

# GLAD Chat



P.O. Box 3783  
Decatur, IL 62524  
[www.gladdecatur.com](http://www.gladdecatur.com)

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## February GLAD Social

The February GLAD Social will be on February 14th at 6:00pm at Il Fiorno, 1423 Mound Rd., Decatur, IL. It will be a combination Valentine Day/22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary for GLAD, and we have reserved the same room we reserved with them last year. Reservations are required, although extra seating will be available in the restaurant proper. Reservations cost \$20, and can be made by contacting any board member, or mailing a check to our post office box at P.O. Box 3783 Decatur IL, 62524. The cut-off date is February 11<sup>th</sup>.

The menu will be penne with vodka sauce, fried chicken, garden salad, green beans with bacon, mashed potatoes with gravy, bread and butter, and beverage of choice (coffee, tea, or soft drinks). 22<sup>nd</sup> GLAD Anniversary Cake provided by Rene.

The speakers will be Jenny Cowgill and Mark Schloeter. They are with the Macon County LGBTQA Youth Group Get Together which meets the first and third Friday of each month. They provide snacks, socialization, and a safe place for LGBTQA youth between 13 and 18 for an hour of discussion followed by games, places to draw or create art, hang out, share stories, or watch movies.

## January GLAD Social

Thirty-two people attended the program at Unity Church. The kitty brought in \$127.75. Mike Burton from WAND was the guest, and gave his first presentation ever. He brought us a very good program and everyone in attendance seemed to have a lot of fun.

## Corrections

*Memories of Mark Rau* in our last issue was written by Bert Morton, not Jerry Bowman. We humbly apologize for the error.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 6:00 GLAD Social. Il Fiorno, 1423 E. Mound Rd.

Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm. "Race Conversations." Continuing every fourth Sunday. Unitarian Universalist Church 3773 N. MacArthur Road, Decatur, IL.

Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> Lesbian Outing. 12:00pm Café Moxio 411 E. Adams St. Springfield. C J Sarff is sending this invitation --A bunch of lesbians (but I'm inviting the men of this group, too) from St. Louis, Springfield, and other places are going to Springfield to Cafe Moxo, then the President Abraham Lincoln Museum.

Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm *How I Became An Elephant*, first of the Environmental Film Series at the Unitarian Universalist Church 3773 N. MacArthur Road, Decatur, IL.



**the Gay & Lesbian Association of Decatur**

*Find us on Facebook and  
Meet-up for more information  
about our organization and  
activities*

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**Treasurer's Report**

As of Feb 1, 2015:

Current balance \$1406.66 .Deposits total \$179.00 between the November and December Socials Debits total \$367.40 (consisting of \$17.40 reimbursement to Jim for social supplies, \$125.00 to Coral for Putting on the Ritz ad, \$200 to Unity Christian for January and March rental, and \$25 to Central Christian for December rental).

**Race Conversations**

Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 pm, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur, (3773 N. MacArthur Rd.) will hold "Race Conversations"-- a discussion open to anyone who would like to attend, and which will continue on future 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 pm.

Questions, contact Rev. Elaine Gehrmann, [egehrmann@gmail.com](mailto:egehrmann@gmail.com)

**Lesbian (and men, too) Get Together**

CJ Sarff

A bunch of lesbians (but I'm inviting the men of this group, too) from St. Louis, Springfield, and other places are going to Springfield to Café Moxo, then the President Abraham Lincoln Museum (it is very cool, with some IMAX shows, and a hologram show, about 40 wax figures and more). Then, maybe a meal, and maybe a gay bar (some may go, but I don't drink), ON FEBRUARY 28TH! Café Moxo is at 411 East Adams. Parking meters are free on Saturdays. Café Moxo is at noon, to organize ourselves. Some are getting motel rooms. The four groups invited are Southern Illinois Lesbian Connection, Central Illinois Lesbians, Lesbian Illinois, and ANY St. Louis Lesbian groups! So . . . Café Moxo is the starting point, at noon. Be there or be square!

