

# FAIRNESS

C A M P A I G N

February  
2009

## Tell Your Story in Frankfort – Lobby with Fairness

We need YOU to join us in Frankfort during the 2009 Legislative Session to tell your story! One of the most important actions any of us can take is communicating with our elected representatives about why all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, need to be treated fairly. From now until March 24, the Kentucky General Assembly will be in session and it is VITAL that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people and our straight allies speak up for justice and equality.

### If you don't speak up for fairness, who will?

We will be taking volunteer lobbyists up to Frankfort every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the session. Fairness' Legislative Committee is coordinating our efforts. If you're able to attend one or more days, please contact Fairness Intern Kristine Thomas at [kthomas03@bellarmine.edu](mailto:kthomas03@bellarmine.edu) or call 893-0788 to sign up! You can meet at the Fairness office at 7:30 a.m. to catch a ride to Frankfort, or meet in the Capitol Annex cafeteria at 8:30 a.m.

### Isn't it worth a few hours of your time to take a stand for justice?

Please mark your calendars and join us in Frankfort:

**Wednesday, February 25 – Kentuckians Value Fairness Day of Action** is an opportunity for us to raise the voice and visibility of fair-minded Kentuckians with our legislators. The Fairness Campaign, Kentucky Fairness Alliance, Lexington Fairness, Kentucky Equality Federation and other allies are collaborating on plans for the day that include:

8:30 am - Introductions and Lobby Training Session - Capitol Annex

9:30 am to Noon - Lobbying visits with legislators

12:30 pm - Kentuckians Value Fairness Rally

Decide which day YOU will be coming to Frankfort to meet with your Senator and Representative and other key legislators! Call the office at 893-0788 or email [fairness@fairness.org](mailto:fairness@fairness.org) for more information, to schedule or find out about a lobby training, or to arrange a trip to Frankfort!

## Fairness Hires First Director

This January, following a series of interviews conducted by Fairness' Coordinating Committee and one with leaders from ally organizations, the Fairness Campaign hired its first Director, Chris Hartman, who recently worked as Congressman John Yarmuth's 2008 campaign Press Secretary, Director of Philadelphia's Grassroots Fundraising for the Democratic National Committee in 2004, and as Producer and Founder of performance companies Project Improv \* St. Louis and Louisville. Born in Louisville, Chris is a graduate of St. Xavier High School and Bellarmine University, and holds a Master's Degree in Drama from Washington University in St. Louis; his thesis there, titled *Stage Families of Choice: Emergence, Evolution, and Future of the American Gay Male Family on Stage*, focused on American gay male family history and analysis.

Read more from Chris Hartman inside this issue.



2009 Marks 10 Years of Fairness Law in Louisville!

## PLAN TO ATTEND

★ **LGBT issues in the Black Community** – Feb 6, 5-7 p.m., UofL Cultural Center, facilitated by Director Michael Anthony.

★ **Saturday Academy** – every Saturday til May, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., African World/Black History seminars from 11-12:30, current issues and culture follow 12:45-2 p.m., DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue.

★ **Legislative Committee**– Feb. 9, 16, 23, Mar. 2 & 9, Fairness office, 6:30 p.m., call 893-0788 for more info.

★ **Voting Rights Restoration Lobby Day** – Feb. 10, hosted by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Capitol Rotunda, carpool leaves Fairness at 8:30 a.m., more at [www.KFTC.org](http://www.KFTC.org).

★ **What's Love Got to Do With It?** – Feb. 13, 9 p.m., an unvalentine's day party hosted by Scheri Smith from Fleur de Lez and Carla Wallace, 118 W. Oak St., details at [fleurdelez.com](http://fleurdelez.com).

★ **We Love Mountains Lobby Day** – Feb. 17, hosted by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Capitol Rotunda, carpool leaves Fairness at 8:30 a.m., more at [www.KFTC.org](http://www.KFTC.org).

