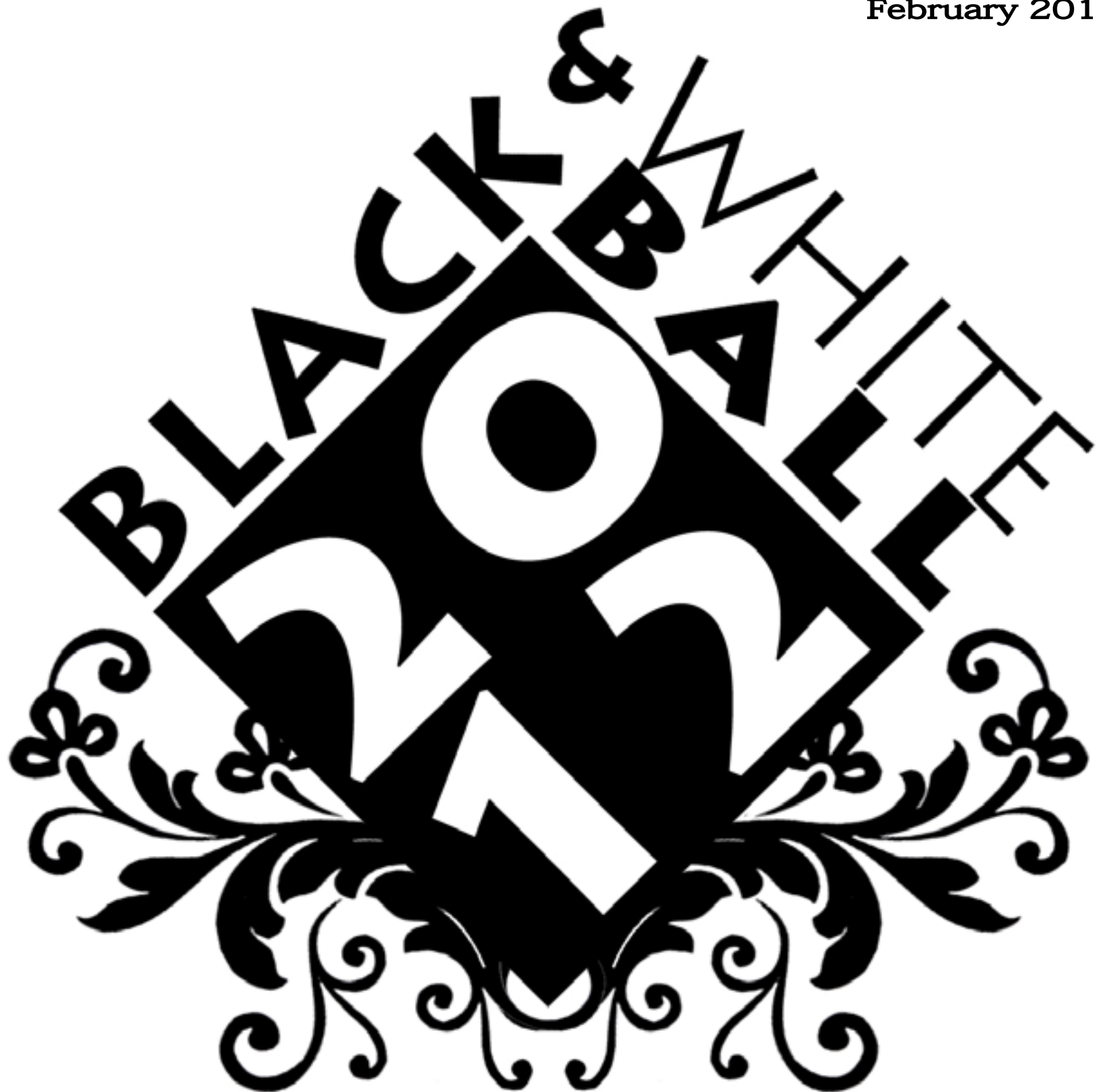


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the voice of Montana's LGBTIQ community

February 2012



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**Monthly Circulation:** 3,000 copies

Annual subscriptions cost \$25. Mail a check to Out Words  
 via the Center address.

Submit letters to the editor at [outwords@gaymontana.org](mailto:outwords@gaymontana.org)

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Out Words is distributed at the following locations:

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**2012.**

Not the *end*, but the *beginning*.....  
 Of Blue Mountain Clinic's 35th year  
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 And what an honor it has been!



# NEWS BRIEFS

by A.D. Seibel

January 1, 2012. Our hopes for a new start in the new year were quashed almost before they began when the 1st hate crime of 2012 was committed in Santa Barbara at 1:45am. After spewing hateful slurs the unnamed assailants assaulted two men they believed to be gay. This attack spurred us here at Out Words to recommit to working to end violence and hate toward all people in 2012.

January 9, 2012. The Advocate, hilariously, names Salt Lake City, UT the gayest city in America based on the 'scientific' data; of number of gay and lesbians bookstores, LGBT politicians, nude yoga classes, and number of Mr. Leather finalists. Sadly, San Francisco, New York, Boston, and Miami didn't even make the top ten, obviously, for being too gay.

January 10, 2012. Gay rights activists submitted a petition in a Malaysian court in hopes of lifting a police ban on an anti-homophobia arts festival. Organizers of the "Sexual Independence" Festival, held yearly, since 2008, hope to overturn a ban on the event imposed last year after Muslim organizations complained it could disrupt public peace. Festival organizers released a statement calling the ban unconstitutional and proof positive of institutionalized discrimination against LGBT Malaysians. A court hearing on the issue is scheduled for February 21.

January 11, 2012. Tel Aviv, however, is named the Best Gay City of 2011 by an International American Airlines competition seeking the most popular destinations among LGBT tourists. Tel Aviv got 43% of the vote, leaving New York with 14% in second place. Toronto, Sao Paulo, Madrid, London, New Orleans, and Mexico City round out the top ten list. Also chosen were, Best Nightlife (New York), Best Pride (San Francisco), and Best Sand & Sun (Sydney.)

