

# GLAD Chat



P.O. Box 3783  
Decatur, IL 62524  
www.gladdecatur.com

Volume 22 Issue 10

October 2015

## October Meeting

GLAD's October meeting will be our annual wiener roast held at Randy Well's farm.

The GLAD board is supplying hotdogs—both meat and veggie—vegetarian baked beans, buns, condiments, a fruit tray, a veggie tray, drinks, and disposable plates and eating utensils. Guests are encouraged to bring their own favorite dish to share; please supply your own serving utensil for each dish.

Please remember that GLAD events are family-friendly and alcohol-free.

### Directions to Randy's

From Decatur: Either take Franklin Street South or take Highway 51 South. From either direction, when you come to the Elwin Road, turn left (going East towards Mt. Zion). When you come to Cornthwaite Rd., (this is the next road going South once you turn off of Franklin St Rd unto the Elwin Road, so be prepared), turn South or to your right. Once you are heading South on Cornthwaite, you will go about a mile. When you come to Wells Rd., you will turn back towards the East (take a left) and Randy's home is the first home on the left hand side of the road (North Side of the road). Randy's cell phone is 853-5781 or Jim's is 412-4749 if you get lost.

Coming from Mt. Zion, take the Elwin Rd going West. After you are out of Mt. Zion, the second road to the South is Cornthwaite Ro. Turn South or to your left here, go about 1 mile then turn left again (going East) on Wells Rd. and Randy's home is just after the intersection on the north side of the Road (to your left if you are heading East).

## Election of Officers

At the October Social, GLAD will elect new officers: Female co-chair, Treasurer, Historian, and two Members-at-Large. At present, the following incumbents are running for office, Rene Verry, Female Co-Chair; Charla Stone, Historian; Robert Lowery, Treasurer; and Member-at-Large, John Wylder . Micah LaGrave is also running for Member-at-Large. Further nominations will be taken at the Social. Remember, under our new by-laws, in order to either run for office or vote, GLAD members **must have paid their \$12 annual dues prior to voting**. Dues should be paid to Robert Lowery at the Social.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 10 6:00 PM  
GLAD Potluck at  
Randy Well's. See  
first page of  
newsletter for di-  
rections.

Oct. 10 5:00 PM  
Reba McEntire Im-  
personator at  
Chester Street bar  
drag show, Cham-  
paign. \$3.00  
cover.

Oct.28 6:00 PM  
GLAD Board Meeting  
DMH Cafeteria

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## GLAD To Sponsor Legacy Wall Traveling Display in Springfield

GLAD will be a sponsor of "The Legacy Wall" LGBT History exhibit which will be on display at the Illinois State Library from October 2 through 28 for LGBT History Month. The Legacy Wall is a traveling installation created by the Legacy Project - a 501(c)3 cultural/educational non-profit based in Chicago which was conceived to celebrate and promote awareness of LGBT contributions to world history and culture.

For more information, go to <http://www.legacyprojectchicago.org/Springfield.html>

## Proposed Change to By-Laws

With the growing awareness of multiple genders in our community, the GLAD Board recommends the removal of the words "male" and "female" from the title of co-chair to read just "co-chair."



THE FIRST INTERACTIVE TRAVELING LGBT HISTORY EXHIBIT

OCTOBER 1 - 28, 2015

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY ATRIUM  
GWENDOLYN BROOKS BUILDING  
300 S. 2ND ST., SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

40 linear feet of biographies and graphics featuring LGBT people like social justice pioneer Jane Addams, civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, astronaut Sally Ride, British mathematician Alan Turing, Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, Italian inventor Leonardo DaVinci, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, poet Walt Whitman, film star Greta Garbo, and playwright Tennessee Williams... nearly 150 biographical commemorations digitally linked to resource lists, multimedia, and education tools.

IT IS THE ONLY INSTALLATION OF ITS KIND

Click [HERE](#) to ask for more information and we will add your name to our ListServe to update you with the latest news about The Legacy Wall's arrival in Springfield

### SPONSORED BY

• Illinois Secretary of State • Illinois Department of Human Rights  
• Illinois Department of Tourism • Illinois Municipal Relations Association  
• Illinois Safe Schools Alliance • Springfield Office of Human Relations

## Martha [~~Lesbian~~] Living

### I Will Never....

One of my favorite TV ads starts out with this guy, sitting with his buddies and saying, "I am never going to get married." The next scene shows him humbly picking out a ring. Then he is in an airplane where a baby is crying and the guy says to his wife, "We are never going to have children." And next they are in the delivery room. This pattern goes on from there to the suburbs, a family van and finally a second child. I have my own "I will never . . ." And it goes like this—I will never go to Walmart again. Why? Because nobody ever hesitates to tell me off at Walmart. I'm not talking about the cashiers or employees; I am referring to other customers.

The worst time this happened, I was waiting at the end of the make-up aisle for Ann. I was deliberately trying to stay out of everyone's way. The area behind the checkers is pretty wide. You'd think I

## **Martha [*Lesbian*] Living**

### **I Will Never....** Cont.

could avoid trouble just standing there. All of a sudden this cart came flying up behind me and hit the edge of my cart. I was trying to be nice so I said, "Excuse me." This woman turned around and shouted at me. "You need to watch where you're going. You almost hit my daughter's head." I noticed for the first time that she had a little girl, about 6 or 7, sitting in the cart with her head leaning over the side. This woman was in a rage, she had a couple of other choice phrases, but I've blocked them out. I felt awful and apologized again. She turned around in a huff and hurried away. After she left, I remembered she'd come up behind me. I hadn't been "going" anywhere. Well that drove me nuts for a while. I wanted to find her again and point out my innocence. I might have also pointed out that if she didn't teach her daughter to sit up in the cart, the kid's head was going to get hurt. It just all happened too fast.

Then yesterday, because I'm doing some physical therapy in a pool, I went to the only place in town that still had water shoes—Walmart, the same Walmart of the crazy woman. But it couldn't happen twice, right? Wrong. Walmart parking seems far away from the store no matter where I park, and frequently there aren't any handicapped spaces, which I need because I have sciatica and arthritic knee pain. So pulling into the lane in front of Walmart, I immediately saw about 3 handicapped spaces right together, but I was going the wrong way. The spaces were slanted toward Walmart instead of away, which I needed. I didn't see anyone around—no people-no carts-no cars, so I swung my car into the aisle the wrong way and then straightened out the car. The problem was as soon as I turned the corner, the place was filled with people, carts and one blue car. I didn't see any way to turn back, so I pulled into the first space. I opened the door to get out and this angry woman ran up to me and started shouting. "You almost hit us. You came in the wrong way and you took our parking space. You aren't the only handicapped person in the world." I don't know how that space got to be hers, but otherwise she was right, so I took a cue from my millennial students who always apologize before I'm done fussing at them, and I said, "I'm sorry." She stopped for a second but she wasn't done. She shouted you are wrong, wrong, wrong. And went on with to say a couple of things I don't remember. After I got home, of course, it occurred to me that I could have offered to change spaces with her since I was in her space. But I just said, "I'm sorry," again and she eventually went away.

Here's the thing. The only person that has any business yelling at me is my wife and even that is limited. I do take criticism, even when it bothers me. I know I'm not perfect, actually far from it. Sure I made a mistake, but it wasn't just to spite the women in the blue car. Anyway, that is why I will never be going to Walmart on Dirksen again.