer Equality Across America (EAA). Americans are hearing the drumbeat for LGBT equality and plan to follow it to the nation's capital in October.

Thousands of individuals representing dozens of organizations from across the country have visited the EAA website to sign up as Congressional District Actions Teams (CDATs) in order to work at the local level to make their support of key LGBT issues known to their elected officials.

Most notably, recent endorsements for the NEM have come from allies representing organizations not usually thought of as part of the immediate LGBT community: Rep. Danny K. Davis of Chicago; Michael Letwin, co-convenor of New York City Labor Against the War (NYCLAW); and NAACP Board Chairman Julian Bond have all recently voiced their support for the NEM.

"GLBT rights are civil rights; there are no 'special rights' in America. Everyone has rights — or should have — and I am happy to join in this battle for justice and fairness," explained Bond.

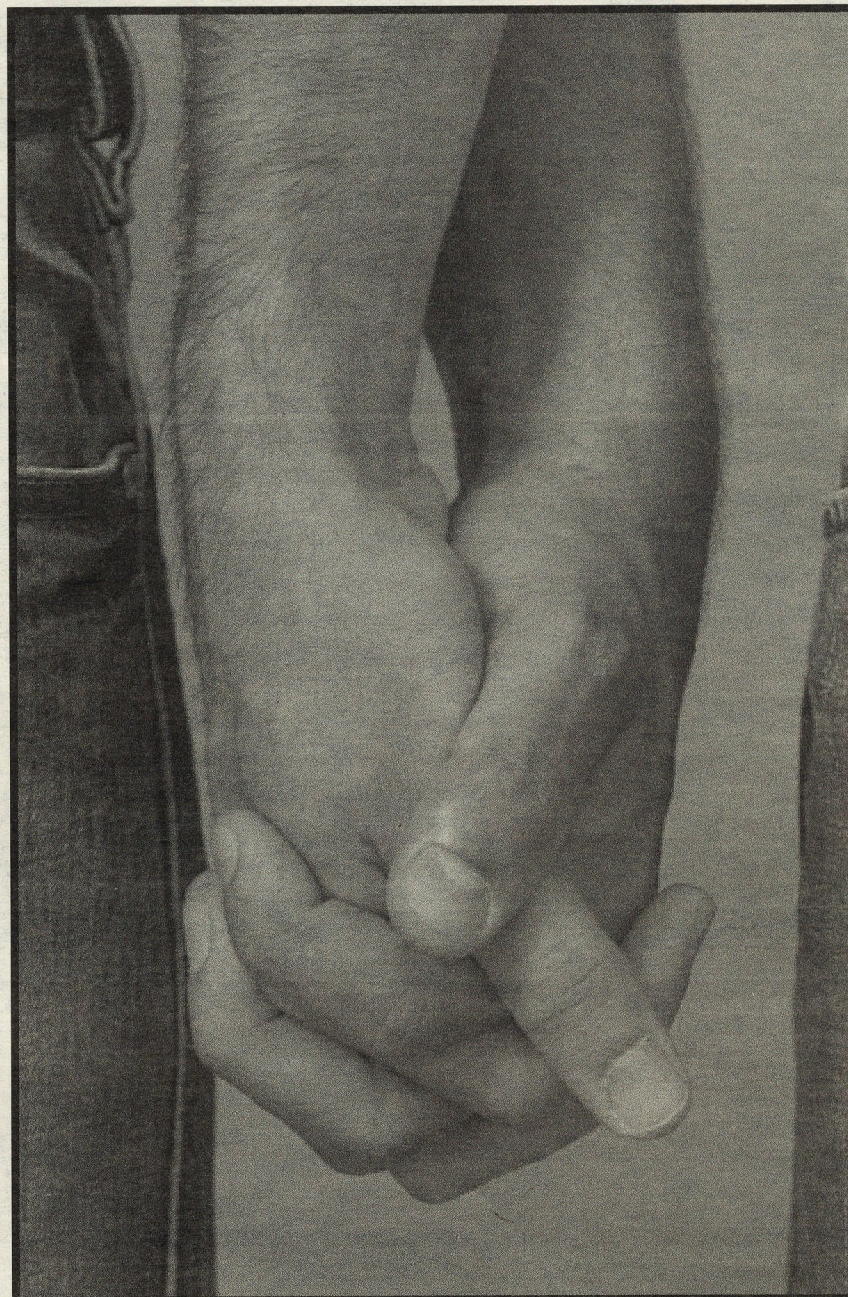
Other notable endorsements include Susan Stryker, associate professor of Gender Studies at Indiana University and author of *Transgender History*, and the Tony Award-winning production of Broadway's *Hair*, which will be going dark for the weekend of the NEM in order to attend the event.

EAA supports individuals from every industry to do what is within their power to support full equality for LGBT Americans and their families, and many have been making bold choices to voice such support. The Huffington Post featured blogger Lane Hudson even went so far as to interrupt President Clinton during a keynote address to a Netroots Nation conference last week by asking, "Mr. President, will you call for a repeal of DOMA and Don't Ask, Don't Tell? Right now?"

Equality Across America is a network of decentralized organizers in every one of the 435 Congressional districts. These organizers form Congressional District Action Teams that work within their own communities to achieve full equality for LGBT Americans and their families. EAA supports the following key pieces of legislation: the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA), the Repeal of Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and the Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT). With members of every race, class, faith, and community, EAA sees the struggle for LGBT equality as part of a larger movement for peace and social justice.

