

# GLAD Chat



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## November 15th CORAL Thanksgiving is the November GLAD Social

For this month's GLAD Social, we are doing something a little different. We are holding it on the third Saturday of the month and we are going out of town.

Our sights are set on Springfield this month for the annual CORAL Thanksgiving Dinner to be held on Nov. 15th.

The Coalition of Rainbow Alliances (CORAL) once again has invited the GLBT community to join with them for their 2014 Community Thanksgiving Dinner. The annual event will be held Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Pavilion in Lincoln Park, 1601 N. 5th Street. **Directions are included on page three.**

## Stavia Stone - Wylder up for Acorn Equality Scholarship at December 6<sup>th</sup> Family Breakfast

It is almost that time of year again: time for the 16th Annual Acorn Family Breakfast to benefit the Acorn Equality Fund.

The event will be Saturday, Dec. 6th at 9 a.m. at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. For more information check out their [Facebook page](#).

This year GLAD members have even more reason to attend because John and Charla's daughter, Stavia Stone-Wylder, is up for two of the group's scholarships. Stavia headed off to Beloit College this fall and mom

Everyone is welcomed. The event is free, with turkey, ham and the main fixings provided by community groups and individuals, associated with CORAL.

Side dishes of salads, casseroles and deserts may be brought to share; canned goods along with boxed foodstuffs will be collected.

**For those looking for a Decatur based social, the GLAD board members will still be meeting at the Forsyth Hometown Buffet on Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be paid individually and runs \$11.49 for adults and \$10.99 for seniors.**

Charla reports she is involved in all kinds of community and social justice activities.

Charla tells us: "Stavia has joined Amnesty International and Advocates for Choice, which is a campus sex-ed and birth control group. Two afternoons a week she reads with 2nd graders. She is in the shadow cast for RHPS. Stavia has two student worker jobs, one in the library and the other working with college ESL students."

### Upcoming Events

#### November 8

GLAD Decatur Thanksgiving  
6:00 p.m. Forsyth  
Hometown Buffet

#### November 9

Just Flicks  
6:00 p.m. Central Christian

#### November 15

GLAD Social at CORAL  
Thanksgiving Dinner 5:00  
p.m. Springfield Lincoln  
Park

#### November 20

Transgender Day of Re-  
membrance  
6:00 p.m. Springfield

#### November 21

UU Labyrinth Walk  
7:00 p.m. Springfield

#### November 27

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

#### November 29

GLAD 2015 Planning Meet-  
ing 10:00 a.m. to Noon  
DMH Cafeteria

#### December 1

World Aids Day

#### December 6

Acorn Equality Family  
Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. Peoria

**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)

**Or join our Meet-Up group  
at [www.meetup.com/  
GLADDecatur](http://www.meetup.com/GLADDecatur)**

# “A Small Act” - Just Flicks November 9<sup>th</sup> Feature Film

Contributed by Fred Spannaus

A Small Act just might have the most misleading title of the Just Flicks season. This 2010 film actually captures a huge act of generosity that was multiplied many times over. The film will begin at 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 9, at Central Christian Church.

The story line is intriguing: A Kenyan man’s life was forever altered when a Swedish stranger sponsored his education. Hilde Back supported Chris Mburu, as a young, rural Kenyan student. She never thought she’d hear from him. After he graduated from Harvard and became a UN Human Rights Lawyer, Mburu met the stranger that changed his life. Paying it forward, he founded his own scholarship program and named it for Hilde Back.

Pixie Fennessey and Craig Mandernach will lead the discussion. Pixie is a professor at Millikin and Richland, and she has first-hand knowledge of Kenya: Twice each year she travels to Nairobi to volunteer at Stand Up for Grace Orphanage. Craig is a Just Flicks vet who always regales us with little-known facts and pithy insights.

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

## GLAD Board Elections Held at October Social

We had a great turnout and time at the October wiener roast social at Randy’s place. As we have done in past year’s GLAD held its annual board elections at the social. The following were elected.

