

GLAD Chat



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P.O. Box 3783

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www.gladdecatur.com

Time to 'Get Your Game On' For March 8th GLAD Social

For the March 8th GLAD social it will be time to 'get your game on' as the evening's program features a variety of board games.

According to the website boardgamegeek.com, Americans have been enjoying board games from our earliest colonial beginnings. The first commercially produced game was called The Mansion of Happiness in 1843. The game was heavily influenced by the Puritans, who, ironically, frowned on game playing.

The website explains: "The object of the game is to be the first player to travel around the spiral track and reach the Mansion of Happiness... The game track is populated with virtuous deed spaces

like Honesty and Temperance (which move players forward to eternal happiness) and vices such as cruelty and ingratitude"

We'll be in pursuit of our own Mansion of Happiness beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 8th at the Peerless Corporate Training Center, 1304 N. 20th St. The potluck begins at 7:00p.m. GLAD will supply the tableware and drinks. We ask you to bring a dish to share and to please donate \$5 toward our expenses.

Mark your calendars for the 8th. We hope to see you there.



Marriage Equality Arrives Early For Some Illinois Counties

For many committed same-sex couples June 1st seemed like an awfully long time to wait to marry. Why exactly was seven months needed between the bill's passage and its implementation?

On Feb. 21, apparently a district court judge agreed with them, because on that day U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman ordered Cook County to begin issuing marriage licenses immediately.

Coleman's ruling was exclusive only to Cook County, but her ruling appeared to open the floodgates, at least a little, for

other Illinois counties to begin issuing licenses early.

On February 26th, the Champaign County clerk announced that his county was ready to being issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. As GLAD Chat goes to press, we are told that both Macon and McLean counties are very close to being ready to offer the licenses as well.

Lambda Legal has prepared a list of Frequently Asked Questions in regards to the new marriage law. You can access by clicking this [link](#)

Upcoming Events

March 8

GLAD Social 6:30 p.m.
Peerless

March 8

KATZ Mardi Gras Show
10:00 p.m.
Hosted by Ceduxion Car-
rington
KATZ

March 9

Just Flicks 6:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian

March 15

St. Patty's Drag Show
10:00 p.m.
Ken's A-Frame

March 22

The KATX Factor Talent
Show 11:00 p.m.
KATZ

March 26

GLAD Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.
DMH Cafe

April 3

Safer Schools Workshop
ISU

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

[www.facebook.com/
groups/GLAD1](http://www.facebook.com/groups/GLAD1)

GLAD Chat is the monthly publication of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Decatur

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GLAD Chat welcomes submissions, send your material to GLAD.newsletter@mchsi.com

Shows & Talent Competitions Highlight Decatur's Social Scene in March

If you can't find a drag show to go to (or perform at) this month in Decatur, then you better have your eyes examined. Nearly every Saturday features a show.

On March 8th Ceduxion Carrington will be hosting the Katz Mardi Gras Show, 112 Merchant Street, featuring herself along with Amya, Chanel, Sienna, and others. It will begin at 10 p.m. and has a \$3 cover.

On March 15th, Sharon ShareAlike and her family will be performing a St. Patrick's Drag Show at Ken's A-Frame, 1303 E. Eldorado St. It will begin at 10 p.m. with a \$3 cover.

On March 22nd, Katz will be the site of the talent competition The KATZ Factor. The event will feature a \$100.00 Cash Prize and all forms of talent welcome. "Drag, Karaoke, Comedy, Musical Talent, Puppets, Etc....Audience Picks the Winner So Invite Your Friends and Family To Cheer You On."

For more information on The KATZ Factor, you can visit their [Facebook page](#)



Irish Film "Once" is March 9th Just Flicks Feature

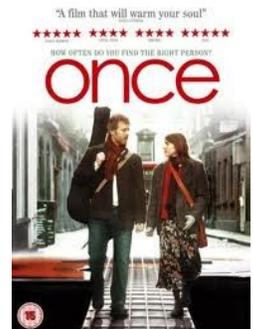
The 2006 romantic Irish film "Once" will be the March feature for the Just Flicks film series.

The March 9th screening at First Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m. tells the story of two characters, Guy and Girl, who work through the past loves of their life through song over an intense period of a few days as Guy puts a demo disc together.

The film has a 97% "fresh" rating on Rottentomatoes.com. In 2011 "Once" was made into a Broadway musical. It won eight Tony awards including Best Musical. The actress who played 'Girl' in the Broadway version, Cristin Milioti, is now playing the 'mother' in the final season of the TV series "How I Met Your Mother."