The National Equality March is being organized by EAA to show broad-based support for full equality for LGBT Americans on the doorstep of those who can make that happen — the United States Congress. The event will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, and Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009, in Washington, D.C. Each EAA Congressional District Action Team will mobilize its community to attend the event.

For more information about EAA and the NEM, and for a full list of endorsements, visit: www.equalityacrossamerica.com.



**Planning meeting for Memphians
participating in the**

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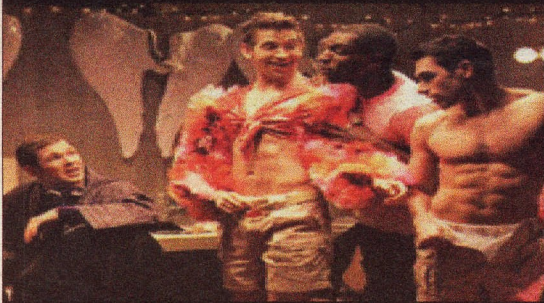
outflix

Presented by
Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center



Drool

An abused wife's plan to escape her husband goes awry when she accidentally kills him, causing her to split on a cross-country drive with her best friend and his corpse in tow.



Big Gay Musical

Paul and Eddie have just begun previews for the new Off-Broadway musical "Adam and Steve Just the Way God Made 'Em." Paul is looking for the perfect man and Eddie is dealing with how his sexuality and faith can mix. But after musical numbers with scantily clad tap dancing angels, a retelling of Genesis, tele-evangelists, a camp that attempts to turn gay kids straight, and a bunch of showtunes, everyone realizes that life gets better once they accept who they really are.



Make the Yuletide Gay

Sort of a gay twist on "Home For The Holidays." Olaf "Gunn" Gunnunderson, an out-and-proud gay college student, crawls back into the closet to survive the holidays with his family. He keeps his cool as his quirky Midwestern-hearted parents try to set him up with his high school sweetheart, Abby. But when his boyfriend, Nathan, shows up at their doorstep unannounced, Gunn must put on a charade to keep the relationship a secret.



Hannah Free

This film (starring Sharon Gless) switches between past and present as it follows Hannah and Rachel. Hannah and Rachel grew up as little girls in the same small Midwest town, where traditional gender expectations eventually challenge their deep love for one another. Hannah becomes an adventurous, unapologetic lesbian and Rachel a strong but quiet homemaker.

Watch trailers @ www.outflixfestival.org



outflix



September 11 - 17 at Malco's Ridgeway 4

Ticket Prices:

- Festival Pass - \$70
- Weekend Day Pass - \$20
- Weeknight Pass - \$15
- Single Screening - \$9

For tickets contact Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center
at 278-6422 or Mickey Maxwell at 493-5098

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Opening Night: Friday, September 11
Cocktail Party (Cash Bar) @ 6:30 PM
"Big Gay Musical" @ 8:00 PM

Saturday, September 12

- 3:30 PM - "Mississippi Queen"
- 6:30 PM - "At Home" & "And Then Came Lola"
- 8:30 PM - "Make the Yuletide Gay"

Sunday, September 13

- 2:00 PM - "Transproofed" &
"The Lovers & Fighters Convention"
- 4:00 PM - "Hannah Free"
- 7:00 PM - "Ready? OK!"

Monday, September 14

- 6:30 PM - "Drool"
- 8:30 PM - "Shank"

Tuesday, September 15

- 6:30 PM - "Standing-N-Truth: Breaking
the Silence"***
- 8:30 PM - "Patrik 1.5"

Wednesday, September 16

- 6:30 PM - "Burn the Bridges"
- 8:30 PM - "James" & "Clapham Junction"

Thursday, September 17

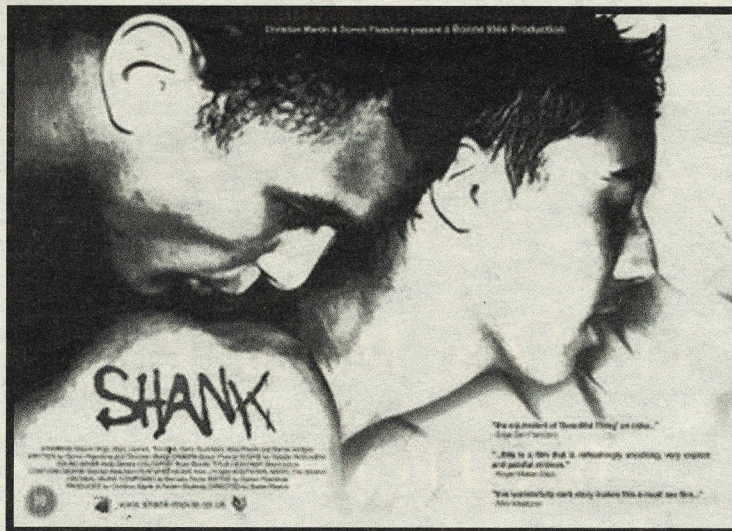
- 6:30 PM - "I Can't Think Straight"
- 8:30 PM - "Rivers Wash Over Me"***