January 12, 2012. Orlando makes Florida history as couples flock to City Hall to sign up for the city's first ever-Domestic Partnership Affidavit. The document grants couples the right to visit each other in hospitals

and jail, and also guarantees the ability to participate in their children's education in Orlando schools. The document costs \$30 and is also open to heterosexual couples as well as elderly citizens who might not have immediate family available to care for them. Unfortunately, the document is only good within the city limits, but the mayor, Teresa Jacobs had issued a statement saying she is still conducting research on a county-wide registry.

January 13, 2012. History is made in the state of Minnesota when the 1st ever openly gay Native American woman is elected to the state legislature in a special election. From her humble beginnings on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Susan Allen put her self through law school as a single mother and at the time of the election was a partner in her firm. Minnesota should be proud and honored to have her serving their state.

January 13, 2012. Canada's federal government gets cracking on amending the Civil Marriage Act so that any marriages performed in Canada that are not recognized within a couples home jurisdiction will be recognized in Canada. The shenanigans began last week when media outlets announced hat the Canadian government did not, in fact, recognize same-sex marriages of foreign same-sex couples who were wed in Canada because they could not do so legally in their home country or state. The whole thing came up in Toronto during a court case involving a foreign lesbian couple, who wed in 2005, but are now seeking a divorce. Essentially, a federal lawyer argued that their marriage was not recognized because their home jurisdictions, England and Florida, did not recognize it. The amendment to the Civil Marriage Act will shore up the legal gap. However, under the current law, marriages of non-Canadians cannot be dissolved as the Divorce Act requires that a couple live in the country for at least a year.

January 16, 2012. In a surprise turn of events in a speech on Martin Luther King Day, Bernice King embraced and included the LGBT community in the fight for unity. This came as a shock to the LGBT community members and allies in the audience because King has a long-standing past as anti-gay. Whether it is because the youngest daughter of Dr. King was recently elected as the CEO of the King Center or because she had a genuine change of heart, we here at Out Words are proud to join the party.

January 17, 2012. German soccer federation president, Theo Zwanziger, called on gay players, "to have the courage to declare themselves." Zwanziger acknowledged that coming out to one's team is difficult, but also emphasized that times have changed and homosexuality is more accepted in society. However, Germany's team captain, Philipp Lahm, disagreed, stating, "Football is like being the gladiators in the old times. The politicians can come out these days, for sure, but they don't have to play in front of 60,000 people every week." So far, no German professional soccer player has come out as gay.

January 18, 2012. Tennessee's "don't say gay" bill, that would ban the mention of homosexuality in schools, goes to the House subcommittee for debate. The Senate passed the bill 20 to 10 during a vote in May. They also added an amendment to the bill that would restrict the legislation's scope to only ban discussion of homosexuality in prepared materials and instruction. The Tennessee board of education has repeatedly said that the legislation is unnecessary due to the state's existing "family orientated" curriculum which places emphasis on the "traditional family unit." Supporters of the bill say argue that it's necessary to stop radical teachers from pushing their various agendas in schools. Later, that same day, the Education Committee Chairman Richard Montgomery announces that the bill is to be moved to the "curriculum calendar" and will be taken up later. He gave no date.

January 19, 2012. Hooray! Fifty-two percent of New Jersey voters agree that gay couples should have the right to marry. The same poll found that 65% did not think that same sex marriage was a threat to heterosexual marriage and 53% said that denying the right to marry to same-sex couples was discrimination. Unfortunately, 52% of New Jersey voters oppose legalizing on-line gambling. Oh well, guess you can't win them all. The Quinnipiac University Polling Institute surveyed 1460 registered voters from Jan. 10 to Jan. 16, with a margin for error plus or minus 2.6 percentage points.

January 20, 2012. Houston mayor and out lesbian, Annise Parker, joins the national gay marriage drive after Parker, and 77 other mayors, signed a statement declaring: "We stand for the freedom to marry because it enhances the economic competitiveness

of our communities, improves the lives of families that call our cities home, and is simply the right thing to do.” Parker has long been a LGBT rights activist having served as president of the Houston GLBT Caucus. Parker also pointed out that her and her life partner, Kathy Hubbard, have been together over 20 years and have raised three kids together and the states’ failure to recognize their relationship, “makes our children second-class citizens.”

January 23, 2012. Washington’s legislature gets enough votes to legalize gay marriage. Democratic Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen became the 25th vote needed to pass the bill out of the Senate. The House has enough support and Governor Chris Gregoire has endorsed the plan. Washington already has had a domestic partnership law since 2007 and an “everything but marriage” law since 2009. It will become the seventh state to legalize same sex marriage.

January 25, 2012. Starbucks joins Microsoft, NIKE, and a host of other high powered corporations in Washington’s push for same sex marriage.

January 26, 2012. Maine gets ready for its second public vote on gay marriage since 2009. Advocates and their supporters say that Mainers have had a change of heart when it comes to same-sex marriage after they turned over thousands of signatures, 105,000 to be exact, tons more than the 57,277 needed to force a referendum in November on the issue. Technically, the legislature approved same-sex marriage three years ago however the measure was defeated, 53% to 47% when the question was put to voters. Maine is currently the only New England state that does not allow same-sex marriage or even civil unions. If Mainers approve same-sex marriage this second go round, the state will be the first to have done so by popular vote.

# BLACK AND WHITE 2012

Last year, thanks to you, the Western Montana Community Center enjoyed one of its most successful years. With the help of our community and allies, we hope to make 2012 even better! That’s why we’re excited to once again host the 7th Annual Black and White Ball on Saturday evening, at 7p.m., on March 3, 2012, at the Holiday Inn Parkside – Downtown Missoula. This formal event serves as our signature fundraising event for the Center, an invaluable resource for Missoula and Montana’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and allied communities.

Please join us, along with over 200 friends and allies, for an evening of dancing to the energetic music of Full Grown Men. The five-man band promises to get guests out on the dance floor when they let their blues and jazz music reign supreme, coupled with their rhythm, swing, and soulful sounds.

