

September/
October
2004

OUTspoken

Serving Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle since 1997



www.outstandingamarillo.org

More on coming out:

www.comingoutstories.com

www.hrc.org/hrcop

www.outpath.com

www.comeout.org

Needs for the OUThouse

- Board games
- Six 8 foot 2X6 pieces of wood (preferably treated lumber) for the picnic table frame
- Someone to plumb the stove donated last spring
- Drinks, snacks for Friday nights

OUTstanding Amarillo:

- provides outreach and support to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people coming to terms with their sexual orientation.
- provides support and education for individuals and the community at large on sexual orientation and gender identification issues, especially as they relate to young people.
- provides access to services for the GLBT community of the Texas Panhandle.

Freedom for All Starts with One

By Bekki McQuay

OUTstanding Amarillo has had several opportunities this year to participate in some coming out adventures. We've shared stories with youth coming out to their parents and friends, parents coming out to their children, and married people coming out to themselves and their spouses. Although, coming out is an essential part of the survival of the individual, we don't come out just to catch people off guard. It is an ultimate expression of one's own power and love. We come out to people we care about so they can be involved in our lives. Often times it is not the initial reaction, but we come out to people because we want

them to be closer and more comfortable. The distance created by shocking news can be raw and devastating, but it can also provide and atmosphere to learn, reconnect and grow together. The person coming out must be willing to be patient with their loved ones, it's a coming to terms process for them as well.

Coming out sometimes seems easier than it used to be. One of the experiences I was closest to this year, was of a mother coming out to her children. The youngest child was afraid, angry and alarmed – but she stuck with the process and the storm was over within a few hours. The oldest child had been suspecting such, was glad to have heard it from her and

seemed comforted by her desire to share her life with her children. The mother says that it was the single most frightening thing she has ever done, but the relief on the other side has already been well worth it.

Coming out gives us the opportunity to educate our community about what it means to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered. It opens up a dialogue that allows us to correct myths and stereotypes associated with our lives by sharing our own life experiences. It builds understanding, acceptance, and awareness through open and honest conversation. But most of all, it helps to break the silence and let others know that they are not alone.

Tips for coming out on National Coming Out Day (and every day!)

Coming out is a process, not a single event. No matter where you live, or what stage of the process your in, you can always find ways to tell the truth about your life.

- Make a commitment to tell the truth about yourself to others.
- Join and make a financial contribution to a gay & lesbian organization.
- Come out to your family, friends, or co-workers.
- Write a letter to an elected official in support of a gay and lesbian issue, urging them to support fairness & equality for lesbians and gays.
- Include your partner or spouse in all of your holiday traditions and family events.
- Confront anyone who makes a bigoted joke or an inaccurate statement about homo/bisexuality or queer people.
- Support gay and non-gay companies that support the gay community.
- Volunteer with and support local and community organizations.

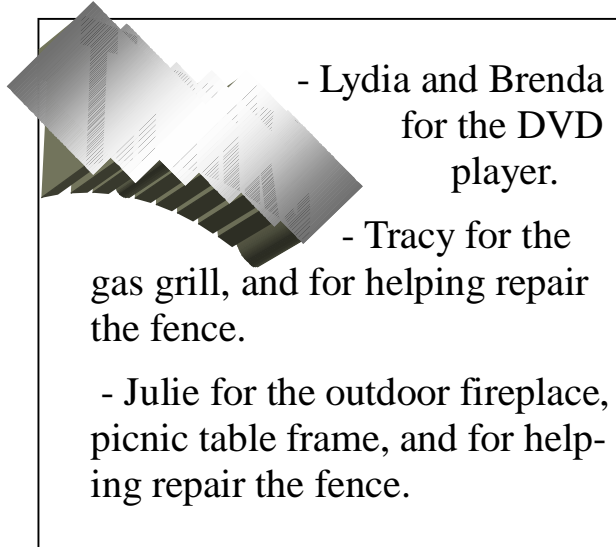
Summer Camp '04 a success!

By Whitney Kelly

Summer Camp, an annual fundraiser for Texas Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby (LGRL) was held July 31 at the pool of Whitney Kelly and Jim Kemp. In addition to margaritas, beer, and hot dogs, we all enjoyed the swimwear competition and pool games. More than 150 people raised close to \$7,000.

Summer Camp benefits LGRL and supports its mission to eliminate social, legal, and economic discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity through lobbying, education, and research directed toward the Texas Legislature and other state governmental agencies.

For more information about LGRL, visit www.lgrrl.org. And start planning your swimsuit for Summer Camp '05!



Why is it that, as a culture, we are more comfortable seeing two men holding guns than holding hands?
~ Ernest Gaines

OUTstanding Amarillo Board of Directors

Michael Timcisko
Whitney Kelly

Bekki McQuay
Terre Moore
Lance Goforth

Chip Chandler
Cyndy Walton
Troy Williams

John Hintz
Jennifer Hinkle

We have seats open on the OUTstanding Board of Directors. Those interested in serving should contact the OUTstanding office at 337-1688
As with all OUTstanding Amarillo meetings, our board meetings are always open.
Please feel welcome to attend.

OUTstanding Amarillo Annual Campaign Drive

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail and Telephone _____

City _____

State & Zip _____

I would like to pledge \$____ as a monthly donation.

My gift of \$____ is enclosed.

Draft my checking account in the amount of \$____ each month. (Voided check attached.)

Credit Card Number: _____

Bill my Visa or Mastercard \$____ each month.

Expiration date: _____

Contact me for volunteer opportunities.

Signature _____

My hobbies are:

OUTstanding Amarillo is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. Your gift and annual membership are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. **2**

September 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 No Taboo 7-10 p. m.	3 Social 7-10 p. m.	4
5	6 HIV Support Group 6:30	7	8	9 Real Li fe- Real Tal k for teens Cl ub Illumi nata 7-9	10 Soci al 7-10 p. m.	11
12	13 HIV Support Group (open to friends and fami ly) 6:30	14	15	16	17 Soci al 7-10 p. m.	18 Youth Soci al & No Taboo 7 p. m.
19	20 HIV Support Group 6:30	21 Open Board Meeting 6 p. m.	22	23	24 Soci al 7-10 p. m.	25
26	27 HIV Support Group 6:30	28	29	30		

October 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Soci al 7-10 p. m.	2
3	4 HIV Support Group 6:30	5	6	7 No Taboo 7-10 p. m.	8 Soci al 7-10 p. m.	9 Comi ng Out Day Celebrati on
10	11 HIV Support Group (open to friends and fami ly) 6:30	12	13	14Real Li fe- Real Tal k for teens Cl ub Illumi nata 7-9	15 Soci al 7-10 p. m.	16 Youth Soci al & No Taboo 7 p. m.
17	18 HIV Support Group 6:30	19 Open Board Meeting 6 p. m.	20	21	22 Soci al 7-10 p. m.	23
24	25 HIV Support Group 6:30	26	27	28	29 Soci al 7-10 p. m.	30 LGRL Hall oween Party Contact Joseph Madri d @ 359-1521

Friday Night Socials
The Out House is open from 7 to 10 p.m. each Friday for informal socials. Come by and play cards, watch a movie or make new friends. Check the Web site for more information, or just show up and see what's happening. Tell your friends you're going to the Out House!

Coming Out Day...

Rocks!

(come by and get yours!)

Celebrate National Coming Out Day
with OUTstanding Amarillo!

October 9th

5:30-8pm

At the OUT House - 211 SE. 16th



A representative from the League of Women Voters
will speak at the September Youth Social.
Mark your calendar—September 18th

Amarillo Churches Welcoming the GLBT Community

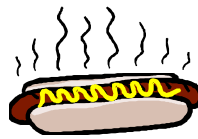
**Amarillo Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship**
4901 Cornell
Amarillo, Texas 79109

Metropolitan Community Church of Amarillo
2123 S. Polk Street
Amarillo, Texas 79109

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
1601 S. Georgia
Amarillo, Texas 79102

Souljourners
1212 W. 15th Avenue
Amarillo, Texas 79102

Enlightened Journey Fellowship
Sunset Center (facing Plains Blvd)
Amarillo, TX



TEXAS DAWG HOUSE

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Hillside & Bell Shopping Mall

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Hours: Mon & Sat 11am—3pm

Tues–Fri 11am—8pm (closed Sun)

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7 days a week

Call for appointment

353-9493

Buddy Keaton RMT

Visa & Mastercard accepted

United Way Campaign

**Don't forget that you can designate your
United Way donation to OUTstanding Ama-
rillo. Just ask your representative for a
designated donation card.**

Albertson's Gives Back

Albertsons will give up to 5% of your
purchase dollars to OUTstanding Amarillo.
If you combine our Community Partner
number with your Albertsons Preferred
Card, and use it each time you make a pur-
chase.

Preferred Cards are available at any
Albertson's location as well as at
OUTstanding events.

If you already have an Albertson's
Preferred Card you can go online to
www.albertsons.com to link your card to
our organization. All you need is
OUTstanding's name & 49000121695. Or
call 337-1688 leave a message with your
card number and we'll link it for you.

The following is a paid advertisement for:

Enlightened Journey Fellowship

Whoever you are

Wherever you are in your journey of faith,
You are welcome here!

Enlightened Journey Fellowship is a new thought, metaphysical ministry, located in Sunset Center (in the strip facing Plains Blvd). The Sunday Celebration service is at 11:00 am. We also have a Living Enrichment Circle on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm. Casual dress is appropriate for all our services.

Enlightened Journey Fellowship is a center for spiritual inspiration and fellowship. We provide a loving, supportive and safe atmosphere for authentic spiritual growth, based on Universal Love, Peace and Oneness. We are committed to teaching and practicing the spiritual principles demonstrated by Jesus and taught by all the great religions of the world.

We believe there are many paths to God and each individual must discern which path works for them. We were all created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, Truth lies within each of us. When we realize this, we see that spiritual teaching is not about conveying facts from teacher to student. We are all students. We are all masters practicing. It is our goal to present teachings that awaken an interest in Truth and guide the student to their own inner teacher. We can only give guidelines for making God real in our lives. In the fourteenth chapter of John Jesus is quoted:

“I will send the Comforter to you ... the living Spirit of Truth, who will dwell in you and bring all things to your remembrance.”

Most of our lessons are presented through video on a large screen. The videos are usually from Living Enrichment Center in Portland, Oregon, and Renaissance Unity in Detroit, Michigan. Occasionally we have guest speakers. As a spiritual family, we are there for one another in time of need. We are there with our hearts open to God’s love and guidance, to pray with you for for you.

Because we don’t have any paid employees we rely on “Love in Action” to fulfill our needs. Everyone is given the opportunity to share their gifts and talents in love and service. Albert Schweitzer once said, “I may never meet you or know what you do for a living, but I know this ... unless you choose a life of love and service, you will never be happy.” At Enlightened Journey Fellowship we give of ourselves to create a family in love and joy.

You do not have to be a member to be part of our family. Neither do we ask that you give up your church membership elsewhere. If you come to Enlightened Journey Fellowship on a regular basis, you are family and your voice is always heard, whether you are a member or not. You are also invited to serve in love.

On Sunday, October 3rd, Tammy Breitbarth will be the Celebration Service guest speaker. She is giving a talk on Gay Mysticism. For a schedule of services or information on weddings, vow renewal and couples commitment services, other activities or prayer support please call (806) 282-0709.



**Visit the Community Center!
211 SE 16th Ave.
Amarillo, Texas 79101
(806) 337-1688 (337-1OUT)**



**Join us in celebrating
National Coming Out
Day on October 9th at
5:30pm!**

www.outstandingamarillo.org

P.O. Box 33561
Amarillo, TX 79120