## **"As the states turn: Marriage in a changing legal context"**

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is currently conducting a study of how marriage laws impact the lives of romantic couples. We are seeking participants who live in Florida, Georgia, Illinois, or Texas and are willing to take a 50 minute online survey. If you are currently at least 18 years old, have a romantic partner, and are a resident of these states, then you may be eligible to participate. Our study includes heterosexual, same-sex, and gender complicated relationships. At this time, we especially encourage individuals who are in same-sex relationships to participate. If you are unwilling or unable to participate, we encourage you to pass this information along to friends and family (regards of sex, gender, or sexual orientation) who live in Illinois, Texas, Georgia, or Florida.

In this study, you will be asked about a wide range of topics, including self-identity, family, health, work, relationship, and community issues. Your participation in the study will be kept completely confidential. If you choose to participate in this study, you will be compensated for your time with a \$20 gift card to Amazon.com for completing the first survey. After several months, we will follow up with you and offer you more opportunities for compensation.

For more information find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UIUC.marriage.study> or complete the survey here: [https://illinoisaces.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_72JF3bQt7RQsYOV](https://illinoisaces.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_72JF3bQt7RQsYOV)

Finding research participants is difficult and we sincerely appreciate your help!

Drs. Ramona Oswald & Brian Ogolsky

[uiucmarriagestudy@gmail.com](mailto:uiucmarriagestudy@gmail.com)

## **Springfield Pride**

GLAD is looking for ideas and volunteers. On May 16<sup>th</sup> we will be at PrideFest in Springfield and need people to help volunteer at the tent between noon and 10:00pm. The tent will have electricity available.

We also need ideas on items to sell at the tent. If you wish to volunteer or have a brilliant marketing idea, contact the GLAD board.

PrideFest Center is at Fifth and Capitol in Springfield, but the location of our tent is, as of yet, undetermined.

## Martha [*lesbian*] Living

### Love and Marriage.

Yesterday morning while getting a banana, I saw something on the counter that I hadn't noticed before. It looked like a cigar curved in kind of a semi-circle. On closer investigation I realized that it was an old banana sitting right out in the open. So I called to Girlfriend and asked why she didn't eat the old banana first. (I eat two or three a week—she sometimes has that many per day.)

She said, as I knew she would, that she *a/ways* ate the old ones first.

I said, "There's a pretty old one here."

She said, as I knew she would, "Bring it here."

I picked it up. It was withered, dry all over and brown—the drift wood of bananas. I carried it into the living room and handed it to her.

She said, as I knew she would, "I've never seen this banana in my life."

Since I hadn't seen it either, rather than argue over it, we two intelligent and mature women decided that someone broke into the house and put that banana there. This has become a fairly common rationale for stuff that I know she did and she knows I did. We developed this type of reasoning back around the turn of the century when the kids moved out.

There are a number of things that we bicker about—just as silly as the banana—like her using my razor, eating my birthday cake (when there's only one slice left), using up my A & D ointment, moving the scissors-screwdriver-wrench, and me stealing her ink pen, and using her toothpaste. I honestly never do these things, but I've been accused. So the 'someone broke in' works pretty well. We just drop it. I will admit she's more generous about these crime scenes than I am.

On our 6<sup>th</sup> month wedding anniversary on December 3rd, I asked her how she felt about being married. She said it didn't seem much different from not being married. But, for me, there are some things that have changed, including, joint checking accounts and joint tax returns. I love giving her name as an emergency contact, which up until now I've just left blank, and then comes the inevitable question: "How are you related?" I get to say, "She's my wife." I can't tell you how good that feels.