The Riverbend restaurant will set out a tasteful and tasty spread of appetizers, while Brooks and Browns will supply a no-host bar of fine wines and spirits. One of the highlights of the Black & White Ball remains our wonderful silent auction where local artists, professionals and individuals contribute items as a way to help raise important funds. As in past years, a professional photographer will be available to take portrait photographs of couples, friends, and loved ones.

The Western Montana Community Center is a safe and accessible place for educational, social, and other community events. In the past 14 years, providing a safe space for LGBT members, groups and allies has been integral to community building and advocacy efforts. Our mission is to be an open, affirming environment for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions. At least 10 groups and their members meet and call the Center home.

We hope that you can join us for our seventh annual Black & White Ball.

~ WMCC Board of Directors

Avoid the rush at the door, buy your tickets now. Tickets are currently on sale for \$40.00 per person or \$60.00 per couple. Limited sponsorship tickets are available, for more information, please contact Bree at [bree.sutherland@gaymontana.org](mailto:bree.sutherland@gaymontana.org)

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# AN EDUCATION PART ONE:

by Sissy Spaceship

Lee Brewster died the day I left New York City for good. I learned of Lee's passing months after the fact, in a tiny blurb in *Entertainment Weekly*, which is the worst way anyone could learn such news. I had worked for Lee at his cavernous transvestite boutique. He was often referred to as The First Lady Of Drag, but I never, ever saw him in costume. There were pictures, of course, and a painting that hung among the tiaras behind the cash register. In drag, Lee resembled Angie Dickinson, a broad, in the tradition of Tennessee Williams. Lee's passing was notable enough to be included in the obituary section of *The New York Times*, on May 24, 2000:

"Lee Brewster, Style Guru For World's Cross-Dressers:

He made his own statement in white stiletto heels, form-fitting gowns, a silver-sequined maxi coat and lush false eyelashes, top and bottom. But he preferred to be called Mr. in the manner of old-time drag performers rather than using the female stage names now used by many transvestites.

Mr. Brewster, a quiet, round-faced man, was something of a freedom fighter for men who dress as women. "We're people enjoying life the only way we know how," he said."

Lee Greer Brewster was born in a log cabin in Honacker, Virginia, on April 27, 1943. He was born to a coal miner, and was proud to proclaim himself the original coal miner's daughter. (Lee and I often discussed our rural upbringings, and apparently, not much had changed in fifty years.) Somehow, Lee ended up working for the FBI, where he was fired for being a homosexual. According to the *New York Times* obituary, Lee left for NYC with one hundred dollars in his pocket, and immersed himself in the secret world of cross-dressing. Lee became active in the Mattachine Society, a group that was formed in 1950, and known as one of the first, and most effective, gay civil rights organizations. Lee organized the society's drag balls, but some members were opposed to public cross-dressing, so Lee started staging his own balls at the Diplomat Hotel on West 43rd Street. These balls became a crossover cross-dressing sensation,

attracting celebrities like Jacqueline Susann, Carol Channing and Shirley MacLaine. Flush from this success, Lee and Bunny Eisenhower founded The Queens Liberation Front, the first transvestite organization to parade and protest in New York City. The QLF funded and fought to legalize the wearing of drag in New York City bars and cabarets, overturning a law that stated a club could be closed, or patrons arrested, just because there was a cross dresser present. At this point, Lee moved into publishing, starting *Drag*, a magazine that went on to run for 10 years. On October 31, 1969, Lee announced at the final ball that he was opening a clothing store, exclusively devoted to a cross-dressing clientele.

I had moved to New York City in the summer of 1998, leaving Missoula for graduate school at Sarah Lawrence College. Like most wide-eyed country mice, I looked for a job in the *Village Voice*. Answering ads in the *Village Voice* paid off for Madonna, so why not me? The ad I found most compelling was for a position as cashier in a transvestite boutique. At the U of M, I had just come off a long run at the UC Market, as the fastest and flirtiest cashier for thousands of customers a day. It seemed a perfect fit. I called the phone number, and a drawling creature began to ask me questions about myself. She seemed incredulous that I was from Montana, but gave me slow and deliberate directions nonetheless. Lee's Mardi Gras was located on the eighth floor of a monstrous building on 14th Street, right in the middle of the meat packing district. The streets were cobblestoned, and the prostitutes were just as rough. I buzzed up for the elevator, and the queen that came down to collect me explained that it was a private store, and examined me curiously, as I was soaking wet, head to toe. I had never dealt with humidity living in Montana, and especially not city humidity in July. "The hillbilly," announced Lee, as I emerged from the elevator, dripping. He was sitting on a leather throne, his toupee crooked, lap covered in purring cats. Lee examined my resume, offered me a handkerchief to dry my face. He hired me on the spot, mostly because of my time spent as a board member of the LGBT Lambda Alliance at the U of M. "I did not know y'all had uppity homosexuals in Montana," pronounced Lee. The store was enormous, a grand hall somehow, every square inch covered in evening gowns and boas. Crinolines of all colors floated overhead. The sheer footage of the floor was astonishing, and crammed to overflowing. The

dresses were mostly collected in racks in the middle of the store, and we never sold the prettiest of dresses, because our clientele did not prefer pretty things. Instead they prized and preferred "feminine" things, which would prove to be completely subjective. The boas were literally launched across the high beams of the store, in every color, and the tiny dander from the feathers and the hair from all of Lee's store cats made me sneeze and itch constantly. An entire third of the store was composed of the kitchen, rows of tall industrial racks stuffed full of shoeboxes, and the area devoted to packing and shipping. Lee made an astounding amount of money shipping giant, heavy silicone breasts to lonely fellows in the Midwest. Besides cross-dressers, Lee catered to the fetishists, and especially those that collected pornographic magazines and books. The bookstore was off to the side, and Lee built walls around the books to corral the "perverts," as he so lovingly referred to them. The bookstore sold strange chapbooks with outlandish transsexual themes, and I adored reading them aloud to Lee at the cash register. I especially loved the forced feminization stories, because the illustrations were hilarious, and in my personal opinion, any story that ends with a bitch in a hot dress is a good one. The bookstore customers were usually furtive in nature, and carried leather satchels close to their bodies, and wore khaki jackets and thick glasses, all of which made them look like Jehovah's Witnesses. Lee would shout at them if they loitered, and it was always hilarious. "You'd better be buying something, you pervert!" Lee's high-pitched admonitions to the tranny chasers were gut busting. At times, I felt like I was in my own John Waters movie. I was constantly amazed at how many straight, married men were hot for transsexuals. This phenomenon was unknown to me in Montana.

I worked with the lovely Antonella Francesca at the store, and she recalled, on many occasions when a customer would spend a little too much time in a dressing room with a pair of panties or bra, she would verbally embarrass the customer who would be invariably masturbating or trying to masturbate with the fetishistic item. She would shout at the customer, "you better buy that pair of panties that you are going to spoil" or tell them that they needed to buy the item and get out of the dressing room or she would ask one of us to check on the customer. That always left her staff either totally grossed out or completely

bowled over with laughter. She respected all of her customers but had little tolerance for those who had less than honorable and chaste intentions. However, Lee was also amazingly kind, especially to the shy and nervous newbie cross-dressers, and to the store cats: When one Kitty Cat (I think they were all named that) had to be rushed to the vet, Lee made a big scene at the vet clinic when asked how he would be paying. "Kitty Cat is not a pauper!" Lee declared, and threw down his platinum American Express card.

The changing rooms were the most riotous part of the store, because there was so much actual changing going on. A large portion of our customer base were men that would demand my attentions all morning--picking out pumps, stockings, girdles, fake butts, fake boobs, waist cinchers, gaffs (the magical contraptions that makes penises disappear) wigs, foundation, lipstick. They would finally be made up, walking like stroke victims in their new heels. As they wobbled to the cash register, I would ring them up for three or four thousand dollars in purchases. Then they would hang out in the bookstore section for a while, until they would limp back to the changing room and furiously masturbate. Then they would dispose thousands of dollars worth of merchandise into the garbage can, and transform back into businessmen. We called this the Reverse Reverse Butterfly. At Lee's, I learned that I was the domineering type, as I stuck my shoe against some sweaty businessman's back, and pulled corset strings until he yelped and pulled harder until he could yelp no more. Lacing corsets was the most technically complicated thing I learned at Lee's--it was an exact process, and at moments, resembled fly fishing, casting enormous lengths of black strings yards at a time, weaving them through the eyelets. The show queens would come to Lee's for the corsets, but most of the NYC drag performers shopped at a store run by "Sex And The City" costume designer Patricia Fields. Lee's dresses were for those hard-to-fit drag queens with giant feet, or straight transvestites who believed that real femininity looked like something Bea Arthur would have worn to the Emmys in 1987.

Lee and I ate lunch together every day--he began cooking in the full kitchen early in the morning. Our lunch conversations are utterly precious to me: he would warn me about men in general, chastise me for using ranch dressing (a condiment that was frowned upon in Manhattan) and tell me that my haircut was unfortunate, and that I resembled Tin Tin. He would tell me stories about the early days of revolutionary queers, and stories about his encounters with Truman Capote, and I would sit there, enraptured, while businessmen masturbated in rooms all around us...

## BRIEF FILED IN U.S. SUPREME COURT

### Lambda Legal Unites HIV Advocates In Support of Affordable Care Act

In Chicago, IL, on January 13, 2012 in the United States Supreme Court, Lambda Legal filed a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of sixteen national HIV advocacy organizations in support of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as the ACA.

"The ACA is a crucial bridge between the current state of the domestic epidemic and a future that is free from AIDS," said Scott Schoettes, HIV Project Director for Lambda Legal. "When Congress enacted the ACA in 2010, only 17% of people living with HIV had private health insurance -- a disheartening statistic given the greatly improved health outcomes for people who have access to consistent care. The ACA finally allows us to reap the benefits of the medical breakthroughs made years ago. With continuing prevention education, early detection, and quality care for everyone living with HIV, we have the power to stem the HIV/AIDS epidemic."

In March of 2010, the ACA was signed into law, reforming aspects of the private health insurance industry and expanding access to health insurance for millions of Americans. The constitutionality of the law was immediately challenged in federal court in multiple jurisdictions; the United States Supreme Court will weigh in on the appeals in these cases this term and has scheduled oral argument for March 2012.

In the friend-of-the-court-brief filed today on behalf of HIV advocacy organizations including AIDS United, the National Association of People with AIDS, and the Treatment Access Expansion Project (see complete list below), Lambda Legal supports the federal government's position that the ACA's minimum coverage requirement (also known as the individual mandate) is constitutional under the Commerce Clause and the Necessary and Proper Clause.

"The ACA's interconnected reforms, including expanded Medicaid coverage, elimination of pre-existing condition exclusions, and the minimum coverage requirement, are a proper exercise of Congress's power to address a broken national healthcare finance system and directly expand access to health insurance for millions of people living with HIV," said Susan Sommer, Lambda Legal's Director of Constitutional Litigation. "Congress has acted many times in the past to prevent the exclusion of particular groups from interstate markets. It undoubtedly has the power to take such action to allow people with pre-existing conditions, like HIV, to participate in the national health care insurance market."

In 2006, Massachusetts enacted health care

reform legislation similar to the ACA, featuring a minimum coverage requirement and nearly universal access to insurance, including for people with HIV. Between 2005 and 2008, Massachusetts had a 37% decrease in HIV infections while the nation had an 8% increase. Expanded access to health coverage has allowed Massachusetts to focus its federally-subsidized HIV/AIDS programs more on preventive care and related services and less on primary care and the complications associated with an AIDS diagnosis. These changed circumstances in Massachusetts foretell what the nation can expect once the ACA is fully implemented.

In contrast, people living with HIV fare far worse in states that have not adopted health insurance reform or have adopted reforms that do not include an individual mandate. Florida, for example, a state challenging the ACA, has seen far worse health outcomes for people living with HIV. In Florida, 20.8% of citizens are uninsured, compared with Massachusetts' rate of 5.6%, the lowest in the nation. Florida's HIV infection rate, 33 of every 100,000 people, is the highest for any state in the nation, and five times that of Massachusetts. The following organizations are listed as signatories in the amicus brief: AIDS United, Asian and Pacific-Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS (APICHA), Black AIDS Institute, Center for HIV Law and Policy, Gay and Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA), HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (HIV PJA), Latino Commission on AIDS, National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE), National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC), U.S. Positive Women's Network/WORLD, and Treatment Access Expansion Project (TAEP).

Lambda Legal's HIV Project Director, Scott Schoettes, and Director of Constitutional Litigation, Susan Sommer, are joined as counsel on the brief by Ropes & Gray LLP attorneys Douglas Hallward-Driemeier, Bradley Grossman, Brendon Carrington, and Jacob Heller.

The case is *Dep't of HHS v. Florida*. See our case page at: [www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/cases/dept-of-hhs-v-florida](http://www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/cases/dept-of-hhs-v-florida)

To read the brief visit: [www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/legal-docs/dept-of-hhs\\_us\\_20120113\\_brief-for-amicus-curiae](http://www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/legal-docs/dept-of-hhs_us_20120113_brief-for-amicus-curiae)

Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

# THE FRINGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS

## BUILDING A LIFESTYLE

By J. Steven

Ben and I signed the papers for our land early in August of 1993. We figured that was too late in the season to start building the studio, so we plowed snow for another winter. The following summer, as it turned out, we didn't get started building until the middle of July.

Ben had some carpentry experience from helping out on various family building projects. But before moving to Montana and working on the apartment we built in Ben's sister's barn, my experience had been limited to playing with Lincoln logs, constructing a popsicle stick cabin, and making a gingerbread house. I had not built as much as a doghouse with a hammer and nails.

So how I figured we could build a two-story, nineteen hundred square foot building is still one of the great mysteries of my life. The issue in our minds at that time was not whether or not we could build it, but whether or not we could get it closed in before the snow flew. And we made it, just barely.

In June of '94, we built an outhouse, our first official project for the home site, to accommodate us while we worked on the studio. There was nothing special about the outhouse, except that it had a spectacular view of the mountains. Until, that is, a friend came to visit and we felt compelled to put a curtain across the doorway. While she was visiting the outhouse, however, the wind whipped the curtain with exuberance, forcing her to straddle her legs across the doorway to keep the curtain in place.

So we put a wood door on the outhouse.

The previous owners of our land had built a crude 16'x16' shack for their temporary shelter, hoping to build a house. Since no one had lived in the shack for a couple of years, the mice had moved in. It reeked from the mice, to be sure, but also from the seventeen cats the woman had let live in the space beneath the floor.

The shack had a small wood stove and linoleum on the floor, so we felt like we were a step above living in a tent, though the kitchen, a dismantled motor home, had been a favorite spot for the mice. The stove hadn't been cleaned for years and what the mice left behind all over it made the unit a real gem. We put on some heavy-duty gloves and held our breath to rip it out.

The previous owners had also raised wolf hybrids. The humans were not very adept at getting their bags

of garbage any farther than just outside the door, but their wolves took care of that problem, distributing the garbage in an impressively even coating for several yards around the shack. While Ben and I were excavating the mound, we discovered that the humans apparently loved hot dogs. In fact they loved them so intensely that we were able to heap the bed of our Ford F-250 pickup with hot dog wrappers.

For several years afterward we kept finding more hot dog wrappers. Ben and I devised a contest to see who could find the most each year. Our twelfth year here we finally found the last one. Ben was the lucky discoverer, making him the all-time winner.

In early December of '94 we moved out of the shack and into the unfinished studio, making camp in the area designated as the apartment, although there weren't really walls to separate it off. After living in the shack for almost five months, we felt like we were in heaven. Then we had our first real Montana windstorm. The studio creaked. The windows bowed. We watched the ceiling and walls with one foot ready to dash for the door. The wind howled all night and we didn't sleep. When dawn finally broke we heaved a mental sigh of relief and smacked an exultant high-five.

Surviving the storm made us even happier with the results of our labor. The building is hardly perfect, there are several minor flaws and finishing challenges built in, but we still consider the summer we built to be the best pay either of us has ever earned.

We built the studio ourselves mostly because we couldn't afford to have someone else build anything bigger than the shack. No one else here in our neighborhood built their own house, though some did at least partly build some fairly scary barns and sheds, but most of the houses built by professional contractors have major flaws and none of the modular homes has adequate insulation for our climate.

One of our neighbor's contractors didn't follow the manufacturer's directions for the insulated foundation, which blew out and spilled concrete

into an oversized mess that was simply buried. Another neighbor's contractor ordered in some 6"x6" posts to build a pole barn and one of the posts broke in half when the lumber was dumped off the truck. Rather than wait for a new post, the contractor built the broken post in place, bandaging it with a couple of pieces of 2"x6" boards.

Both of these cases took longer and cost more than the original bids. The house with the blowout ended up costing triple the original estimate.

In retrospect I'm really grateful I was too naïve to believe I shouldn't have been building our studio in the first place. Graduating from Lincoln logs to set out building a real house is a wee bit of a stretch. And had I realized we weren't just building a studio, that we were actually building a lifestyle and the studio was only the beginning, I certainly would not have been so bold about starting the process. I suppose it all trims down to being so in love that I was as rapt with the wonder of life as a child.