★ **Kentuckians Value Fairness Day of Action** – Feb. 25, Capitol, Frankfort, 8:30 a.m. lobby training, 12:30 p.m. rally, call 893-0788 or go to [www.fairness.org](http://www.fairness.org).

★ **Sistah Summit: Self, Sisterhood, Sexuality, Spirituality** – March 28, 8 a.m - 5:30 p.m., keynote address by Dr. Grace Cornish-Livingstone, Full-day workshop \$50. DuValle Education Center, 3610 Bohne Ave. For details contact Bani at [bhineshudson@yahoo.com](mailto:bhineshudson@yahoo.com)

★ **Louisville Youth Group** – support and social group for LGBTQ youth 14 – 21, weekly meetings. Call 499-4427.

## We the People: Moving Hope to Change

In this new era of responsibility, we the people do not seize President Obama as our sole hope. We seize ourselves and the power we possess. We seize our collective power, our hands and hearts as bridges and neighborly fences that return to us the gains of good will, good sense, and good-ness. January 20 was a day when descendents of slaves and slave owners embrace and rejoice for a victory realized beyond the disguise of lies that said of justice, “Not now, not ever.” Our voices heard, our power returned, we distinguish this moment not as that which President Obama must do, but with what WE the people can, shall, must, and will do. Let us move with thanksgiving for this new era of responsibility, for Bull O’Connor’s horn lost its power. The cry for justice has outlived the wails of hatred. Let us move with thanksgiving as the sacred blood of ancestral hope speaks from our hallowed ground. This new era where hope lives and where hope has been restored, we the people must seize our power neighbor by neighbor, friend by friend, heart by heart, power over fear.

~ Rev. Aletha Fields, *Fairness Co-coordinator*

The election of Barack Obama is arguably THE most democratic presidential election this country has ever had. Unprecedented grassroots engagement; a movement building effort that pulled together the people of this nation with the most to gain from deep and transformational change; enough people joined together across lines of difference, refusing to allow racism to divide. The impossible, became possible.

When the Fairness Campaign began its work for equality, many people told us our hopes were impossible. They said “you will never win”. But we have, over and over again.

In this time of hope and change, we have even great reason to believe in the quest for justice for all. But only if we work for it.

We will have moments of hesitation, of doubt, of forgetting OUR part as co-creators of a more just nation. There will be times of struggle, the need for protest, the necessity of providing counter balance to entrenched defenders of the status quo. We will wonder again, can change really come?

Then let us find one another, re-inspire one another, lift each other up. Let us remember that we can NEVER allow any

*continued on page 7*

## Welcoming Chris Hartman - Director

Dear Friends and Allies,

Ten years ago this month, Fairness released a “Special Victory Edition” newsletter, with the opening headline, “Fairness Wins!” celebrating Louisville’s Board of Alderman’s 7 to 5 approval of the Fairness Amendment, later signed into law by then-Mayor David Armstrong. As I assume this newly-created position of Director of Fairness, and begin to think towards the journey ahead of us—particularly the effort to win passage of a statewide Fairness law—I gain pride and inspiration looking back to the incredible work this organization has accomplished. The Fairness Campaign four times spearheaded the passage of a citywide law that protects not just gays and lesbians, but also transgender individuals from discrimination, has achieved what many cities—especially Southern and Midwestern ones—would not even attempt. It is for this reason, among many others, that I am honored to help further Fairness’ lasting legacy of equality and social justice efforts in Louisville and Kentucky.

Much of my early social action work has been enacted through the world of theatre, most notably improvisation. Through my first improv troupe, Project Improv in Louisville, I produced performances intended to bring attention to charitable and social justice causes through a series of “Comedy Crusades,” benefiting House of Ruth, Citizens Standing Against War (CSAW), and Camp Indian Summer. And in workshops and classes across the region, I taught through improvisation the community-building power of effective communication achieved through mutual love and respect.