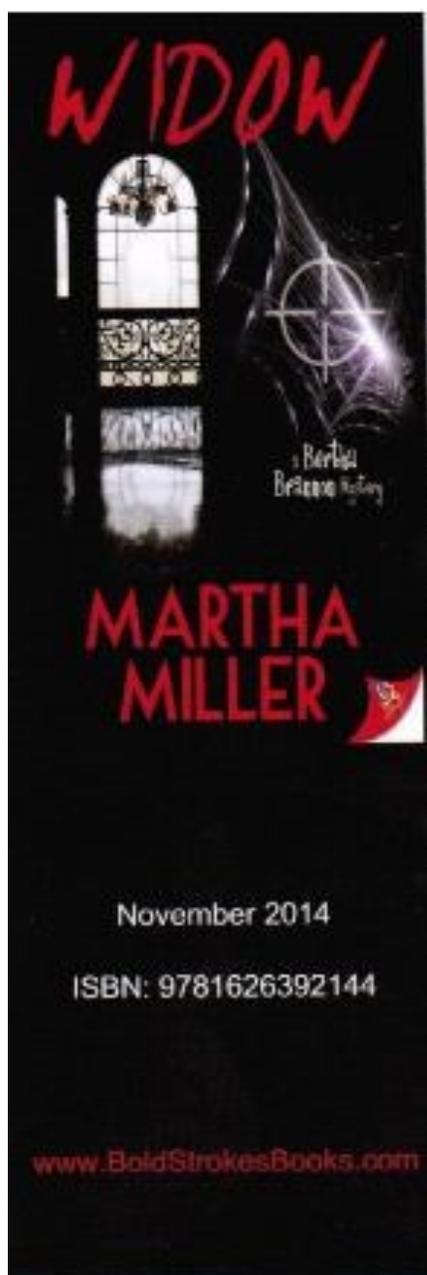
Some things have changed just because we've grown older. For example, I tried to buy these underpants from a catalogue online (I hate going shopping in stores for clothes) and when I got them, they said they were the size I ordered, but they were so big, I could have used them for bed sheets. A younger straight woman would probably have bought at Victoria's Secret. I can't think of one day of my life where I wanted my breast pushed together up under my chin or no crotch in my panties. Anyway, since the bed sheets didn't work, Girlfriend stopped at the Dollar

Store and bought me three pair of Hanes. Today she asked if I'd worn them yet, and I said, "I will, today." She said, "Well, I want to see how they fit. Let me know when you put them on." And I said, "There was a time you'd rather see me take them off." She gave me a look—nothing that would scare the horses—but good enough for me.

Actually we've been together for 23 ½ years, and we've had 23 Valentine's Days together. You know the old saying, 'time flies when you're having fun?' Well, I must have been having the time of my life because those years sure flew by. I remember suffering through seemingly endless school days when I was a child. What I would give to have some of those long, long days with her now.

*For the best of "Lesbian Living" and purchase information on Martha's books go to her web site,*

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



## 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.



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

## **2015 Environmental Film Series**

Mel Weinstein

Saturday, February 28th is the launch of the **2015 Environmental Film Series** with the documentary "How I Became an Elephant." This is our 8th year of bringing contemporary, environmentally related films to Central Illinois covering a variety of issues that break the news every year. As always, the films are free, the food is cheap, the cartoons cute, the extras are surprising, and we always leave time for discussions, often led by a local authority. All screenings will start at 7 pm in the Sanctuary of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Decatur (3773 N. MacArthur Road - corner of Mound & MacArthur).

We hope you can come!

Other titles in the series include *Cowspiracy* March 14<sup>th</sup>, *GMO OMG* March 28<sup>th</sup>, and *Heart of Sky, Heart of Earth* April 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Volunteers Needed**

My name is Frank Hopper and I am a volunteer coordinator for the annual Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Ally College Conference (MBLGTACC) and am hoping to enlist your help. The conference attracts thousands of students and advisors from across the nation annually. With all these students we need a lot of volunteers to help make sure their experience goes well.

The conference is going to be the second weekend in February, the 13th through the 15th. We need and welcome all kinds of volunteers. We would love it if your organization would consider helping us out. You can sign up to volunteer here: <https://saapps.illinoisstate.edu/dos/mblgtacc2015/index.php/support/volunteer>

You can also get more information about the conference here:

<https://saapps.illinoisstate.edu/dos/mblgtacc2015/index.php/main/index>

### **If You've Got the Time, We've Got the Space**

GLAD Chat is looking for contributors! Have you written a poem that you'd like to show off? Want to write an opinion piece? Care to let us in on a secret recipe? Have good news to share? Seen a good (or bad) movie? What are you doing in the community? Read a book that we should know about? Want to celebrate an event? Need to express your thanks? The Chat needs to be about members, for members, and by members! Submissions can be emailed to: [staviamom@comcast.net](mailto:staviamom@comcast.net).

I'd like to thank Buff, John and Gene for writing such great reference letters. I wouldn't have gotten my Acorn Equality scholarship without your help.

Stavia Rose Stone-Wylder