- Jerry Bowman, Male Co-Chair (2 year term)
- Jim Barr, Secretary (2 year term)
- John Wylder, Board Member (1 year term)
- Mary Lynn Feltes, Board Member (1 year term)
- Historian, Charla Stone (1 year term)

Rene Verry (Female Co-chair) and Robert Lowery (Treasurer) are in the middle of their two year terms. These executive board member seats will be open for nominations in September 2015.

Many thanks go to these individuals who have made the commitment to lead our organization.

We also took a ‘sense of the membership’ vote that evening as to what the future direction of

GLAD should be. The option that gathered the most votes was “Continue as we are with a monthly potluck and monthly programs.”

As you may be aware, GLAD continues to look for a new meeting place as we lost the Peerless location last summer. However, things are looking promising on the location front with possible meeting locations at First Presbyterian and Central Christian churches. More to come once details are finalized.

**GLAD PLANNING MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29<sup>th</sup> 10 am to Noon AT THE DECATUR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CAFETERIA.**

**All members are encouraged to attend** to help in planning the socials and events for the upcoming year. We’ll be planning around the memberships suggestions of bringing in paid speakers, seeking advertisers and sponsors, and connecting with other LGBT groups in the area.

**This is an extremely important planning session so please put this on your calendar and plan to attend.**



## GLAD Briefs

**Martha Miller’s newest Bertha Brannon mystery** – Widow—is out this month (11/17). You may recall Martha was our guest at the June GLAD social and read excerpts from the book. You can order the book from most online book retailers. Click [here](#) to find Martha’s author page on Amazon.

**GLAD now has a smartphone app.** The app is available for both Apple and Android; to download the app click [here](#). Many thanks to Michael John Rose-Bleavins for creating the GLAD Decatur smartphone and tablet app.

**UU Fellowship of Decatur has a [FaceBook page](#);** there are links to the UU happenings beyond the corner of Mound and MacArthur, such as the UU Association’s Standing on the Side of Love support of same-sex marriages, and an essay on public theology and public ministry.

**There will be a Transgender Day of Remembrance @** the Phoenix Center in Springfield and a kick off for a Transgender Support Group on Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. Going forward, the group will be meeting the 3rd Thursday of every month 6:30-8:30.

**We were sad** to learn of the death of Chuck “CJ” Landrum Jr. last month. Some of you may remember CJ as Raven Morel on the local drag performance scene in the 1990s. In the last ten years, he has lived on the East Coast and was a successful working actor. We send our deepest sympathies to his family in Decatur.

## Springfield UU to host Labyrinth walk on November 21<sup>st</sup>

Contributed by Dick Zaker

A Labyrinth Walk will take place on Friday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Church in Springfield.

Walking the labyrinth is an ancient practice, older than most religions, and is a wonderful way to center your thoughts. Labyrinth walks have grown in popularity, not only among UUs, but among other faith traditions as well.

Adding to the spiritual depth of the experience, John Malan and Carley Mattimore-Malan will be offering a Oneness Blessing to participants.

A UU Communion will be celebrated afterwards. Future dates are: Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 19.

## Directions to CORAL Thanksgiving from Decatur

		Merge onto I-72 W / US-36W via the exit on the left.	30 mi 27 min
		Merge onto I-55 N via EXIT 103B toward Chicago.	2 mi 2 min
		Merge onto Sangamon Ave via EXIT 100B.	2.6 mi 4 min
		Turn left onto N Peoria Rd / I-55 Bus S.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N Peoria Rd is just past N 15th St</li> <li>THORNTONS #370 is on the corner</li> <li>If you reach Grandstand Blvd you've gone a little too far</li> </ul>	0.6 mi 1 min
		Turn right onto E Ridgely Ave.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E Ridgely Ave is just past N 10th St</li> <li>Little Jimmy’s Diner is on the corner</li> <li>If you are on N Peoria Rd and reach N 9th St you've gone a little too far</li> </ul>	0.4 mi 1 min
		9. Turn left onto N 5th St.	.09 mi
		10. 1601 N 5TH ST is on the right.	