Interestingly, it was in this month, also ten years ago, that I met the late improvisation guru Dr. Martin de Maat, whose inspirational motto, “You are pure potential,” (now memorialized on magnets and notepads sold in popular bookshops), has guided my understanding of interpersonal communion and equality. I look on every individual and situation as being full of that innate “pure potential,” by which anything may be achieved. As I move forward with Fairness, intending to build strong relationships and alliances not just with community organizers and leaders, but with friends and constituents on the most grassroots level in every demographic, I hope to bring to the table the hope that by tapping our collective potential we can effect continual change and progress towards achieving the full acceptance and protection of LGBTQ community members in Louisville and Kentucky, as well as the dismantling of race discrimination that is integral to our Fairness work. What improvisation has taught me is that if we tell our stories openly and honestly, they will be heard. I hope to find many opportunities in the future to share our personal experiences with the community, especially though lobbying, but also by way of educational outreach programs, performances, art, community conversations, and other yet unexplored avenues by which people may learn from us, connect with us, and join our efforts as we grow and develop as an organization in this new and exciting America, which has seemingly embraced “Change” as its mantra.

My life in politics—canvassing for Citizens’ Action Coalition (which fought for clean energy legislation in Indiana) and Jack Conway in 2002, and directing the Philadelphia grassroots fundraising efforts of the DNC for the 2004 Presidential Election—has enforced for me the idea that real change can be generated through focused grassroots organization and outreach. I have confidence that as long as we trust in the pure potential of our efforts, and believe genuinely in the causes for which we are fighting, even when victory seemingly eludes us, we are making important gradual progress and touching lives. Serving most recently as Congressman John Yarmuth’s campaign Press Secretary, I have witnessed first-hand the incredible impact direct community outreach and interaction has on a constituent base. In Congressman Yarmuth’s first term, he attended over a thousand community meetings and events, leading to his resounding victory in 2008. When we reach out and connect with members of the community, we make a difference. I hope to find many unique avenues by which we may involve and connect a diverse cross-section of the Louisville community in our social action network, and that, together, we may achieve more progress against discrimination of all kinds than our LGBTQ forebears could ever have imagined.

I invite those of you who have supported us in the past, work with us currently, or endeavor to fight for change in the future to contact me with any thoughts, ideas, concerns, anecdotes, or simply warm “hello’s” by emailing [Chris@Fairness.org](mailto:Chris@Fairness.org) or calling the Fairness office, (502) 893-0788.

With Peace, Hope, and Belief in Our Combined Potential,  
Chris Hartman





# Fairness 2008 in Review



## 2008: Yes We Can Make Change

- ★ February 21: Fairness Campaign and Kentucky Fairness Alliance partner on Kentuckians Value Fairness Day of Action at the capitol to lobby in support of domestic partner benefits at state universities, hospital visitation rights and a statewide Fairness law.
- ★ February 29: FAT Friday Open House at Fairness features session on financial planning for domestic partners.
- ★ March 20: The House Health and Welfare Committee voted 9 to 6 to reject Senate Bill 112 - the Healthcare Discrimination Bill that would have prevented public agencies from providing domestic partner benefits. In casting his vote against the bill, Rep. David Watkins of Henderson chided bill sponsor Sen. Vernie McGaha of Russell Springs saying, "I am tired of the same petty issues coming before us when we've got major issues to address."
- ★ April 5: Susan Hershberg and Wiltshire Pantry host a celebration at the Muhammad Ali Center to honor the progressive partnership between Fairness and the ACLU of Kentucky.
- ★ April 21: Fairness hosts a debriefing on the 2008 Legislative session.
- ★ April 22-26: Fairness joins *Wedding Justice and Love* events to support Rev. Dr. Jane Spahr in her final appeal before the highest court of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
- ★ April 28: Fairness leaders join in press conference condemning race and gender discrimination at Woody's bar.
- ★ May 3: Mark England, Realtor, RE/MAX 100 hosts Derby Bash VI to benefit the Fairness Campaign raising over \$15,500.
- ★ May 15: In a 4-3 decision, the California Supreme Court handed down its historic ruling deciding that the state could not continue to discriminate against same-sex couples by denying them the right to marry.
- ★ May 18: Disreputable anti-gay attack fliers are distributed in the 6th District Metro Council race by the so-called "Citizens for Family and Moral Values". Fairness denounces this gay-baiting political maneuver by unknown right-wing operatives.
- ★ May 31: Fairness partners with Anamchara Catholic Community for showing of the documentary, *The Man You Had in Mind*.
- ★ June 2: Gov. Steve Breshear issues an Executive Order restoring equal opportunity employment to all state employees insuring they can't be fired based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
- ★ June 14: Fairness participates in the Hispanic/Latino Health Fair and develops its first publication in Spanish.
- ★ June 20-21: Fairness creates float for the annual Pride Parade and joins in the festivities of the Kentuckiana Pride Festival.
- ★ June 24: Coordinating Committee and CFAIR host community dialogue to discuss the primary election and the anti-gay mailer that attacked Ken Herndon, candidate for 6<sup>th</sup> District Metro Council. CFAIR hires a private investigator to find the source of the mail piece.
- ★ July: Yana Baker, Mark Baridon, Kat Crawford, Carol Kraemer, Sam Marcossion and Aubria Williams join the Fairness Campaign's Coordinating Committee.
- ★ July 7: Erica Dolinky joins the Fairness staff as Administrative Coordinator.
- ★ August 14-24: Fairness sponsors an information booth at Kentucky State Fair reaching thousands of people from all across the Commonwealth.
- ★ August 31: Carla Wallace's annual Lawn Party benefits Fairness and Kentucky Alliance



*continued on page 6*

## Core Values of the Fairness Campaign

- We believe gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people have the right to respect, dignity and full equality.
- We believe that dismantling racism is central to our work.
- We believe that all issues of oppression are linked and can only be addressed by working in coalition.
- We believe in non-violent, grassroots organizing that empowers individuals and builds a social justice movement that creates lasting change.



## Vision Statement

The Fairness Campaign seeks to dismantle oppression and build an inclusive community where all individuals are valued and empowered to reach their full potential.

We are a broad, diverse community of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people and allies committed to transforming society and building a more just world.

## Statement of Purpose

The Fairness Campaign is a broad-based community effort dedicated to equal rights. Its primary goal is comprehensive civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Fairness Campaign accomplishes its goals through public education and advocacy, political activity, community building and reciprocal alliances with others in the social justice community.



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Todd Wright  
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**Gifts were received in honor of:**  
Darrell Moxley  
Soni & Brad Castleberry  
Ed & Brett Casteel

## Friends of Fairness Donor Levels

<b>Gold Star</b>	<b>\$5,000 and above</b>
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<b>3-Star</b>	<b>\$500 - \$999</b>
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<b>1-Star</b>	<b>\$75 - \$249</b>
<b>Friend</b>	<b>up to \$74</b>

**Thank you for supporting Fairness' work for equality and justice!**

### Special thanks for the leadership provided by members of the Fairness Campaign's Coordinating Committee:

Yana Baker  
Mark Baridon  
Kat Crawford  
Aletha Fields  
Lauren Heberle  
Cyd Iyun  
Carol Kraemer  
Sam Marcossan  
Terry Mickler  
K.A. Owens  
Jeff Rodgers  
Dorene Stein  
Nick Wilkerson  
Aubria Williams

# Fairness 2008 in Review

*continued from page 3*

Against Racist & Political Repression, long-time allies in the work for equality and justice.

★ September 27: Fairness Campaign joins with ACLU of Kentucky, Lexington Fairness, Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, Kentucky Equality Federation, Kentucky Fairness Alliance, Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, Metropolitan Community Church, and U of L's Office for LGBT Services for the first statewide Fairness Summit at Centre College to develop strategies to win a state non-discrimination law.



★ October 10: UofL's Lambda Law Caucus, commonGround, Office of LGBT Services, ACLU of Kentucky and the Fairness Campaign organize a protest calling attention to anti-gay discrimination at a local McDonald's.



★ October 12: Fairness and Third Lutheran Church host a screening and discussion of the film, *For the Bible Tells Me So*.

★ October 21: Fairness leaders host Teacher Talk.

★ October 22: Fairness hosts a community forum to discuss the Kentucky Court of Appeals decision denying two parents of the same gender to be recognized by the state as the legal parent of a child.

★ October 28: Fairness leaders meet with Chief of Police Robert White to discuss issues of concern to LGBT people in Louisville.

★ November: CFAIR's private investigator reports he's unable to discover the source of the anti-gay attack mailer used in the 6<sup>th</sup> District Metro Council race.

★ November 7: Out & About Gala benefits the Fairness Campaign and the Kentucky Fairness Alliance.

★ November 15: Over 200 Louisville activists participate in Join the Impact's national protest of California's Prop 8 at City Hall.



★ November 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance is held at Presbyterian Seminary.

★ December 10: Bani Hines Hudson convenes Black Women Unite to Fight: Homophobia an International Human Rights Day call to action.

★ December 10: Fairness hosts community forum as a follow up to the Fairness Summit focused on envisioning Kentucky with a statewide Fairness law.

★ December 11: Fairness presents the Louisville premiere of the film *MILK* about the life of Harvey Milk.

# Fairness Campaign

2263 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY 40206 (502) 893-0788 www.fairness.org

# Lobbying 101 - You Make an Impact

**lobby** (v.) To try to influence the thinking of legislators or other public officials for or against a specific cause.

## Be Prepared.

You may get less than a minute of time with a legislator, so know WHO you are going to talk to, and WHAT you are going to say. You can try to anticipate common questions, but it's even more powerful to be able to tell them WHY you believe what you do.

If you have a meeting scheduled with your legislator, know who in your group is going to say what and in what order. Know the main points that you need to get across. Be sure to allow time for questions and comments from the legislator.

## Be Clear.

Identify yourself and let the legislator know if you are a constituent or have some connection with his/her district. Let the legislator know who you are with and that you are a volunteer. Know the name and number of the bill you are lobbying on. Clearly ask the legislator to take a specific action.

## Be Honest.

Tell your personal story. Expressing to an elected official why YOU care about an issue is always more effective than telling them what you think they want to hear. If you don't know the answer to a question, tell them so. Make a note of their question and let them know someone will get back to them. Pass it on to a member of the Fairness Campaign's Legislative Committee. We will find out the answer and communicate it to the legislator.

## Be Polite.

Know when to agree and to disagree. Your visit to a legislator is part of a process, so while you may not change any minds today, we can and will make a difference together. Never threaten or insult a legislator, or anyone else for that matter.

## Follow Up.

Write a thank you note to any legislator to whom you speak and be sure to include your name and address. Make notes about any encounter you had and provide those to the Fairness Legislative Committee. This helps us be prepared for our next visit with the legislator.

## Always remember that lobbying is a long-term strategy

Your efforts as a citizen lobbyist are a crucial part of a much larger picture. You help put a face on LGBTQ issues and you help communicate to the legislature that LGBTQ people and our allies are everywhere and that we are engaged citizens. It's hard to know which story or which visit will finally make our issues real for a legislator, so your visit is a very, very important part in the ongoing struggle for justice and full equality for all. THANK YOU!

# Help Defend Fairness in Frankfort

Come and join in the Legislative Committee discussion about pending bills, political opportunities and threats, and what we can do to make change happen. No experience is needed. During this year's short 30-day legislative session, all fair-minded people across the Commonwealth are needed to help mobilize others around Fairness and justice issues. Meetings are on planned for each Monday thru early March – February 9, 16, 23 and March 2 & 9 – at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairness Campaign office.

Another powerful step you can take is to tell your stories and share your perspectives with legislators. Your telephone calls, emails and letters are a great way to give legislators concrete evidence of widespread support for LGBT civil rights legislation.

You can also help by being part of the Fairness Action Alert Network and contacting your legislators when notified. To join the Fairness email network, send an email to [fairness@fairness.org](mailto:fairness@fairness.org) or follow the link at [www.fairness.org](http://www.fairness.org).

You can be sure your voice is heard in Frankfort by:

- ★ Learning who your legislators are at [www.lojic.org](http://www.lojic.org) - Voter Connection. Enter your address and Lojic will provide information about your national, state and local reps.
- ★ Leaving a phone message with your legislators in Frankfort – call 1-800-372-7181.
- ★ Sending an email to your elected official. Find contact information at: [www.lrc.ky.gov/whoswho/email.htm](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/whoswho/email.htm) and select your representative.

# We the People: Moving Hope to Change

*continued from page 2*

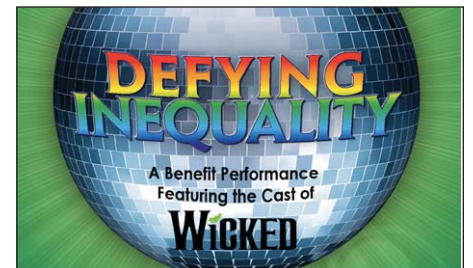
one of us, any group of people, to be treated as expendable. We move forward ONLY when we do so together. Our feet MUST keep marching, our wheelchairs must keep rolling. We must break each and every silence of complicity, speak, even when we are tired, unsteady, or afraid.

Black lesbian activist and writer Audre Lorde said: "Do not be lead into passivity either by false security (they don't mean me) or by despair (there's nothing we can do). Each of us must find our work and do it...actively working for change, sometimes in the absence of any surety change is coming."

Together, we have so much to do. But together, there are so many of us to do it. Together, let us co-create impossible.

~ Carla F. Wallace, Fairness Leadership Council

We invite you to share your hopes and commitment to being part of change making in our community with Fairness on Facebook. Look for Fairness Campaign, become a friend of Fairness and then add your thoughts to the discussion topic - Moving Hope to Change.



Special thanks to the cast of WICKED for the fabulous cabaret *Defying Inequality* held January 12 at The Connection that benefited Fairness Campaign, Empire State Pride Agenda, Equality California, Garden State Equality and Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force. Over \$10,000 was raised! (more than the Broadway cast's benefit - Yeah Louisville!)

## Thanks for Sharing Our History

The Fairness Campaign would like to thank the panelists for *Our History in the Time of Milk* – Stuart Bass, Harold DeBerry, Richard Coomer, Micky Nelson, Jer Perkins, David Williams, Danny Winkenhof and facilitator Cate Fosl – for providing so many wonderful, funny and insightful stories about Louisville's LGBT history in the 1970's. The event collaborators – Williams-Nichols Archives, UofL's Office for LGBT Services, commonGround and Fairness – are already discussing a follow-up conversation about gay life in the 1980's.

**Advocate Support for House Bill 72 - Fairness Law**



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## *Kentuckians Value Fairness Day* Rally at the State Capitol Feb. 25



### **Moving Hope to Change**

JOIN or RENEW your membership today  
and help continue the work for Fairness!

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

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

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

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

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Please make your check payable to  
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Louisville, KY 40206.**

I prefer my gift remain anonymous.

To celebrate and honor your role  
in strengthening  
the committed partnership between  
the Fairness Campaign and  
the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky,  
**Susan Hershberg**

**and the Wiltshire Pantry**  
invite you to an evening  
of elegant dining and fine music.

**Saturday, March 21, 2009**

Cocktails - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner - 8 p.m.

Muhammad Ali Center - Viewpoint Room

Ticket information at [www.fairness.org](http://www.fairness.org)

Watch [www.Fairness.org](http://www.Fairness.org) for news about upcoming community gatherings to **celebrate 10 years of Louisville's Fairness ordinance** and to **meet the new staff of Fairness** – Director Chris Hartman and Administrative Coordinator Erica Dolinky.