

GLAD Chat



P.O. Box 3783
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December 2014

Gift Exchange to Highlight December 13th GLAD Social at Central Christian

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

For our December 13th Social, GLAD will be celebrating with our annual gift exchange. We will be meeting at Central Christian Church, 650 W. William Street.

As we have in past years, GLAD plans to supply a ham. We ask you to bring side items that would compliment a Christmas ham dinner.

The gift exchange will have a cap of \$10, and items should be new and not used, broken, or inappropriate.

If you plan to bring smaller children and want them to participate, please

either bring gifts for them to exchange amongst themselves or other children who may attend. Please be sure to label the gift for a child.

The social will begin at 6:00, a half hour earlier than usual; the reason being is that we have to be done by 8:45 per our agreement with the church.

Please bring a dish to share. We also ask for \$5 donation to help us offset our expenses

Have a very Happy Holiday from the members of the GLAD Board.

Stavia Stone - Wylder Awarded Acorn Equality Scholarship

Our very own Stavia Stone-Wylder received an Acorn Scholarship for \$2000 on Dec. 6th! She was recognized for her commitment to academic achievement, volunteerism and advocacy.

The scholarship was presented at the Annual Acorn Equality Breakfast held at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. The scholarship was awarded from the Acorn Equality Fund, which was begun in 1999 to provide financial support for the advancement of LGBT education, health and civil rights.

Besides proud parents John and Charla, there were about ten Decatur and Springfield GLAD folks in attend-

ance to see her receive her award. Photos of the event are on GLAD's Facebook page.

It was another very successful year for the fundraising event. AEF Chair Jon C. Neidy announced at program's end that over \$53,000 had been raised for 2015 scholarships. Additionally, he gave a 'teaser' that Acorn is planning to begin a second event in the spring. Details will be announced soon on their [FB page](#).



Upcoming Events

December 10
Martin Mangan Lecture
6:30 p.m. Decatur Library

December 13
GLAD Social
6:00 p.m. Central Christian

December 14
Just Flicks
6:00 p.m. First Presbyterian

December 20
CORAL Christmas Dinner
6:00 p.m. Springfield

December 17
GLAD Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. DMH Cafeteria

For more information or questions related to any event please join us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/GLAD1

Or join our Meet-Up group at www.meetup.com/GLADDecatur

“Singing Revolution” - Just Flicks December 14th Feature Film

Contributed by Fred Spannaus

On Sunday evening, December 14, Just Flicks offers you one perfect way to reflect on what is meant by the words, “Peace on Earth.”

That evening, you will have an opportunity to observe how the Estonian people found freedom from decades of Soviet rule – toppling decades of foreign occupation, not with bullets but with song.

The 2006 documentary film *The Singing Revolution* chronicles the events leading up to the successful end of Soviet domination and the ultimate demise of the Iron Curtain. This story has been almost forgotten, but it is worth retelling, especially at Christmastide.

The Rev. Michael Karunas, senior pastor of Central Christian Church, will moderate our discussion.

Looking ahead there will be two Just Flick films in January: *The Boys Next Door* on January 11th, and *Do the Right Thing* on January 25th. GLAD Member John Poling will be the discussion leader for the 1/25 screening.

All Just Flick films include free refreshments and feature stimulating discussion afterwards facilitated by a discussion leader.

You can find more information about the group on [Facebook](#). The film schedule and locations are included to the right. Please remember that all films start at 6:00 p.m. Central Christian Church is located at 650 West Williams Street and First Presbyterian is located at 2014 West Prairie Street.

Date	Film (Year) Running time	Place
Sept. 14, 2014	All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) 147 min.	Central Christian Church
Oct. 12, 2014	The Way (2011) 123 min.	First Presbyterian Church
Nov. 9, 2014	A Small Act (2010) 88 min.	Central Christian Church
Dec. 14, 2014	The Singing Revolution (2006) 97 min.	First Presbyterian Church
Jan. 11, 2015	The Boys Next Door (1996) 91 min.	Central Christian Church
Jan. 25, 2015	Do the Right Thing (1986) 125 min.	First Presbyterian Church
Feb. 8, 2015	Witness (1985) 112 min.	Central Christian Church
Mar. 8, 2015	Erin Brockovich (2000) 132 min.	First Presbyterian Church
Mar. 29, 2015	Birdcage (1996) 119 min.	Central Christian Church
April 12, 2015	Girls on the Wall (2009) 62 min.	First Presbyterian Church
May 10, 2015	Nicky's Family (2011) 100 min.	Central Christian Church

John & Robert Pass the GLAD Chat Torch

Contributed by John Poling

The December 2014 issue of GLAD Chat marks the end of an era. This is the last newsletter that my husband, Robert Lowery, and I will be putting together. We have been responsible for GLAD Chat for ten years now – from December 2004 until today.

We are happy to say the newsletter is going to be in good hands. Beginning in January, Charla Stone and John Wylder will be taking the reins. We know they will do a great job with it.

A lot has changed since we produced our first issue. (The newsletter itself has had a proud tradition of being published since Feb. 1993). One of the biggest changes is the chance to write a sentence that says “my husband Robert Lowery”; I never thought gay marriage would be something I’d witness in less than a decade. Wow!

Another big change was ending the paper copy of GLAD Chat in 2008, and making it an electronic newsletter. This move has saved GLAD over \$3000 in postage alone over the last six years.

We are proud to say we never missed an issue in ten years. We combined one issue in April-May 2010 for the sake of our relationship. We moved to a new home that

year, and we knew a May GLAD Chat in the midst of boxes and chaos probably wasn’t going to happen.

Many thanks to all of you – our readers. Several of you have dropped us a line over the years, complementing our work and thanking us for doing it. I’ve always said producing GLAD Chat is a labor of love. And that’s the truth.

Thank you for allowing us to show GLAD a little love over these past ten years.



L O V E P E A C E H O P E



GLAD Briefs

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Feb. 7th, 2015 for CORAL's black tie affair "The Ritz: Take Two." The evening of dinner and dancing will be held at Springfield's Hoogland Center, 420 S. Sixth St. For more information and tickets contact Jerry at bufnjer@live.com

Springfield PFLAG is meeting the 3rd Monday of each month, from 7pm to 9pm, at the Universalist Unitarian Church, 745 Woodside Road in Springfield. Please call Gail Clodfelter at 481-0136, Penny Newton at 632-7322, or Rev Martin Woulfe at 801-2698, for further information.

The UP Center has moved. You can now find them at 44 E. Main Street (Lincoln Building) in Suite 516 and 517 in Downtown Champaign! Moving means growing and growing means the UP Center can help more of the communities they serve. Congratulations, UP Center.

Decatur Attorney to Deliver 2014 Mangan Lecture

Contributed by Bob Sampson

A Decatur attorney and community activist has been selected to deliver the 2014 Father Martin Mangan Lecture on Social Justice. Josh Rohrscheib will speak at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10 in the Decatur Public Library's Madden Auditorium.

Rohrscheib's remarks will center on situations in the community today that call for the spirit of justice and compassion associated with the late Father Mangan, who served Decatur's St. James Parish from 1991 until his death in 2001. Mangan gained national and international prominence as a result of his efforts on behalf of workers and their families during a series of lockouts and strikes that convulsed the city in the 1990s.

"We are particularly pleased to welcome one of the youngest speakers in this series which dates back to 2001," said Bob Sampson, one of the event's organizers. "It is particularly appropriate not only because of the fresh challenges facing our community but the role that Rohrscheib and others of his generation are developing to meet these challenges."

The Mangan Lecture is sponsored by the Friends of Mitz organization, a group dedicated to promoting Father Mangan's ideals.

December 20th CORAL Christmas Dinner Features Fine Food & Gift Exchange

CORAL's Annual Christmas Dinner will be at 5:00 pm Saturday, December 20th, at Lindsay's Restaurant (in the Lincoln Room), of the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 East Adams Street, Springfield, Il.

A buffet dinner will include Salad Bar, Chicken Marsala, Stuffed Pork Loin, Potato, Vegetarian Pasta, Dessert, Iced Tea and Coffee. Price is \$24 per person.

