



California Marriage Equality Decision

The California Supreme Court handed down its historic ruling on May 15, deciding that the state could not continue to discriminate against same-sex couples by denying them the right to marry. This 4-3 decision (on a Court dominated by Justices selected by Republican Governors) means that, starting this month when the ruling becomes final, same-sex couples will be entitled to all the same rights that come automatically with marriage that opposite-sex couples have always enjoyed in California. The ruling is not subject to appeal to the United States Supreme Court, because it was based on the California state Constitution, as to which the state court has the final word.

The ruling is, though, subject to the will of the voters of California, who are expected to have a chance to amend the state Constitution this November. Opponents of equal marriage rights had already been collecting signatures to put the issue on the ballot even before this decision, and media reports indicate they have probably exceeded the number of signatures they needed. Thus, if California is to remain the second state (along with Massachusetts) to grant same-sex couples full and equal access to marriage, that right will have to be preserved at the ballot box.

Kentuckians stand to benefit from the ruling – and from having it preserved. There is, of course, the chance that it could one day lead to marriages that might be recognized here in Kentucky (although that would very likely require a change in federal law). Just as important, the more Americans see from coast to coast that our relationships are as worthy of respect and equal treatment, and that the sky does not fall when we receive it, the closer we are to the day when marriage equality arrives right here in Kentucky. That is why the California fight is our fight, too. The Supreme Court’s decision in May was only round one. The bout won’t end until California voters have their say in November.

Together We Must Combat Divisive Tactics of Homophobia and Racism

The fanatical right mines festering cesspools of homophobia and racism to divide people who in fact share a need to work together if any of us are to be truly free.

The vicious anti-gay attack literature aimed at Metro Council candidate Ken Herndon is one of the more despicable pages out of the anti-gay playbook, serving to keep homophobia alive and as a tool to deny people equality. Unfortunately, Herndon’s response to this attack, handing out literature door to door blaming his opponent, longtime Fairness supporter and CFAIR endorsee George Unseld for the anti-gay hate mail, plays right into the anti-gay ‘divide and conquer menu’ as well.

Ever since it’s founding in 1991, the Fairness Campaign has been committed to winning LGBT rights through community building across lines of difference, a winning strategy that has expanded justice for all.

Anchored in the inclusive vision best expressed by Martin Luther King when he taught us that we are “inextricably linked in a web of mutuality,” we have been able to win some of the strongest, most inclusive protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the country. We have done so understanding that if we are to honor the diversity WITHIN the LGBT community, and build coalitions that grow people power, we must recognize that the battle against homophobia is interconnected with all struggles for social justice, and the struggle against racism in particular.

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PLAN TO ATTEND

- ★ **Got Faith** – June 5, 7 p.m., Interfaith service to launch Pride month, First Unitarian Church, 809 S. 4th Street.
- ★ **Juneteenth Jamboree of New Plays**, June 12-21, more info at juneteenthlegacy.com
- ★ **Gay & Lesbian Film Series** – June 6-12 – *Shelter* and *Vivere*; June 13-19 – *The Witnesses* and *Kiss the Bride*; June 20-26 – *The Houseboy* and *Finn’s Girl*; and June 27-July 3 – *The World Unseen* and *TransAmerica*. All screenings at the Village 8 Theaters.
- ★ **Some Men**, June 12-29, Pandora Productions' presentation of Terrence McNally's new play.
- ★ **Hispanic/Latino Health Fair**, June 14, 8am-2pm, Americana Community Center, 4801 Southside Drive.
- ★ **Pride Parade**, June 20, 7:30 p.m., meet at Preston & Market St.
- ★ **Kentukiana Pride Festival**, June 21, noon to midnight on the Belvedere, 5th and Main Street.
- ★ **Louisville Youth Group** – support and social group for LGBTQ youth 14 – 21, weekly meetings. Call 499-4427.
- ★ **PFLAG** – Louisville - Monthly meeting, 3rd Sunday, 3 p.m., 1st Lutheran Church, 417 E. Broadway. Call 329-0229 for information.