**Filmmakers will be present for showing

Shank at Outflix

Reviewed by Carl Smith

Cal (Wayne Virgo), a rough, young, hunky British bloke and gang member, is out looking for a little "fun." Thanks to Internet chat sites, Cal has no problem finding his next anonymous encounter with Scott (Garry Summers), an unsuspecting university professor also out on the prowl, to help satisfy his intimate urges. What starts out as a seemingly harmless escapade between consenting adults ends in an unpredictable, violent, rage-filled attack administered by Cal. But why? When Cal joins two other hooligan friends afterwards, the answer becomes painfully clear. While driving around aimlessly, the three misfits find another unsuspecting victim named Olivier (Marc Laurent). Olivier, a young, openly gay student, is targeted by the hapless trio, where yet another attack ensues. However, there's something different this time when Cal refuses to join in the melee. In the midst of Olivier's assault, Cal steps in to stop fellow gang members Nessa (Alice Payne), the gang's ring leader and videographer, and Jonno (Tom Bott), the "muscle" of the bunch, during the brutal attack. Olivier escapes only to be later joined by Cal who helps him to get home safely. Why the sudden change of heart? At this point, you probably think you know the answer just as I thought I did. However, there's more to Cal and his relationships with friends and strangers than meets the eye. Cal is clearly emotionally torn between denying his true sexuality in the presence of his seedy mates while tentatively reaching out to Olivier in an attempt to find self-acceptance. As in gripping dramas of this nature, he finds that his road to acceptance is paved with unrequited love, tragic losses, self-hatred and shame. This film hits all of the cinematic hot buttons including sex, lies, videotape, love, hate, fear, self-loathing and, ultimately, redemption. Director Simon Pearce takes us on an emotional rollercoaster ride with enough twists and turns that'll challenge your own views of love, hate, fear and forgiveness. Although a bit graphic in nature, the uncomfortable elements are integral to the telling of this story. *Shank* is



definitely not a feel-good type of film by any stretch of the imagination, but it's one that will make you think. *Shank* is in the film lineup in this fall's upcoming Outflix Film Festival Sept. 11-17. The entire Outflix schedule can be found at www.outflixfestival.org Don't miss it!

Is He Dead? at Germantown Community Theatre

"Drag your thoughts away from your troubles — by the ears, by the heels, or any other way you can manage it." Mark Twain

by Bo List

The estimable Mr. Clemens, the quintessential American literary wit and one of the most potent social observers this side of Gore Vidal, wasn't referring to his failed 1898 play *Is He Dead?* when he penned that quote. His career as a playwright never quite took off, and the funny, if problematic script went largely unnoticed — and unpublished — until its rediscovery in 2002. But there's a double meaning in the phrase — which applies nicely to the comedic stylings of the play even as it suggests a reprieve from economic woes and the shrill health-care debate — and the operative verb is "drag."

Beginning Sept. 11 at the Germantown Community Theatre, ears will perk and heels will kick up when *Is He Dead?* lives again — in a newly trimmed version by David Ives that debuted in 2007. Ives, an accomplished rib-tickler best known for the hilarious evening of one-acts *All in the Timing*, has compressed the original's three sprawling acts into two, and eliminated much of the long-winded, talked-about offstage

action and exposition. The new version also goes a long way toward highlighting the comic showpiece of the play: a dude in a dress.

Cross-dressing is alive and well on Memphis stages, with a number of recent productions employing the convention for a variety of purposes. In the opera *Faust*, performed in April by Opera Memphis, the role of Siebel — a lovesick male pupil of Faust — is played by a female mezzo soprano. In some operas, this brand of cross-dressing is employed to portray a young boy — not for humorous effect but to imbue the character with a high vocal range and a mature adult performer to achieve it. The audience is asked, by implication, to accept that the character is male, while only cursory efforts may be made to conceal the fact that she is played by a woman.

In Shakespeare's England, it was considered unseemly for women to perform onstage. Thus Juliet, Lady Macbeth, Cleopatra and Rosalind were all originally played by boys or by slightly-built men who could convincingly create the feminine illusion requisite of the roles (referred to as "pants" or "breeches" roles). Occasionally the role called for men to play women playing men, achieving both dramatic and comic effects. In *The Merchant of Venice*, Portia — played by a young man — must disguise herself as a man in order to serve as lawyer in her unbeknownst husband's defense. If she loses the case, her husband will lose a pound of flesh to the hand of the indignant Shylock: No laughing matter. In *As You Like It*, however, Rosalind hides in the Forest of Arden as the young male Ganymede. She falls in love with Orlando, who himself is in love with Rosalind (not Ganymede) — while Ganymede has earned the affections of salty shepherdess Phebe, herself beloved of shepherd Silvius. Now that's comedy!

In 1660, King Charles II took the English throne and overturned an 18-year ban on theatre performances (imposed by the Puritanical Oliver Cromwell) — as well as the convention of men playing women (and sometimes then playing men again). Suddenly the idea of women playing women was revealed to be less absurd than men playing them and a generation of pretty young men was unemployed unless they could adapt to the rigors of playing (gasp!) men. Memphis audiences got a close look at this historical episode two seasons ago with Circuit Playhouse's *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, featuring Jerre Dye (in an Ostrander Award-winning performance) as Ned Kynaston, a famous Desdemona who struggled to find work once drag performances were forbidden.

Is He Dead? employs the cross-dressing element for purely humorous purposes — with a story involving a struggling artist who fakes his own death to increase the value of his art, only to disguise himself as his own non-existent sister to reap the rewards. Directed by Marler Stone and running Sept. 11-27, this gender-bending, knee-slapping farce proves that good drag never goes out of style, and that rumors of Twain's failure as a playwright are greatly exaggerated.