You MUST RSVP by December 18 to assure seating. RSVP to Buff Carmichael (217) 415-5823 or Jerry Dean Bowman (217) 494-8567, or email them at bufnjer@live.com.

Gift exchange, \$10 to \$15 suggested, to follow at Bert Morton and Lee Korty's residence.

Hope to see you all there!

WIDOW
by Martha Miller

County Judge Bertha Brannon's life blows up when her partner of twelve years, police sergeant Toni Matulis, the love of her life, is killed during a domestic violence call gone bad. Bertha is still trying to accept what's happened when she gets the first of several threatening phone calls. This is followed by one dangerous incident after the next, one dead body after the last. The police are no help, so Bertha starts her own investigation and learns that Toni was working on a case that no one wanted her to solve, a case of corruption that goes all the way to the top.

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Martha [Lesbian] Living

By Martha Miller

A Holiday Classic

I usually get a little depressed around holidays. That's because of this idea that families should all sit down to a real Norman Rockwell type dinner. The children should be cute instead of tired and irritable and the adults (about three generations of them) all smile and pass the turkey. For me there are three generations that get together during the holidays, and I am the middle one. I think we all try to be nice to each other and the strain is often too much. Back when "Rosanne" was a popular TV show, I always liked her holiday shows. My family wasn't like "Leave it to Beaver" or "Father Knows Best." My family was like Rosanne's. I sometimes have students write holiday essays. Not one of them mentions Rosanne Barr. But they seem puzzled about grandmas, who have everything they want or need. How do you shop for someone like that?

Often times their Grandma doesn't even put up a tree or decorate. Students don't see that Christmas is different when you grow old. Actually, this is the first year that I don't want to go all out with decorations. It's just too much work. Our neighbor across the street leaves his Christmas decorations up until it's time to put out his spring stuff. We actually enjoy this because it gives us an unearned sense of superiority, which is rare when it comes to decorations. Last night, on the way to dinner, we drove past several houses along Chatham Road that had yard decorations out, and I noticed the lighted deer (that moves its head slightly) are now in gold lights. I have a deep and abiding respect for the folks who have those things in their yards year after year. Either they have a spot in their homes where they can leave the things in one piece all year or they have ungodly talent in putting things together. We had two of those deer one year. They came disassembled and had to be taken apart when Christmas was over and assembled again the next year. We just weren't highly evolved enough for all of that.

The year of the deer, we also got the set of three spiral Christmas trees. As soon as we got them home and the box opened, Girlfriend hurried out to the yard and pounded a stake in the ground—it's still there somewhere. Turns out the trees were held in place by an above-ground stand and the stake in the ground was to give height to the middle sized tree. Girlfriend is not good at following directions. I mean she just doesn't read them. So we had one tall tree and two short ones. The following year, the tall tree had the plastic things that it hangs it together hopelessly tangled. We put them out anyway. The deer were harder to put up the second year than they had been the first. Probably something to do with the way they were taken down. After two years, they were all history.

One year Girlfriend found a little out of the way junk shop and took me there to pick out some Star Wars memorabilia for my oldest son who is a collector. A second huge room was stacked from floor to ceiling with all sorts of household items. The guy who owned the place said he got the stuff from Estate Sales. He said most people wouldn't believe how much unused stuff that senior citizens have when they die. I found some side pieces to match an old set of "Vision" Corning Wear (the clear pink stuff) that I've had for thirty years. These dishes and pans were in the original unopened boxes. I thought about my students then, trying to buy for their Grandmas who already have everything. But this is how it is; Grandmas don't want Corning Wear. If we were to ask an old person at the end of his or her life what the most important thing turned out to be—the answer will always be the same—Grandma knows that the most precious things on earth are her family and her friends. She doesn't want something from them, she wants them. Instead of buying her a gift certificate for a nice restaurant, the kids should take her to that nice restaurant. Instead of a new DVD player, take her to a movie. Instead of another picture of the family, give her some time with the family. These days for me, that's all I want or need.

See www.marthamiller.net for "The Best of Lesbian Living"

More about Martha's writing and contact info can be found on her web site www.marthamiller.net