

# FAIRNESS

C A M P A I G N

June  
2010

**Breaking News! KY Congressman Yarmuth, Chandler and U.S. House Vote to Repeal Military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"**



*Congressman John Yarmuth (KY-3)*

## Special Legislative Update from Congressman John Yarmuth

This May, I voted in favor of a successful amendment to the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act that brings America one step closer to fixing the broken, discriminatory policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT)." This was not only a major legislative victory, it was a milestone for our military, our nation and for all Americans who believe in equality.

This amendment was offered by Representative and Iraq war veteran Patrick Murphy (D-PA) and provides for repeal of DADT this year upon completion of a comprehensive review by the Pentagon and certification by the Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and President Obama. The provision now moves to the Senate but we are optimistic that it will soon be approved and sent to the President's desk to be signed into law.

Every day, the men and women of the Armed Forces honor us with their selfless service to our nation. By ending a policy that promotes deception and inequality within their ranks we reciprocate that honor, not only to the estimated 65,000 gay Americans currently serving and one million gay veterans, but to the institution as a whole. That is why so many of our nation's top military leaders favor repealing DADT, including the Admiral Mike Mullan, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Admiral Mullan recently stated, "No matter how I look at this issue, I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens. For me personally, it comes down to integrity--theirs as individuals and ours as an institution."

This vote was also about the integrity of the House of the Representatives, to ensure that *all* members of our Armed Forces are able to enjoy the same freedom that they fight to protect. I am proud of my vote and am proud to be part of a Congress that is doing not only what is needed but what is right.

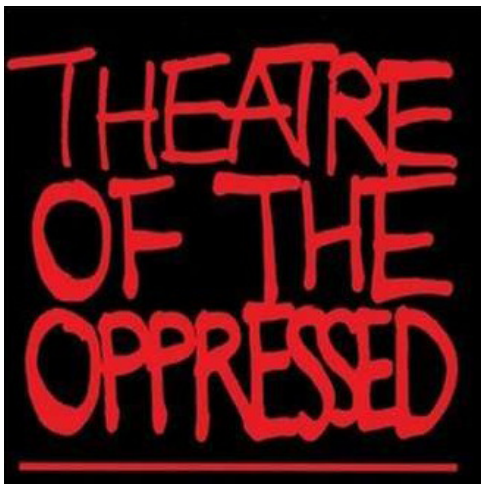
## March with Fairness for Pride! "No Hate in Our State"

It's not too late to sign up and march with Fairness in the 2010 Kentuckiana Pride Parade Friday, June 18! Our theme this year is "No Hate in Our State!" Call 502.893.0788 or e-mail [Laura@Fairness.org](mailto:Laura@Fairness.org) to join!



## PRIDE EVENTS

- ★ **Dismantling Racism Committee**  
- June 2, July 7, 6:30 pm, The Intersection in UofL's Red Barn
- ★ **Pride Kick-off** - June 4, 10 pm, Starbase Q, 921 W. Main St.
- ★ **Mr. Kentuckiana Pride Festival Contest** - June 5, 6 pm, The Connection, 120 S. Floyd St.
- ★ **Fairness Pride Parade Planning**  
- June 9, 6:30 pm, Fairness office
- ★ **Miss Kentuckiana Pride Festival Contest** - June 12, 6 pm, The Connection, 120 S. Floyd St.
- ★ **Kentuckiana Pride Parade** - June 18, 8 pm, steps off from Market and Preston Street to Belvedere
- ★ **Kentuckiana Pride Festival** - June 19, Noon to Midnight, \$5, featuring Taylor Dane and Crystal Waters, Belvedere, 5th & Main St.
- ★ **Fish Out of Water** - June 27, 6 pm, Douglass Blvd. Christian Church with Faith Leaders for Fairness
- ★ **Laugh Out Proud** - June 29, Doors open at 6:15 pm; Show at 7:15 p.m., Comedy Caravan, 1250 Bardstown Road
- ★ **Theatre of the Oppressed** - July 10, 6:30 pm, \$5-\$15, UofL Thrust Theatre, 2314 S. Floyd St.
- ★ **Fairness Over Louisville** - July 24, 8 pm - Midnight, \$20, Frazier Museum, 829 W. Main St.
- ★ **Louisville Youth Group** - support and social group for LGBTQ youth 14 to 21, weekly meetings, 502.499.4427
- ★ **Sienna** - transgender support/social group, monthly meetings, 502.894.1048
- ★ **PFLAG** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 3 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran, 417 E. Broadway



## Fundraiser for WIT Will Be a Radical Theatre Experience

Workshops July 7 & 8 (LIMIT 25!!!)  
Perf. July 10, UofL's Thrust Theatre

Based on Brazilian director/writer/ politician Augusto Boal's practice of empowering oppressed populations through performance, our "Theatre of the Oppressed" workshops and performance are presented in collaboration with Women In Transition (WIT) and the Fairness Campaign's Dismantling Racism Committee. The event will raise funds for WIT, which lost over 1/3 of its annual operating budget when a Catholic Campaign for Human Development grant was recently withheld; WIT had formerly received the funding five years in a row. Workshop registration (*limited to 25 participants!*) is available on a sliding fee scale: \$25-\$150; Performance suggested donation: \$5-\$15. E-mail [Laura@Fairness.org](mailto:Laura@Fairness.org) or call 502.893.0788 to register today!

## Theatre of the Oppressed

### Workshop Registration

\_\_\_\_ # of Participants

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to  
**Fairness Education Fund, 2263 Frankfort**  
**Louisville, KY 40206.**

## Director's Note – Progress is Palpable

by *Chris Hartman*

It is hard to believe it, but in just one year's time we have witnessed the expansion of marriage equality to more than five states, including the regionally-diverse heartland state of Iowa and our Nation's Capital, the passage of our first federal LGBTQ civil right in the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the first session of the Kentucky General Assembly free of anti-fairness legislation targeting our basic civil rights in the Commonwealth, the support of the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City's successful push for a local Fairness ordinance, and President Obama's promise to repeal the military's discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT)" policy that has prompted the discharge of more than 13,000 brave American lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender servicemembers who nobly served and defended our country alongside their straight allies. In May, two of our Kentucky Congressmen--John Yarmuth and Ben Chandler--joined the majority of the U.S. House of Representatives in two votes to repeal DADT, and that is incredible, historic, palpable progress.



*Chris Hartman*

Each week, it seems, there is a new opportunity for success--or failure--in the expansion of our rights. It should make us all far more acutely aware of each opportunity, and the powerful influence our voices can have over this progress. This month the FDA will reconsider its 1983 lifetime ban on gay male blood donors, the U.S. House will likely consider the long-awaited federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) expanding anti-discrimination employment protection to all LGBTQ Americans, and the repeal of DADT will be debated by the Senate, where members like Kentucky's own Mitch McConnell have threatened to dig their heels in against the repeal.

Stay informed of the issues and make your voice heard whenever you can--and convince your friends and family to do the same. [Facebook.com/FairnessCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/FairnessCampaign), [Fairness.org](http://Fairness.org) and [Twitter.com/FairnessCamp](https://twitter.com/FairnessCamp) stream news daily. *Right now*, begin by calling your Senators to support the repeal of DADT: dial 202.224.3121 for a Senate operator today.

## Pride is...

*As we prepare to celebrate Pride Month, some Fairness leaders take a moment to reflect on what Pride means to them.*

**Maurice "Bojangles" Blanchard:** "Pride month for me is a time to truly appreciate the LGBTQ community and its contributions to our world. We come together and celebrate our uniqueness but at the same time continue to reach out and build the bridges of understanding with the straight community. God has created such a diverse world and we are all part of it. This Pride I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones!"

**Kat Crawford:** "Pride is living authentically each and every day!"

**Aletha Fields:** "Pride reminds me of the extreme and pleasant diversity of the rainbow community to which I belong. I am strengthened by the presence of all our community and am reminded that I am not alone on this journey."

**Dorene Stein:** "Pride is a wonderful time to celebrate the Fairness community AND the mighty work of the Fairness Campaign. It is thrilling to see the numbers grow every year."

**Meg Stern:** "Pride is owning and being accountable for who we are, and how we live, without apology."

**Nick Wilkerson:** "Pride month for me is a time to reflect on and savor the great strides we have made as a community over the decades since Stonewall. But, it is also a time when I recommit to all the work ahead."



*Fairness Campaign Pride Marchers, June, 2009*

# New Leaders Join Fairness Campaign's Coordinating Committee



New Fairness leaders (l-r) Alyson Hill, Rev. Ryan Kemp-Pappan, Kate Miller, Alana Montgomery, Gil D. Reyes, Dr. Kaila Story and Jessica Underwood.

**Alyson Hill** is a 21 year-old activist and undergraduate at the University of Louisville with a double major in Women and Gender Studies and Pan-African Studies and minors in Political Science and LGBTQ Studies. She is strongly committed to student leadership and has served on the board for commonGround, UofL's student LGBT organization, and Transformations, UofL's Transgender student organization, since its formation. Ms. Hill is a staff member of UofL's Office for LGBT Services, where she works as the event/volunteer coordinator under Director Brian Buford. She has chaired three campus prides, attended the three National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conferences, presented a workshop at the Kentucky Social Forum, and spoke at last spring's Fairness Day in Frankfort. This month, Ms. Hill will travel to the University of Ghana to conduct an ethnographic field study. She recently joined S.H.E. (Solidifying Her Evolution), a social justice-oriented choreo-poetry group.

**Rev. Ryan Kemp-Pappan** is currently the Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation at Douglass Blvd. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He holds a B.A. in Religious Studies from California State University, Northridge and an M.Div. from Austin Seminary. He is a member of the Gay, Lesbian and Affirming Disciples [GLAD] Alliance, Inc. and works to build equality within the ecclesial structures of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He is cofounder of dmergent.org which seeks to "Restore, Reform, Unite...Love" those seeking a new way to live out the Christian faith. He is a host on hcxianity.com, "A podcast for the Outcast & Apostate," an online community that seeks to live in the margins of society and be grace, love and hope to those on a journey for the divine.

**Kate Miller** is a native of the Hikes Point neighborhood of Louisville. She attended Western Kentucky University for her B.A before getting an M.S.S.W from the University of Louisville. Following her graduation she worked as a labor union organizer before joining the staff at the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky as Program Associate. She currently works in education and advocacy on three main issues: restoration of voting rights for former felons, immigrants' rights and abolition of the death penalty. Kate enjoys watching *30 Rock*, *Parks and Rec* and reading *Slate*, *Newsweek* and *Paste* magazines. She just bought a house in Germantown and is looking for the perfect china cabinet.

**Alana Montgomery** is 30 years old and has been a Transgender woman for the last 13 years; she has been performing the Art of Female Impersonation for the past 10 years. Ms. Montgomery received her Master's Degree in Primary Education, as well as an Associate's Degree in Floral Design & Interior Design and is a licensed cosmetologist. She is the current Vice President for the Transgender outreach group Sienna, an adult advisor for the Transformation Group for the University of Louisville as well as commonGround. Ms. Montgomery has held many titles in the Louisville and surrounding area in Female Impersonation; she currently holds the title of Miss Tink's Pub. She enjoys her time on and off stage, doing outreach, being a role model, and inspiring young individuals.

**Gil D. Reyes**, a veteran of both Broadway and the halls of Congress, contributes a unique blend of leadership, legislative knowledge, and creativity to Fairness. Four years as a professional theatre director took Mr. Reyes from the Rudyard Kipling to the Great White Way and back, all while maintaining a long record of activism and advocacy in the LGBTQ community. While he continues to work in theatres throughout Louisville, Mr. Reyes also serves as an aide to Congressman John Yarmuth as a constituent liaison and grants specialist.

**Dr. Kaila Adia Story** holds a Ph.D. in African American Studies & Women's Studies and an M.A. in African American Studies from Temple University. She is an assistant professor and currently holds the Audre Lorde Chair in Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality at the University of Louisville. Dr. Story has been named a Top 11 faculty favorite and has created and taught courses such as Black Lesbian Lives and Black Feminisms in Action. Her essay, "Performing Venus: From Hottentot to Video Vixen: The Historical Legacy of Black Female Body Commodification," is published as a chapter in the anthology *Home Girls Make Some Noise: Hip Hop & Feminism*. Her essay, "Racing Sex~ Sexing Race: The Invention of the Black Feminine Body" will lead the anthology *Imagining the Black Female Body: Text and Contexts in Literature and Culture*. Dr. Story is currently working on her first book manuscript looking at Black Feminine Embodiment.

**Jessica Underwood**, M.A., has been working for The Center for Women and Families since 2006. Beginning as a Community Educator and Trainer, she facilitated over 200 presentations in 14 Kentuckiana counties around the issues of domestic and sexual violence. In 2007, Ms. Underwood became the Grants Associate for The Center and has recently been promoted to Grants Manager. She also fosters a passion for art and social change, and has used this inspiration to create Movement to Empower, an evening of original dance to raise awareness and end violence against women and girls in Kentucky. Ms. Underwood has led the effort at The Center to provide sensitive services for LGBTQ victims, and she currently serves as the LGBTQ Committee Chair with The Center.

## New Administrative Coordinator Hired

The Fairness Campaign is proud to welcome Laura Reece as its new Administrative Coordinator. Laura will be responsible for office and database management, constituent communications, bookkeeping, and engaging the community through volunteer recruitment and social media. Since 2009, Laura has been a member of and provided bookkeeping and IT support for Women In Transition, and was named WIT's "Member of the Month" in April. Laura is experienced in graphic design and video editing, which she hopes to incorporate in her position at Fairness.

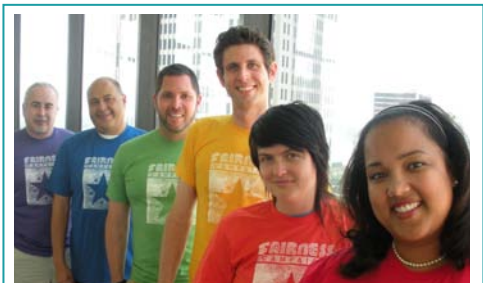


Laura Reece



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**Celebrate Fairness' New Heights –  
 Attend *Fairness Over Louisville* July 24!**



**Join the Celebration!**

Reserve Your Spot Atop the City at  
*Fairness Over Louisville 2010!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$20    \$50    \$100    \$250  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to  
**Fairness Campaign, 2263 Frankfort Ave,  
 Louisville, KY 40206.**



**Saturday, July 24, 8pm-Midnight**

Rooftop of the Frazier International History Museum, 829 W. Main

*\$20 Suggested Minimum Contribution to Benefit the Fairness Campaign*

Join Fairness Campaign supporters, leaders, and staff for our 2nd annual elevated affair: *Fairness Over Louisville* on the rooftop of the Frazier International History Museum! Founded last year by Travis Lay and Ren Scheuerman, co-founders of the annual "Down & Derby" party benefitting The Louisville AIDS Walk and WINGS Clinic, *Fairness Over Louisville* is a cocktail party designed to celebrate our "Fair" city by overlooking it in a different unique, elevated location each year. The 2009 affair rotated guests high atop the city in the Hyatt's spinning tower. Suggest *your* favorite local height for next year's party: e-mail [Chris@Fairness.org](mailto:Chris@Fairness.org)!

*\*In the case of inclement weather, the event will proceed in the Frazier Museum's main lobby.*