## Martha [Lesbian] Living

By Martha Miller

### BERTHA AND ME

I love the part of being a writer that enables me to create characters, but after reading Stephen King's *Misery*, after learning that Arthur Conon Doyle tried to kill off Sherlock Homes and the fans wouldn't let him, after seeing what happened to J K Rowling's first non-Harry Potter book (albeit her fans eventually came through) or Sarah Paretsky's only book without Chicago Detective V I Warshawski, all of whose fans wanted more and more of the same, I decided to create new characters each book. Not the best marketing strategy, but it made me happy. Most of my heroines tend to be women who get involved in the mystery accidentally; they also tend to be contrary to the young, slim, blond, athletic lesbians that dominate our literature.

Bertha Brannon was the protagonist of my first mystery, *Nine Nights on the Windy Tree*. I deliberately created her the opposite of the traditional lesbian heroine. She was a 6-foot-tall, 200-pound, black, forty something, attorney and newly-recovering drug addict who was just out of treatment and trying to put together a legal practice. Older than the average lesbian heroine, she has some ex-lover baggage and often she gets deeper into trouble by trusting someone she shouldn't. Moreover, she usually needs money because she is a sap, often giving her services away to women in trouble. In other words she's just like me—except my skin isn't black and my degree is not in law, but in English.

While I tend to pattern the first chapter after the old noirish mysteries, my characters are as original as I can make them. Bertha's grandma is much like my own—full of spirit, stubborn and likely to do about anything. Of course, Bertha's grandma is black, mine wasn't. I also gave Bertha something that I wanted but didn't get. She has been raised by her grandma. The book was with the publisher in some stage of editing when I read the first Stephanie Plum mystery. Stephanie has a grandma who lives with her parents and is a lot like Bertha's grandma. Except Bertha's grandma lives in my grandma's house and on the corner was Latch's grocery store, which was also a big part of the book.

A couple of years ago while Girlfriend and I were driving to Niagara Falls celebrating our Civil Union, as well as twenty years together, I brought *Nine Nights on the Windy Tree* along and read in the car. I realized how much I missed Bertha and I decided to try a sequel. I wrote the first book fifteen years ago. So I aged Bertha, and I made her a judge. Now she's 210 pounds and 5 feet 11 inches—shorter and a bit heavier. I had Bertha's partner, Toni Matulis, a beat cop, and Toni's mixed-race, daughter Doree who's now a teenager living with Bertha. I put Grandma in a nursing home where she loves horror movies and meets a younger white man on the Internet.

After finishing Bertha's sequel, *Widow*, after the book was with the editor, I went to St. Louis to see Sue Grafton; she was promoting her new book *Wis for Wasted*. I got the book free with the price of my ticket. When I got home and read it, I was unpleasantly surprised to find an ornery cat in the book. *Widow* has a psychotic cat that Bertha renames Norman Bates. I was pleased to find that Grafton didn't do much with her cat. Norman Bates introduced new conflict for Bertha, as the day she brought him home, he crawled into the ductwork beneath the house.

I tell writing students that there are only 37 plots. (Recently I found them listed on the Internet.) Writers keep marching out new and interesting characters and putting them through those plots. So *Widow* has a funny grandma and a psychotic cat and a beautiful 210 pound heroine in her mid-fifties who suddenly finds herself alone.

*Widow* comes out in November and can be ordered on my publisher's web site: <http://www.boldstrokesbooks.com/Author-Martha-Miller.html> or at any other book store. I will be signing books on November 29<sup>th</sup> at the Prairie Archives Book Store, 522 E Adams 522 E. Adams, on the old state capital plaza, in Springfield. Whether you buy a book or not, please stop in and say, "Hello."

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