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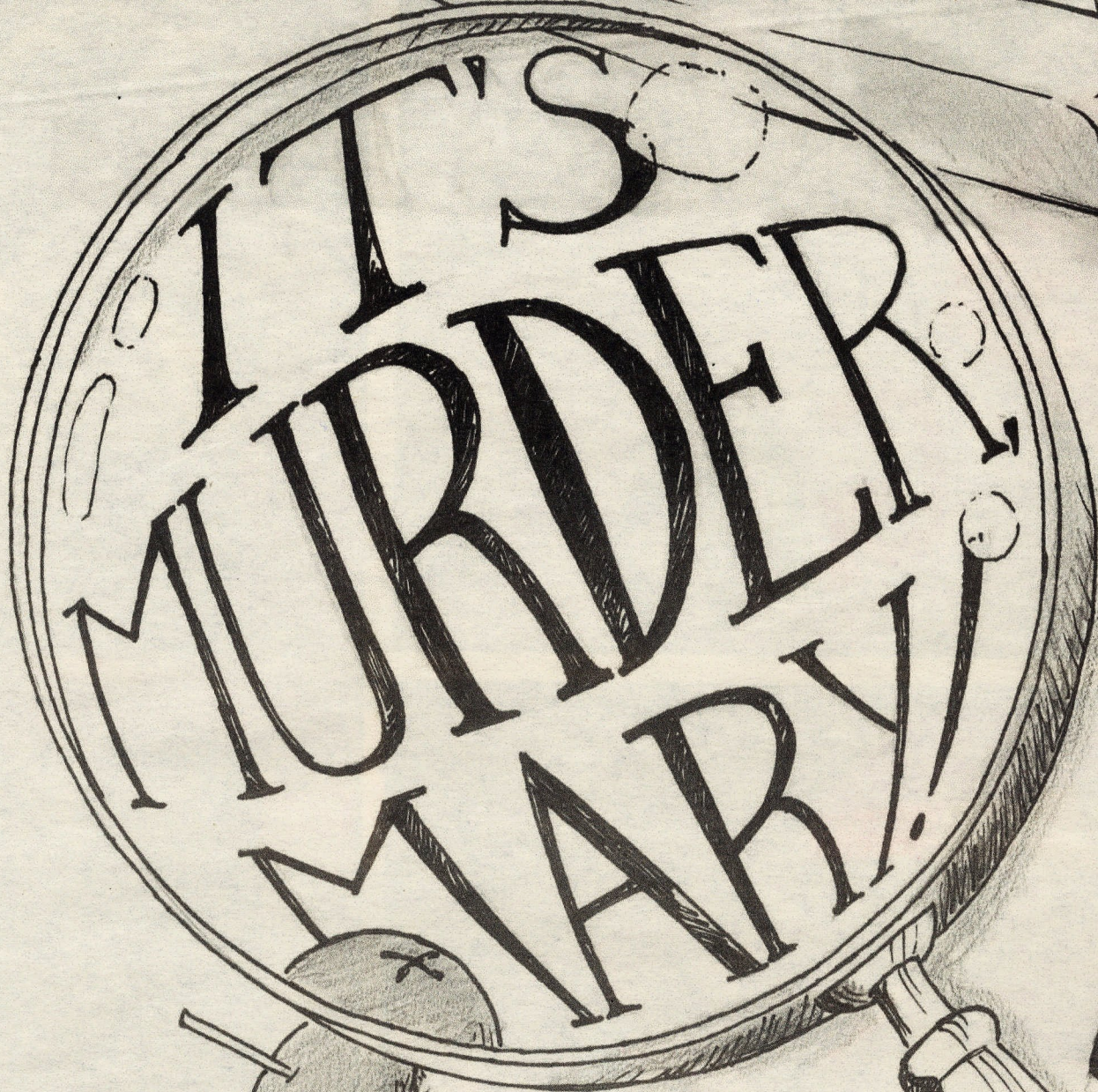


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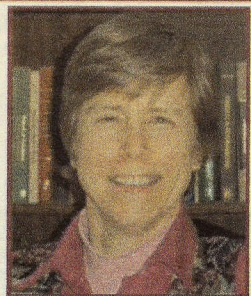
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Memphians join nationwide kiss-in



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A "Great Nationwide Kiss-In" was conducted on Saturday Aug. 15 in response to events in three different American cities, where gay or lesbian couples have been harassed, detained or arrested for the act of kissing in a public place. The event was a peaceful celebration of everyone's right to publicly acknowledge their loved ones – lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or straight – with a kiss. More than 50 events took place nationwide, one of which occurred at Poplar and Highland in Memphis. Local event organizer Josephine Williams is seen on the right.



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Gay soccer: the world's sport

by Dan Woog

Though soccer is the world's most popular sport – and the International Gay and Lesbian Football (Soccer) Association boasts more than 80 teams in over 20 countries – this year's annual international tournament almost did not happen.

But thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of gay men and women – and straight allies – in Washington, D.C., the 2009 Gay Soccer World Championship was a rousing success.

When the Philadelphia organizers bowed out of their commitment just nine months before the event, the Washington soccer world kicked into high gear. The Federal Triangles Soccer Club has long been one of the strongest members of the IGLFA, participating in every world championship since the club's founding in 1990. Led by president Jim Ensor, they put on a show that attracted 26 teams, from as far away as Australia and Argentina.

London Stonewall repeated as men's Division I champion. The Seattle Jet City Strikers took the men's Division II title, while the Philadelphia Falcons won the women's exhibition category. Gay soccer provides clubs and teams a place where "people can feel free to play, and be who they are. Too often gay men and women are stereotyped, and made to think they can't do certain things. It's telling that, still today, there is not one out athlete actively playing in a major U.S. team sport," says Michael Pranikoff, 2009 tournament marketing chair.