Combating Divisive Tactics

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The Fairness Amendment would never have passed in the old Board of Aldermen in 1999 without the support of the African-American members of the board, including newly re-elected council member, George Unsel. African-American aldermen provided the majority of our “yes” votes, and polls showed that the strongest support for Fairness was not in Crescent Hill, or the Highlands, or Old Louisville, but in fact in the West End. When other white allies on the board hesitated about our insistence on protection based on gender identity, as well as on sexual orientation, it was George Unsel who provided the leadership to make sure the law was inclusive.

Just as anti-gay groups use homophobia in the broader population to ply their hate, so too they use the racism within the LGBT community to undermine the powerful movement for justice we build when we work together across lines of sexuality AND race.

Whether it's winning laws or winning elections, HOW we do so matters. What we win is not worth it if years of relationship building between LGBT people and our allies are damaged in the process. Whether at the local level, or at the state or federal level, those who use the divisions which have held our nation back for so long in order to win, keep us all from working together to build the beloved community we must be part of.

Louisville Gay and Lesbian Film Series

The month of June is Pride month for the LGBT population and with that comes many events such as the Pride Festival and the new local Gay and Lesbian Film Series at Village 8 theaters, sponsored by the Kentucky Fairness Alliance (KFA) and the Letter. Apex Entertainment (mother company of Village 8) will include the series as part of their Louisville Exclusives films project; which has previously shown *For the Bible Tells Me So* by Daniel Karlslake.

This year's film series will include several award-winning titles shown every weekend in June. The current schedule includes: June 6-12 – *Shelter* and *Vivere*; June 13-19 – *The Witnesses* and *Kiss the Bride*; June 20-26 – *The Houseboy* and *Finn's Girl*; and June 27 – July 3 – *The World Unseen* and *TransAmerica*.

For more details and trailers of the films, go to apextheatres.com.



GOT PRIDE? That's the theme of this year's Kentuckiana Pride Festival being held the weekend of June 20-21. Pride, often referred to as Gay Pride, is an opportunity for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer individuals to celebrate and be proud of their lives and who they are. There is much work year round advocating for equal rights and benefits for all LGBTQ individuals. During Pride we take time to celebrate – there are pageants, parades, and parties with music from LGBTQ musicians. This year, Kentuckiana Pride Festival (KPF) will kick off with a party at the club Starbase Q on June 6. On June 7, the Mr. KPF Pageant will be held at Tink's Pub and on June 14 the Miss KPF Pageant will be held at The Connection.

The annual Pride Parade will kick off Pride weekend on Friday, June 20 at 8 pm. The parade will depart from Tryangles, 209 Preston Street, and proceed west along Market St. to Floyd St., turn north to Main St. and continue west on Main to the Belvedere Plaza at 5th St. The parade will culminate with Friday Night Fest where The Confessionals will appear on the KPF's Belvedere stage from 9:30-10:30 pm and Josh Zuckerman will then play from 10:30-11:30 pm.

Everyone is invited to participate with the Fairness Campaign by helping build our parade float, riding along in the parade or staffing the booth at the Pride Festival. To show you've got Pride, join in the float design and build by contacting the office at 893-0788 or check out www.fairness.org.

The Kentuckiana Pride Festival continues on Saturday, June 21 with a host of entertainment that includes:

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| 12:30 - 1:30 pm | – VOICES of Kentuckiana |
| 1:30 - 2:30 pm | – City of Refuge |
| 2:30 - 3:30 pm | – Mad Camp Cabaret |
| 3:30 - 4:30 pm | – Country Western Line Dancing |
| 6:00 - 7:00 pm | – Robbie Bartlett |
| 7:30 - 8:30 pm | – Gregory Douglas |
| 8:30 - 9:30 pm | – Tracy Rice |
| 9:30 - 10:30 pm | – Eric Himan |
| 10:30 - 12:00 am | – DJ Mike & the Divas of Drag |

If you are interested in becoming a Festival volunteer, or you want to know more information about the festival, go to www.kentuckianapridefestival.com

2008 Legislative Session and Next Steps

The best news for our community is that domestic partner benefits are safe for another year! We were happy to add a new, eloquent voice and vote of support this session. During the vote in the House Health & Welfare Committee, David Watkins (D- Henderson) spoke his passionate piece to the sponsor of the anti-gay bill. Mirror versions (House & Senate) of the Hospital Visitation Bill were kept under the radar to protect domestic partners that our opposition viewed as “linked”.