"Once" has a running time of 86 minutes.

Hosts will provide the usual great snacks and drinks. Mary Jo Comerford will lead the after-film discussion.



School Superintendent Retiring This Month

We learned in February that Decatur Schools Superintendent Gloria Davis moved up the date of her planned retirement to March 22nd.

Davis was hired by the school board in the summer of 2006. Over the course of the last seven years she has become a divisive figure in the community; there seems to be little middle ground in opinions of her.

Some of you may recall one of our best-attended GLAD socials in recent memory was In September 2008, when Dr. Davis spoke at our monthly meet-

ing. We had nearly 50 folks in attendance that month, including seventeen Millikin students that Emily and Pam brought with them. The October 2008 GLAD Chat noted:

"Dr. Davis was gracious enough to take several questions from GLAD members, some of which were hard-hitting. But most of those present saw the questions as playing an important role in stimulating a dialogue on the safety of lgbtq youth in the schools."

McLean County AIDS Task Force Has New Office

Congratulations to the McLean County AIDS Task Force. They recently announced their return to downtown Bloomington.

According to the Feb. issue of the Prairie Pride Coalition newsletter the task force is now located in the basement office of civil rights attorney, Jonathan Backman." Our new office is conveniently located right next door to Kelly's Bakery & Cafe, near the main bus stop, and a block away from the health department."

Their new address is 117 N Center St., Bloomington, IL 61701. The phone is 309-827-2437.

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UUFD Environmental Film Series Continues in March

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur (UUFD's) "Environmental Film Series continues this month" The series begins February 22nd. The films are sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee, in conjunction with the Audubon Society of Decatur and the Community Environmental Council.

Films begin at 7 p.m. and are shown at UUFD, 3773 N. MacArthur Road in Decatur. Donations are accepted at these events and the purchase of concessions (organic popcorn made with unrefined oil using a theater-style popcorn maker), along with healthier drinks, will help support the Fellowship in this endeavor.

Note that the films have **not** likely been shown in a theatre setting in Decatur or on local television. Patrons can stay after each screening for a short discussion session led by a guest speaker.

For a complete list of all the films go to the UUFD website at www.uufd.org



GLAD Website Up and Running Again

Some of you may have noticed that the website (gladdecatur.com) was down for several weeks earlier this year.

As it turns out nothing is simple in the cyber world. We found out that we not only had to renew the web site hosting, but also the use of the domain name gladdecatur.com

It has been renewed and will be good for three years. Special thanks go to Daniel who keeps the socials updated on the site and archives the newsletters on it.

Creating Safer Schools Workshop at ISU April 3rd

On Thursday, April 3rd Illinois Safe School Alliance and the ISU LGBT/Queer Studies and Services Institute in the Professional Services Building, 205 S Main Street, Normal, will be hosting *Creating Safer Schools for All: Addressing Anti-LGBTQ Bullying in Schools*.

Workshops include: how homophobic bullying impacts LGBTQ students and the school climate as a whole at 11AM, the legal obligations of teachers and administrators to provide a safe learning environment for all students at 12PM, tool and resources for teachers to use in the classroom to reduce and interrupt bullying at 1PM, and tool and resources for teachers to

use to address homophobic behavior from other faculty and staff at 2PM.

There is no registration necessary, attendance is free, and food will be provided. The workshops will be useful for any teacher, pre-service teacher, school administrator, or parent who is concerned about bullying. All workshops are being held at the Institute, 205 S Main Street, Normal. For more information contact Michelle at michelle@illinoisafeschools.org



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"GLAD says 'Thanks' to an outstanding business and community member

Republican Lawmakers Try to Repeal Marriage Equality

(Editor's Note: on Feb. 21st, we received the following information from Bernard Cherkasov of Equality Illinois.)

"There is a campaign in Illinois by marriage opponents to gut or rescind the Illinois "Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act". A hearing has been scheduled next week by the Illinois Senate Executive Committee on a bill introduced by state Sen. Kyle McCarter (R-Lebanon) to overturn the law.

Another bill submitted by state Rep. Josh Harms (R-Watseka) wants to expand on the exemp-

tions already included in the new marriage law that protect religious institutions and members of the clergy from being forced to perform or recognize same-sex marriages.

Having lost the war, opponents to the freedom to marry now want to refight the battles and turn back the march of history and the progress of the state of Illinois. We know from every other important social progress in our nation that the opponents do not just walk away. That is why we cannot rest on our laurels and must continue to be vigilant, to fight, to educate, and to vote."