Pranikoff notes that many youngsters still find it difficult to be both athletes and out of the closet. In Turkey, a gay soccer referee was recently banned. Rumors about top soccer players around the world continue to make harsh headlines. Gay soccer offers a sanctuary. "There is a freedom on the pitch," Pranikoff says. "People can relive a childhood desire that they couldn't, or were too afraid to try. They can even relive a high school or college moment when they played, but now they can celebrate a goal with their partner, boyfriend or girlfriend who is sitting on the sideline, openly and loudly cheering for them.

That is not something you see on most soccer fields in the world."

At the same time, Pranikoff says, straight and questioning players are welcome. And this year's tournament received a big boost from Washington's two professional teams. DC United of Major League Soccer and the Washington Freedom (Women's Professional Soccer) both offered key support. They joined organizers at D.C.'s Pride this year, supplying players to sign autographs. (The Freedom sent superstar Abby Wambach.)

But staging the tournament was ultimately a grassroots effort. Ensor – who first played in the tournament in 1997, coached high school soccer for 12 years and worked extensively with the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association – helped beat the bushes to get the D.C. soccer community, gay and straight, involved.

People rolled up their sleeves, he says, "because the event was unique, the visibility of GLBT sports has improved in recent years, the stigma attached to gay sports has softened, and the need for outreach and acceptance is creeping in at all levels of sport."

The Greater Washington Sports Alliance, Destination DC (local tourist bureau) and mayor's office were all early supporters. Their assistance enabled organizers to reach out to area businesses. Adidas, Eyre, ASG Sports, Experient and Front Point Security all came through strongly.

Social events, as well as all-week Metro passes and shuttle buses to fields, extended the feeling of camaraderie – and partying – beyond the matches themselves.

"All of the teams hung out together," Pranikoff reports. "Old friendships were renewed, and new connections made."

Pranikoff spent countless hours updating the website, and posting Feedback and Twitter news. "People told me they'd call home to tell their boyfriend, partner or family they'd won, and the person on the other end would say



they already knew because they were watching online," Pranikoff says with pride.

At the closing party, JC Cummings – a Washington-area gay soccer pioneer – was honored for his contributions to the IGLFA. He expressed gratitude and love for what gay soccer has given him.

"The people who were supposed to care for me when I was young tried their best, but they didn't do a very good job," Cummings said. "They told me that gay people could not participate in sports. That confused me. Groups like the Federal Triangles Soccer Club and ILGFA have liberated me from their prejudices."

Cummings called the players and officials at the 2009 championships "part of a movement. In 1995, when the tournament was in Berlin, the leader of the German women's national team told his players that anyone who played would lose her place on the national team.

"In Germany today, gay couples can legally marry. We move the beach one grain of sand at a time. It's a slow movement, but you are doing the work."

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his Web site at www.danwoog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

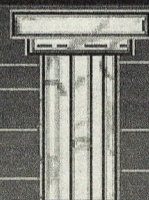
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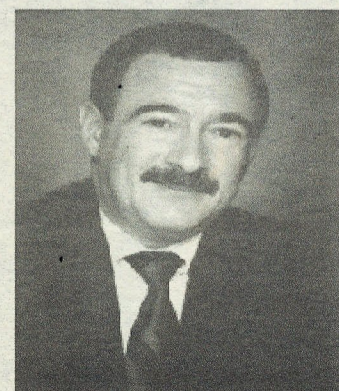
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The Miss Gay Memphis Pageant

Stonewall comes to the Mid-South

by Vincent Astor

Memphis in the 1960s was not the friendliest place toward GLBT people. There was an anti-sodomy law in Tennessee. It was still the era when bars and even private parties could be busted, based on a rumor. Cross dressing was forbidden by city ordinance; same-sex dancing could get a person arrested. After an arrest, names of those arrested would routinely appear in the newspaper. Jobs could be lost, reputations ruined. Some gathering places remained open but the utmost discretion was exercised.

One "safe" night was Halloween. Drag came out in profusion, but mostly at private parties. One such party was held at the old Lowenstein house (not the red Lowenstein house on Jefferson, the gray Lowenstein-Long house on Waldran, north of Poplar). It was Halloween 1968 and there were a lot of drag queens and a staircase. The Miss Gay Memphis Pageant was an impromptu event and Miss Terri Woo was crowned to much applause. Afterwards, still at the party, several people gathered around a kitchen table and began to plan the next one. One of these was Dennis Belski, also known as Melina, and another Bill Kendall, manager of the Guild Art Theatre.

A year later, the word began to circulate that the pageant would be held again, this time in public, at the Guild. Amid much trepidation, much laughter and acres of sequins (and more than a few "cover girls" or RGs — real girls — present), Candace Cagle was crowned Miss Memphis to an overflowing crowd. There was no incident, there were no arrests and the pageant was held every year for more than a decade. The title went dormant and was revived more than once. Both the 20th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the 1969 public pageant were acknowledged in local GLBT newspapers. Several owners and organizers, among which were Belles, Ltd. and The Queen's Men, kept the pageant going and many of Memphis' foremost female impersonators wore the crown. A number of these titleholders can still be found in Memphis.

The plaque with the names of most of the recipients has a place of honor at Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center and is considered the oldest documented artifact of GLBT Memphis. A 16mm film and a DVD copy of the 1969 pageant are stored in the MGLCC Archives. Any other film or video of a Miss Memphis Pageant would be a valuable addition. Miss Memphis 1969 is considered to be the beginning of GLBT Memphians being more out and open and Memphis' own version of Stonewall, only overlaid with glitter and sequins and lacking the violence. The road forward was long and arduous and we have not seen the end of it.

The tale of the Miss Gay Memphis Pageant is long and stretches over most of 40 years. The full story will be told in serial form over the new web-based Triangle Journal in the coming weeks. The tribute to those who began and continued the pageant will be ongoing.

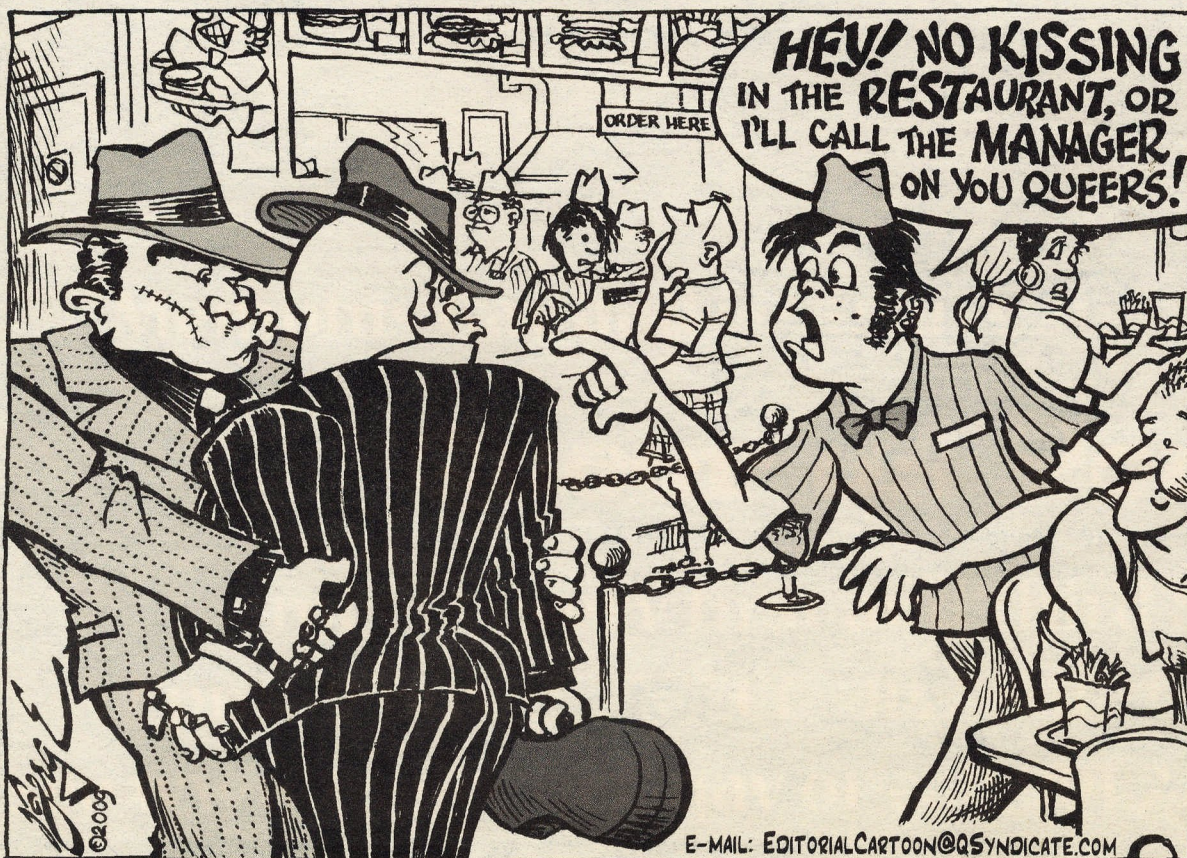
Opera Memphis

On Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009 Opera Memphis will host its second annual Season Preview Gala, a black-tie fundraiser for the organization. The event provides an opportunity to mingle with local arts supporters over a three course gourmet dinner and enjoy opera performances by the company's mainstage singers.

The 2009-2010 Season Preview Gala will be held at the Clark Opera Memphis Center at 6745 Wolf River Parkway, Opera Memphis administrative headquarters and rehearsal facility. The unique contemporary facility is located on the corner of Wolf River Parkway (Humphreys Blvd.) and Kirby in East Memphis.

Tickets are \$200 per person and \$1600 per table of eight. Tickets are on sale and may be purchased by calling Opera Memphis at 901.257.3100 or by contacting Christiana Leibovich, Special Events Coordinator, at christiana@operamemphis.org.

The Opera Memphis 2009-2010 season is sponsored by the Adams Foundation, ArtsMemphis, and the Tennessee Arts Council. Media sponsors for the Opera Memphis 2009-2010 Season Preview Gala include Memphis News/Daily News, RSVP, The Triangle Journal, and VIP Memphis.



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"I wish it was Sunday, 'Cause that's my funday, My I don't have to runday..."

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Regular season play begins September 13, so enjoy your Labor Day plans, and we'll see you the following Sunday at 5:45 PM for practice and regular league play at 6:00!



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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

▼ TQ distribution points

Please let us know if your contact information changes so that we can keep our community updated with accurate information.