A statewide Fairness bill was introduced once again. It did not surface from the House Judiciary Committee. As passage of a statewide Fairness law remains atop the goals of our strategic plan, the Coordinating Committee is developing an idea for a Summit of LGBT groups and allies later this summer to lay out a long-term plan for moving us toward this goal of expanding Kentucky's civil rights law to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Fairness also supported a House Bill (passed 80-14) to restore voting rights for individuals who had completed their sentences. The House agreed to amend the Constitution and submit the amendment to the voters for ratification or rejection. This bill was not heard in the Senate. Joining our allies from Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, we were saddened to see the Stream Saver bill defeated.

Louisville's LGBT Rights Movement History

By Cate Fosl

Most historians of the LGBT movement in the United States situate the movement in several major phases. In the last issue I discussed only the second—"Gay Liberation"—which was the first mass movement and emerged soon after the Stonewall riots in New York in 1969. Gay Lib followed a host of other 1960s movements and was radical, rowdy, and "in your face," but still quite marginalized. It was also fairly short-lived, due in part to the conservative backlash it generated starting in 1977 with orange-juice queen Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children" anti-gay crusade in Florida.

What came even earlier, in the 1950s and early sixties, was the "Homophile" (meaning "same sex-loving") era. The military mobilization of World War II and the moves of masses of people into urban communities prompted by the war created gay and lesbian subcultures across the United States that were vibrant but also heavily closeted. In the 1950s, the climate of "McCarthyism" also served to demonize homosexuality as a threat to the nation's security. The "Red Scare" thus became known to LGBT people as a "Lavender Scare" too. In that context, people like Harry Hay—a longtime organizer in the California Communist Party—formed groups such as the "Mattachine Society" in 1951 to allow gay men to meet and seek to define a collective gay identity. Because of the sexism in the larger culture, lesbians found no voice in such groups and so they formed their own, most notably the "Daughters of Bilitis."



These early organizations were possible in only a few major cities on the east or west coast, though I have found evidence that Louisvillians knew about them and read their publications—"provided it came in a plain brown envelope," as one activist remembers. The Homophile phase of gay/lesbian history could hardly be called a movement since it was more about community-building than social-political reform. But it did work to combat negative stereotypes and create the necessary ingredients for a larger movement: a sense of same-sex-loving community and collective identity.

Locally, I have been strikingly unsuccessful at locating any lesbi-gay activists prior to 1970 to interview. Jack Kersey, for example, moved here in 1954 when he was in his early twenties, relocating from Washington D.C., with his lover Charles. Kersey later became the first person to "come out" on local television in 1978 and was a leading AIDS activist in the 1980s. But in the fifties his emphasis was on finding a like-minded community. He had this to say of 1950s gay life: "during the McCarthy era, everybody was scared to death of a permanent relationship, to be seen with the same person all the time and they were all looking for what we used to call lipstick lesbians, to go out with and which suited them just fine 'cause the [women] were having the same problem. That probably pulled the lesbian and gay community closer together than anything. . . . There was not that same fear in Louisville as it was in Washington. In Washington, people. . . who were gay [were] very careful and [if you were going to have a party] for instance, people would ask, "Do you have air conditioning? Are the windows going to be closed?" because who might be listening outside, who might be following a colonel to see where he's going. And people were really scared to death. [whereas in] Louisville you felt free."