Love does work in mysterious ways, doesn't it? Check out more from J. Steven at <http://beyondthecrux.blogspot.com>



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# ASK LAMBDA LEGAL PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION

By Natalie Chin, Staff Attorney for Lambda Legal

*Q: The other week, a few friends and I were at a restaurant. We attempted to get the attention of the wait staff but it soon became clear to us that we were purposefully not being served. I've heard that people can still be denied services at restaurants just for being gay. Does that still happen?*

*A: Unfortunately, this type of thing still happens, and it can happen anywhere – Lambda Legal's Help Desk gets calls from all over the country from people who feel they have been mistreated or denied service because they are, or are perceived as, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Public Accommodation Law is what protects certain groups from being discriminated against in places like restaurants. Unfortunately, there is no federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in places of public accommodation. Several states and hundreds of municipalities have laws that protect LGBT people from discrimination, but it is a vast and varied patchwork that differs by state, county and city.*

Fifteen states and the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity / expression: Minnesota, Rhode Island, New Mexico, California, Illinois, Maine, Hawaii, New Jersey, Washington, Iowa, Oregon, Vermont, Colorado Connecticut, Nevada. Six other states prohibit discrimination based on only sexual orientation, and they are Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maryland, New York and Delaware.

What is a public accommodation, then? In general, a public accommodation is any facility, place or establishment that offers services or goods to the general public. Private clubs and religious organizations are generally exempt from requirements for public accommodations.

Lambda Legal is currently litigating on behalf of a woman in Queens, New York, after she was denied services at a Sizzler restaurant. The case, *Friedlander v. Waroge Met, Ltd. d/b/a/ Sizzler*, involves a shocking scenario where our client was confronted by the Sizzler manager who angrily yelled homophobic slurs in front of the other patrons and physically assaulted her. Other Sizzler patrons joined in, verbally attacking Ms. Friedlander with homophobic and hate-filled language and threatened her with sexual assault. Under New York State and City Human Rights laws, a restaurant is a place of public accommodation, and Ms. Friedlander's civil rights were violated when she was attacked because of her actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and sex.

Another current Lambda Legal case, *Cervelli v. Aloha Bed & Breakfast*, involves a lesbian couple who were denied a room at a bed and breakfast in Hawaii after the owner of the business cited her personal belief that same-sex couples were "detestable" and "defile our land." Hawaii's state law specifically prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in places of public accommodation.

*If you have any questions, or feel you have been discriminated against because of your sexual orientation or gender identity/ expression, please contact our help desk at 1-866-542-8336 or visit [www.lambdalegal.org/help](http://www.lambdalegal.org/help)*

Natalie Chin is a Staff Attorney for Lambda Legal, the oldest and largest national legal organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and people with HIV.

Since joining the organization in January 2008, Chin has worked as co-counsel in *Doe v. Montgomery County Board of Elections*, representing 12 plaintiffs in a challenge to invalidate a referendum petition seeking to overturn a law that adds gender identity as a protected characteristic in Montgomery County's anti-discrimination ordinance.

Prior to joining Lambda Legal, Chin worked for MFY Legal Services in New York where as a staff attorney, she represented individuals with mental health disabilities and the elderly. She previously was an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the New York City Law Department where she litigated cases in state and federal court. Prior to attending law school, Chin worked as a journalist in California and South Africa. Chin received her bachelor's degree in journalism from Boston University and her J.D. from George Washington University.

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## MISSOULA

### KISMIF

Keep It Simple Make It Fun AA meeting for gay lesbian transgender queer intersex and friends every Monday 7 - p.m. at UCC 405 University Avenue. Contact Randy at 406- 542-4744

### Gay Men's Chorus

Meeting every Monday 7 - 9 p.m. at The Center, 127 N. Higgins Ave., Suite 202 - Contact Gary at 406-370-9876

### Gay Men's Task Force

406-829-8075

### Imperial Sovereign Court of the State of Montana

Call Rosalinda de la Luna at 406-499-0078 or visit: <http://www.iscsm.org>

### Keep It Simple AI-Anon Family Group

LGBT and friends meeting every Thursday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at 1st Methodist Church, 300 E. Main, alley entrance, classroom 3. Contact Randy at 406- 542-4744

### Living Forward Group: Men Who Are Living With HIV

Meet Wednesday evenings 7 - 9 p.m. Call Andrew Laue at 406-327-9445

### Missoula AIDS Council

406-543-4770

### Missoula AIDS Council Housing Assistance Program

Short-term and long-term housing assistance is available for HIV+ individuals living in Western MT. Call Annette or Jordan at 543-4770.

### Missoula City Health Department

406-258-4745

### Missoula PFLAG

[pflagmissoula@gmail.com](mailto:pflagmissoula@gmail.com) or 406-240-2881.

### Officer Nicole Pifari

*LGBTI Liaison Officer Missoula Police Department*  
435 Ryman Street • Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 552-6300 (main)

### Outfield Alliance

A Coalition of LGBTI faculty, graduate students, staff and their supporters at the University of Montana. Email [caseycharles@umontana.edu](mailto:caseycharles@umontana.edu) or call 406-243-2762

### Transgender Support Group

Contact the Clinical Psychology Center at (406)-243-2367 and ask for Nick or Leslie.

### Youth Forward

[youthforward@ncbimissoula.org](mailto:youthforward@ncbimissoula.org)

### U of M Lambda Alliance

406-243-5922

### University Congregational Church

405 University Avenue, Missoula  
<http://www.uccmsla.org> • 406-543-6952

## MONTANA

### Bozeman GLBTIQ Resource Center

[www.BozemanRC.org](http://www.BozemanRC.org), 406-600-3608,  
[info@BozemanRC.org](mailto:info@BozemanRC.org)

### Butte Men's Support Group

Last Monday of the month 406-491-1378 or 406-490-6125

### Butte AIDS Support Services

Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at Blaine Center BASS office. Call Rick 406-491-1378 or 406-490-6125. [www.buttebassonline.org](http://www.buttebassonline.org)

### Flathead Valley Gay Alliance

[www.flatheadvalleygayalliance.org](http://www.flatheadvalleygayalliance.org) • 406-794-FVGA

### Flathead Valley PFLAG

Call Robert Blair @ (406) 890-0173

### Gallatin Valley Human Rights Task Force

[www.EmbraceDiversity.org](http://www.EmbraceDiversity.org)

### Glacier Unitarian Universalists Fellowship

[www.glacieruu.org](http://www.glacieruu.org) • 406-755-9255

### Hamilton PFLAG

Monthly Chapter Meetings. Every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday @ 7 P.M. Contact Terry at 406-363-7656 for more information.

### HIV Positive Support Group - Butte

For information call 406-491-1378 or 406-490-6125 for time and location.

### HIV Positive Support Group - Helena

Meets monthly-Call Greg at 596-2013 for more info

### Lewis & Clark AIDS Project

530 S. Harris • Helena • 406-447-6030

### Metropolitan Community Church

1220 17th Street South • Great Falls  
406-771-1070 • [www.mccmontana.org](http://www.mccmontana.org)  
Rev. Gina L. Hartung, Pastor  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
E-mail: [bishman59401@hotmail.com](mailto:bishman59401@hotmail.com)

### Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services

[www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd](http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd)

### Open Hands Foundation - Great Falls

[www.openhandsfoundation.org](http://www.openhandsfoundation.org) • 406-868-8382

### PFLAG Great Falls/Golden Triangle

Meets on the 3rd Tue. of each month at the MCC Church located at 1220 17th St. So. (406) 868-1064.

### QSA - MSU

[www.montana.edu/qsqa](http://www.montana.edu/qsqa) • 406-994-4636

### Seeker's Harbor Faith Community

#### Billings

[www.seekersharbor.org](http://www.seekersharbor.org) • 406-661-1584

### S.H.O.U.T AIDS (Students Helping Others Understand Teen Aids)

meets every Thursday in BILLINGS at the yap office at 4pm ages 15-24. Any questions contact Dustin (406)-591-0169

### Yellowstone AIDS Project Housing Assistance Program

Becky Taylor • [beckyt@yapmt.org](mailto:beckyt@yapmt.org)

### Victorian – HIV Testing

406- 245-4293

### Yellowstone City-County Health Department

406-247-3376

### Yellowstone Aids Project

406-245-2029

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST & NATIONAL RESOURCES

### Advocates for Youth

[www.advocatesforyouth.org](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org)

### AEGIS: AIDS Education Global Information Systems

[www.endAIDSnow.org](http://www.endAIDSnow.org)

### Gay Men's Health Crisis

[www.gmhc.org](http://www.gmhc.org)

### Human Rights Campaign

[www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

### Out Spokane

[www.outspokane.com](http://www.outspokane.com)

### Pacific Northwest Gay Rodeo Association

[www.pacificnwgra.org](http://www.pacificnwgra.org)

### Pride Foundation

[www.pridefoundation.org](http://www.pridefoundation.org)

### Wyoming Rural AIDS Prevention Project

[www.wrapp.net](http://www.wrapp.net)

*Do you have LGBTI resources you want listed? Email us by the 20th of each month for the next issue!*

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Western  
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## Weekly Events

### Thursday

7 p.m. -

Gay Men Together; A safe and affirming place for gay & bisexual men to meet.

### Friday (except 1st Fridays)

6:30 p.m.

Womyn's Night for persons who identify as women, two-spirit, or gender non-conforming & are interested in spending time with other womyn.

## Recurring Events Around Montana

**Center Board Meeting**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday,

6 p.m. at the Center [Missoula]

**Christian LGBTI Support Group** meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month 7 p.m. at the Center [Missoula]

**LGBTI Community Potluck**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month, 7 p.m. at the University Congregational Church - Fireside Room (405 University Avenue) [Missoula]

**PFLAG Missoula / Five Valleys meeting**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month prior to potluck at the University Congregational Church, call 406-721-5013 or 406-541-0163 for more information. [Missoula]

**HIV+ Monthly Dinner**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. at the University Congregational Church, call Mike or Annette at 543-4770 [Missoula]

**Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting**, every Monday 7 to 8:30 p.m., call Randy at 406-726-3525 [Missoula]

**Keep It Simple / AI-Anon Family Group** LGBT and friends meeting every Thursday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at 1st Methodist Church, 300 E. Main, alley entrance, classroom 3. Contact Randy at 406-726-3525 [Missoula]

**University of Montana LAMBDA Alliance General Meetings**, every Tuesday, 7 p.m. at the UC (Room 330), call 406-243-5922 for more information. [Missoula]

**Living Forward Group: Men Who Are Living With HIV**, every Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m., call Andrew Laue, LCSW for more information at 406-327-9445. [Missoula]

**Hot Springs, Montana, a Gay & Bisexual Men's Support Group** meets on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m.. Call 741-2810 for directions and information. [Missoula]

**Youth Forward** meets the every Tuesday at the NCBI Office from 5:30-7:30pm

**Capitol City Gay Men** meet every Thursday at 7pm. Location: 80 East Lawrence Street, Room 105, Helena MT 59601. For more information visit [www.capitalcitygaymen.org](http://www.capitalcitygaymen.org) [Helena]

**Women's Coffee and Chat** meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Location: Fireside Coffee House 1446 Euclid Ave, [Helena]

**Women's Potluck**, 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. Location changes. Contact Sandy at 406-442-0200. [Helena]

**GLBT Open AA Meeting** Every Thursday 7:30 p.m. 1417 13 St. West. Call Duane Nez at 406-861-8478 [Billings]

**Cancer Patient Support Group** Every Other Friday: 12 p.m. 2835 Fort Missoula Rd., Ste. 301, Call Joni or Susie at 406-721-1118 E-mail [joni@drjudyschmidt.com](mailto:joni@drjudyschmidt.com) [Missoula]

**Billings AIDSpirit Meeting** 2nd Tuesday of the month at Holy Rosary Church, 521 Custer at 7:00 p.m. [Billings]

**Billings PFLAG Meeting** 2nd Wednesday of the month held at the UCC Church in Conference office located at 2016 Alderson at 7:00 p.m [Billings]

**Client Advisory Board Meeting** 4th Monday of the Month at YAP at 6:00 PM [Billings]

**POZ Night** Monthly opportunity for socializing and fun! For more information contact the Client Action Body at [cab@yapmt.org](mailto:cab@yapmt.org) or staff at (406) 245-2029. [Billings]

**Community Night at Julian's Bar** happens the last Saturday of the month. [Butte]

**QSA General Forum Meetings** Every Monday In the Strand Union Building room 276 at 7 p.m. [Bozeman]

**JavaQ Coffee Social** - 7 p.m., every first, third, and fifth Thursday at International Coffee Traders, 720 S 10th Ave. [Bozeman]

**The Bozeman Resource Center** bi-weekly meetings. At International Coffee Traders, 720 S 10th Ave, the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Contact John at 600-3608 or at [info@bozemanrc.org](mailto:info@bozemanrc.org) [Bozeman]

**Bozeman PFLAG Meeting** 2nd Thursday of the month. Check out: [bozemanpflag.com](http://bozemanpflag.com) for more information. [Bozeman]

**Bozeman HIV/AIDS Support Group** meets the 1st Monday of each month. Call Greg at 406-596-2013 for time and location. [Bozeman]

**Poz Affected Pot Luck** occurs on the 3rd Sunday of each month in BOZEMAN. Contact AIDS Outreach at 406-551-1016 for details. [Bozeman]

**Flathead Valley Gay Alliance** monthly meeting, 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Flathead Count Library basement. [Kalispell]

**Flathead Valley PFLAG** 4th Tuesday of every month at the Flathead Valley United Christ of Christ. Call Roger Blair (406) 890-0173 [Kalispell]

**Pride Committee** meeting every Sunday – Call Dee or DJ at 756-0050 for time and location – volunteers needed [Kalispell]

## FEBRUARY:

**Saturday, February 4:** Join QSA for a 21+ dance at the local Zebra Cocktail Lounge in Bozeman starting at 9:00pm. Admission \$5

**Saturday, February 4:** The Blue Mountain Clinic presents the 5th annual Off The Rack Fashion Show. In 2008 Blue Mountain Clinic launched Off the Rack, a fashion show that stretches beyond the barriers of gender and stigma with outfits that represent a theme of healthy sexuality. How do these fashion items create dialogue about healthy sexuality? Many of the art-wear items are made out of condoms and other alternative textile materials. By combining humor, art, and latex Off the Rack creates community conversation and a fashion show like no other. Local artists generously donate their creativity to making the bras, dresses, suits, ties and other ensembles that make Off the Rack possible. Each February models wearing these creations take to the runway in the Wilma Theatre for the hottest fashion show in town. This year's event will be held at 8:30pm at the Wilma. \$20 for general seating. A pre-show reception will be held at the Loft starting at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$50 and include pre-show food and beverages and a ticket to the show.

**Saturday, February 11:** It's the weekend before Valentine's Day and we're having a Dance in Helena. Come join us for a great time with great folks and help the Montana Human Rights Network Pass an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance here in Helena. The dance will be at the Montana Club from 8:00 pm - 12:00 am. Cost is \$10.00 at the door with a cash bar. All proceeds benefit the Helena Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Campaign

**Saturday, February 11:** The ISCSM Mr Miss and Ms Gay Big Sky Stepdow and Pageant will be held at The Broadway Inn in Missoula. Doors open at 8:00pm, show starts at 9:00pm sharp, cost is \$10.

**Saturday February 11:** The Women's Resource Center at the University of Montana presents it's annual staging of the Vagina Monologues at the University Theater on the UofM Campus. All proceeds will go to benefit the Blue Mountain Clinic. Tickets go on sale the week of January 25th, email [umt.wrc@gmail.com](mailto:umt.wrc@gmail.com) for more detailed info.

**Tuesday, February 14:** Missoula's three up and coming production groups join forces to explore what can happen when love goes wrong. The Cigarette Girls, Bellatrix, and Bass Face productions invite you to the Symbiotic Circus at the Wilma Theater in Missoula. An evening that explores passion through burlesque. Jealousy through

Flamenco dance. Broken hearts through circus arts. Doors open 7:30, Show at 8:00, after Bass Face DJ's until Midnight. Suggested age 18+ due to partial nudity and mature theme. Advance tickets at Ear Candy Music \$18.00 single, \$32.00 for couples. Door night of \$20.00 single, \$35.00 for couples. Champagne and cupcake specials.

**Saturday, February 18:** The Western Montana Community Center and Montana Gender Alliance are proud to present the first annual MGA Gender Blender Clothing Swap at the Center from 4:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Please bring your old clothes, misfits or things you just don't wear anymore. Please bring a favorite snack. Pizza and soda will be provided.

**Saturday, February 18:** AIDS Outreach hosts its 3rd annual Mardi Gras inspired silent auction fundraiser at The Emerson Cultural Center in Bozeman. This year featuring wine, Cajun snacks and a live band. Entry is \$5 or free if you dress up (in drag or a Mardi gras theme costume). Party is from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm, come and bid on some great items, support AIDS Outreach and dance the night away.

**Saturday, February 18:** The 2nd Annual Diva's on the Dance Floor, a community drag show benefiting the DE LA LUNA Foundation and Elks Youth Scholarship will be held at the Elks Lodge Main Floor in Missoula. The event is 21+, doors open at 9:00 pm and the show starts at 10:00 pm, if you would like to preform please arrive at 9:00 for protocol.

**Friday, February 24:** The Hellgate Rollergirls host their season opener, Sibling Rivalry at the Adams Center in Missoula. Two local teams, The Brawlin Mollies and The Dirt Road Dolls battle it out in what is sure to be an exciting match-up. Doors open at 6 p.m., bout stars at 7 p.m. \$10 general admission, \$15 trackside seating, free general admission for kids under 10.

## MARCH:

**Friday, March 2:** NCBI Missoula hosts The Community Building Bridges workshop, a prejudice-reduction workshop that is a safe space to explore misinformation about oppressed groups. Participants will learn to identify stereotypes, foster awareness of and pride in their own identities, deepen their understanding of others' experiences of mistreatment and develop ally skills. Registration is \$40 and includes lunch. Training runs from 9:00am - 4:00 pm. Space is limited, please pre-register at <http://tinyurl.com/824qjnq>.

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