Thanks!

editors@tjmemphis.com

BARS

- ▼ **901 Complex:** 136 Webster St., (901) 522-8457
- ▼ **Backstreet Memphis:** 2018 Court St., (901) 276-5522
- ▼ **Crossroads:** 1278 Jefferson Ave., (901) 272-8801
- ▼ **Dru's Place:** 1474 Madison Ave., (901) 275-8082
- ▼ **Lorenz/AfterShock:** 1528 Madison Ave., (901) 274-8272
- ▼ **Metro Memphis:** 1349 Autumn, (901) 274-8010
- ▼ **Pumping Station:** 1382 Poplar Ave., (901) 272-7600
- ▼ **Vault,** 529 S. Highland, 525-6203

BOOKS

- ▼ **Borders:** 6685 Poplar Pike
- ▼ **Burke's:** 936 South Cooper
- ▼ **Davis-Kidd:** 387 Perkins Extended
- ▼ **Memphis Public Library** 3030 Poplar

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ▼ **Blue Suede Bears of Memphis, Inc.:** 41 S. Morrison - www.bluesuedebears.com
- ▼ **Cotton Pickin' Squares:** Gay/Lesbian square dance club meets Thurs., 7 pm Prescott Church - 961 Getwell
- ▼ **4F:** Leather/Levi group, 698 Pope Dr., Bartlett 38112
- ▼ **FedEx:** LGBT & Friends Network at FedEx: lgbt@fedex.com or Intranet Keyword: LGBT
- ▼ **Initiative:Fairness** (political committee of MGLCC: IF@mgcc.org; www.mgccc.org/IF
- ▼ **Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY):** PO Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124 - (901) 335-MAGY - www.magyonline.org
- ▼ **Memphis Center for Independent Living** - 726-6404
- ▼ **Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC):** 892 S. Cooper St., (901) 278-6422 Web site: www.mgccc.org
- ▼ **Memphis Stonewall Democrats:** P.O. Box 42242, Memphis, TN 38104 www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org mphsstonewalldem@yahoo.com
- ▼ **Mid-South Equality:** www.geocities.com/midsouth_equality
- ▼ **Mid-South Pride, Inc.:** Mail: 111 S. Highland Ave., Suite 322, Memphis, TN 38111 - 685 S. Highland, 3rd Floor - (901) 414-2197- info@midsouthpride.org - www.midsouthpride.org

Nike TN GLBT Network: Daniel. forrest@nike.com office: 901.547.8217

Olive Branch Gay & Lesbian Christians Fellowship: meeting: first Tuesday 7 PM - discussion and fellowship location: Holy Cross - 8230 Highway 178 - Olive Branch MS 38654 - (662) 895-5029 on the web at http://www.meetup.com/The-Olive-Branch-Gay-Lesbian-Christians-Fellowship/ admin@holycrossolivebranch.org

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) Memphis, TN - (901) 268-2511- pflagmemphis@pflagmemphis.org

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG): Jackson, TN 38305 - (901) 664-6614 - burtren@aeneas.com

PFLAG Oxford/North Mississippi: Meets the third Thursday of every month. Johnson Commons room 203 (Isom Center) 7 p.m. - (662) 816-2142 - PO Box 2142 Oxford, MS - www.geocities.com/pflag_oxfordnorthms

Perpetual Transition: A support and social group for transgender people of all varieties and non-trans allies. - clanham@memphis.edu. - www.groups.yahoo.com/group/perpetualtransition

Shelby County Committee of Tennessee Equality Project: shelbycounty@tnequalityproject.com

Stonewall Tigers: University of Memphis, c/o Stonewall Tigers, 2522 Campus Postal Station, Memphis, TN 38152-2521 - stonewalltigers@yahoo.com

Tennessee Equality Project works for the equality of LGBT persons through the establishment of fair and equitable laws. Meets every second Wednesday at 6:30 pm at Quetzal.

Tennessee Leather Tribe: Gay men's/women's leather org. 1568 Rolling Hills Dr., Memphis, TN - (901) 357-1921

Univ. of Miss. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association: GLBA, PO Box 3541, Univ., MS 38677 - (662) 915-7049 - glba@olemiss.edu - www.olemiss.edu/orgs/glba

Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition TTPC P.O. Box 92335 Nashville, TN 37209 http://ttgpac.com TTGPAC@aol.com (615)293-6199 (615)353-1834 fax

UT-Martin ALLIES: Campus and community. Alternate Weds. 5 p.m. Info 131F Humanities Bldg., Martin, TN 38238 - neilg@utm.edu

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling Referral Service: MGLCC's Confidential Counseling Referral Service - (901) 347-8701

▼ **Kent D. Fisher, LPC, MAC:** Experiential Healing Center, 1713 Lockett Pl. - (901) 372-0710. EMDR, group, individual, couples & family therapy

▼ **Bob Loos, MS, LPC-MHSP:** Individual, couples, & family therapy for anxiety, depression, relationships sexual identity issues: (901) 581-9898

▼ **Dr. Jennifer Stone,** clinical psychologist and seminary/ministry trained. Appts: (901) 372-9133, direct (901) 361-0169. Midtown and N. Bartlett/Raleigh. EMDR, anxiety, depression, alcohol/drug, family issues, co-dependency, etc.

FOOD, RESTAURANTS, AND COFFEE

- ▼ **Bluff City Coffee Shop:** 505 S. Main
- ▼ **Bogie's Delicatessen:** 2098 La Salle Pl. - (901) 272-0022
- ▼ **Cafe Eclectic:** 603 N. McLean
- ▼ **Cafe Ole:** 959 South Cooper 274-1504
- ▼ **High Point Coffee:** 9077 Poplar Ave.
- ▼ **High Point Coffee:** 1680 Union Ave.
- ▼ **India Palace:** 1720 Poplar
- ▼ **Java Cabana:** 210 Young
- ▼ **Molly's:** 2006 Madison
- ▼ **Otherlands:** 641 South Cooper
- ▼ **Pie in the Sky:** 2158 Young Avenue
- ▼ **Quetzal:** 668 Union Ave.
- ▼ **Sean's Cafe/Smooth Moves:** 1651 Union
- ▼ **Sweet:** 938 S. Cooper.
- ▼ **Wild Oats:** 522 Poplar

HEALTH SERVICES

- ▼ **American Cancer Society:** 1-800-227-2345 - 24 hour hotline
- ▼ **Community HIV Network** - 2400 Poplar, Suite 500: 287-4750.
- ▼ **Friends For Life:** HIV/AIDS service organization - 43 N. Cleveland, (901) 272-0855 - www.friendsforlifecorp.org
- ▼ **Memphis Center for Reproductive Health:** 1462 Poplar Ave. - (901) 274-3550
- ▼ **PhoenixAA Group:** Every Tuesday evening at Grace St. Luke's Church at 8pm.
- ▼ **Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region:** 1407 Union-Suite 300 - Memphis, TN 38104 - phone: (901)725-1717 web: www.ppgmr.org.
- ▼ **Seriously Sober:** AA meeting at Holy Trinity United Church of Christ 685 South Highland every Friday evening at 8 pm.

HELP & INFORMATION LINES

- ▼ **Gay & Lesbian Helpline:** 1-888-340-GLBT (Mon.-Fri., 5-10pm, Sat.-Sun., 4-9pm)
- ▼ **Gay & Lesbian Youth Hotline:** 1-800-347-TEEN Mon.-Fri. 5-9 pm (Pacific) Web site: youthtalkline.org
- ▼ **LINC:** (901) 415-2700 A community informational agency providing info on shelters and senior services

▼ **Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center:** (901) 272-2020

▼ **Mid-South Spay and Neuter Services** 854 Goodman St. www.spaymemphis.com or 901-324-3202 (affordable prices).

▼ **Narcotics Anonymous:** (901) 276-LIVE.

▼ **Peer Listening:** Youth-staffed GLBT youth hotline - 1-800-399-PEER - Mon.-Fri. 5-10 pm (Eastern)

▼ **Suicide & Crisis Intervention:** (901) 274-7477

▼ **Trevor Project** - National 24/7 hotline for suicidal or questioning teens: 886-488-7386.

▼ **Lambda Legal:** 404-897-1880

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

- ▼ **Dabbles:** 19 North Cooper
- ▼ **Hi Gorgeous:** 1475 Madison
- ▼ **Inz and Outz:** 553 South Cooper (901) 728-6535
- ▼ **The Studio:** 629 South Cooper
- ▼ **Paggios Hair Salon:** (901) 274-3944
- ▼ **Tear It Up:** 895 S. Cooper

- ▼ **Movies and More:** 3129 Poplar, 323-3251
- ▼ **Underground Art** 2287 Young Ave.

SPIRITUALITY

- ▼ **Balmoral Presbyterian** 6413 Quince Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am 767-7510 or www.balmoralpc.com
- ▼ **First Congregational Church:** Worship Service: Sun. 10:30 am • 1000 S. Cooper St. ☎ (901) 278-6786
- ▼ **First Presbyterian Church:** Sun. School, 9:30 am; Coffee & fellowship, 10:30 am; Worship, 11 am • 166 Poplar Ave. - (901) 525-5619
- ▼ **Holy Cross Episcopal Church:** Worship services: Sunday 10 AM - discussion at 9 AM Small groups - 8230 Highway 178 - Olive Branch MS 38654 - (662) 895-5029 on the web at www.HolyCrossOB.org admin@holycrossolivebranch.org
- ▼ **Holy Trinity United Church of Christ:** Worship Service: Sun. 11 am; Bible study: Wed. 7 pm - 685 S. Highland - (901) 320-9376 - office@holyltrinitymemphis.org
- ▼ **Integrity Memphis:** Meets the 3rd Tues., Worship, 6:30 pm; Dinner, 7:00 pm; Meeting 7:30pm - c/o Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd - (901) 525-6602
- ▼ **Living Word Christian Church:** Worship Service Sun. 9:30 am • 1015 S. Cooper - (901) 485-0949 - www.livingwordchristianchurch.net
- ▼ **Memphis Friends (Quakers):** Sunday 11:00am - 3387 Walnut Grove - (901) 324-3500 - memphisfriends.org
- ▼ **Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church:** (901) 266-2626
- ▼ **Open Heart Spiritual Center:** 2489 Broad
- ▼ **Prescott Church:** 961 Getwell, 327-8479, www.prescottchurchmemphis.org.
- ▼ **St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral** 692 Poplar - Sunday Services 8 and 11 am; Christian Formation 10 am; Wednesday Service 8 am followed by breakfast. See www.stmarysmemphis.org.
- ▼ **Unity Church of Memphis:** 2570 Kirby Rd. Memphis, TN 38119

SPORTS AND FITNESS

- ▼ **Bluff City Sports Association:** www.bluffcitysports.net
- ▼ **French Riviera Spa:** 3486 Poplar
- ▼ **Brothers & Sisters Bowling League:** www.brothersandsistersbowlingleague.com - Memphis' oldest and longest running LGBT sports group. Bowls Sunday nights at 6:00 pm at Winchester Lanes

THEATER

- ▼ **Circuit Playhouse:** 1705 Poplar
- ▼ **Playhouse on the Square:** 51 South Cooper
- ▼ **TheatreWorks** 2085 Monroe

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