Lesbians and gays of Kersey's generation, particularly those who were white, tended to be more witnesses than participants in the subsequent civil rights, anti-war, and other youth-driven movements once the 1960s began. But they and especially more overtly political folks like Harry Hay in Los Angeles worked to combat the social isolation of being gay. By the early sixties they had laid the groundwork for a "Gay Liberation" movement by replacing negative stereotypes with the still-radical idea that—in the words of one Washington-based campaign initiated in 1968 – "gay is good."

Cate Fosl is a professor in UofL's Department of Women's and Gender Studies and is the author of Subversive Southerner: Anne Braden and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Cold War South. This is the second installment in her report about her ongoing research into Louisville's LGBT history. If you have stories you think Cate should hear or artifacts you think she should see, please let contact her at cfosl@louisville.edu.



Thanks for Derby Bash Success!

The Fairness Campaign wishes to extend an enormous thank you to Mark England RE/MAX and the many volunteers who helped make this year's Derby Bash a huge success. With their generous support, 100% of the contributions will go directly to support the work of the Fairness. The Derby night party at the Mellwood Arts and Entertainment Center drew nearly 400 people and raised over \$15,500.

Special thanks goes to these fabulous volunteers: Mark Bailey, Randy Blevins, Adrian Boyle, Scott Brooks, Greg Bryant, Larry Cantrell, Eric Cooper, John Cox, Mark England, Dan Farrell, Tim Fleisher, Bryan Gatewood, Michael Handley, John Hawkins, Chuck Hudson, Jacob Isaac, John Jameson, David K. Johnson, Philip Kitterman, Ed Kruger, Mark Lee, Bernie Lubbers, Lisa Osanka, Tim Padgett, Donald Palmore and Louisville Trailblazers, Allen Purnell, Jeff Rodgers, Craig Scherman, Mike Show, Steve Stanton, Ryan Urick, Carla Wallace, Nick Wilkerson and Gregory Wilson.

Special appreciation goes to Gary Loeser and The Event Company for making this year's event extra special! Thanks too to G3 and The Letter for supporting this wonderful event.

And, of course, thanks to all of you who attended the festive event and contributed financially to the success of Derby Bash.

**Looking ahead to the
Kentucky State Fair
August 14 - 24**

please help us staff the Fairness education and outreach booth.

To sign up for a 4-hour shift, call the Fairness office at 893-0788. (includes free admission to the Fair!)



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I prefer my gift remain anonymous.

Celebrate Pride with Fairness!

Fairness' Pride Float Team

To celebrate Pride, the Fairness Campaign is once again planning to build a fabulous float for the Pride Parade! That means that we need your help to decorate and assemble the float. You don't have to be a handyman or a famous designer, just call the office 893-0788 if you are interested in being part of the 2008 Pride Float Team. We will assemble the float on Thursday evening, June 19 and Friday afternoon, June 20. Come join the fun!

Parade with Fairness

Please march with Fairness in the Pride Parade! The Parade is Friday, June 20 and we will meet at Tryangles, 209 S. Preston at 7:30 pm. Bring your flags, signs and friends!

Fairness Pride Booth

We need lots of people to help work the Fairness Campaign's Pride booth. We will be registering voters, signing up new members, and selling progressive stickers and buttons. The Pride Festival is on Saturday, June 21 at the Belvedere at 5th & Main Street from noon to midnight. We will need volunteers to work 2-3 hours per shift throughout the day. Call the office at 893-0788 if you can join us for a shift! Come hang out, meet new friends, enjoy

Investigating Anti-Gay Campaign Material

The disreputable anti-gay attack fliers that were distributed in the 6th District Metro Council race by the so-called "Citizens for Family and Moral Values" are but the latest in a series of gay-baiting political maneuvers by right-wing operatives. As with the deceptive robocalls made in last year's gubernatorial race, phantom groups are playing unfairly and fail to stand behind their actions. Anyone with credible evidence about the source of these anti-gay tactics are encouraged to contact Fairness or the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance.