

# The Existentialist

Newsletter of the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta  
470 Candler Park Drive, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307 • Founded in 1976 •  
A Philosophically Based Spiritual Community  
Dedicated to Human Liberation  
and Founded on Existentialist and Feminist Principles •

Come to the unbelievably  
**Gigantic Book & Bake Sale**  
Saturday, August 10, 9 am – 2 pm



*More on page 3*

**First Existentialist  
Congregation of  
Atlanta**

470 Candler Park Drive,  
NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30307  
404-378-5570  
www.firstexistentialist.org

All Are Welcome  
Join us in our  
Celebrations of Life on  
Sundays at 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Program  
during Sunday services

Fellowship Minister:  
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revm@bellsouth.net  
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Libby Ware, Chair  
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*We are a philosophically based  
spiritual community  
dedicated to  
human liberation  
and founded on existentialist  
and feminist principles.*



## **Notes From the Board**

*By Libby Ware, Board Chair*

**The Board met on July 1, 2013.** After a lot of meetings, hearings, and applications, we obtained the Special Use Permit (SUP) that will enable Cheri to have an afterschool program in the basement. We now have an accessible bathroom in the basement, necessary in obtaining the permit. The next step will be Cheri's application with Bright from the Start. Once she has her application approved, she will be all set to restart the after-school program. Much thanks to Randy Pimsler and Ted Pettis for their hard work in getting approval of the SUP.

We are working on promotional materials. Ashlea provided a document she prepared in 2006. We discussed having two types of brochures: one for renters and people attending events who want more information about our congregation, and one for visitors interested in becoming members. Charlene and Marsha will update the information. Andy has developed and printed some clever notecards on neon paper with info. He has also created signs for the Book and Bake Sale.

Don Aiken has volunteered to look into the cost and type of accessibility lift we will be installing. Elaine will ask Randy for his notes from when he looked into lifts a few years ago. Bill Laney will be the liaison on this project. We have raised a lot of money for the lift in an incredibly short time frame, but we need to determine how much more we will need for the complete cost.

We discussed getting feedback from visitors regarding what they liked or didn't like about our congregation. Libby and Stell will create a visitor survey on Survey Monkey so people can anonymously fill out the survey that can be sent to people who sign the visitor's book.

Now that we have temporary lighting, we will once again have art on our walls. Glen Lopez will be hanging some of his flower photographs.

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, August 5, at 7:00 p.m. ~

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### ***Yikes!! School Already?! Supplies Needed***

Since I went to school back in the dark ages when we got out for summer the first of June and didn't return until after Labor Day, I let the current return to classes slip up on me. Yes, there was a time when we really did have summer vacation that lasted 3 months and teachers joked (I think they were joking) that the 3 best things about being a teacher were June, July and August. Anyway, kids are gathering supplies, and each year we collect items to help.

***Donate School Supplies During The Month Of August.*** Even though school starts in a few weeks, supplies are distributed as the school year gets into full swing. Bring your items to First E on Sundays or call Rick if you need another dropoff time. Items for all grade levels are needed. Thanks in advance. *Marsha ~*

## **Annual Book & Bake Sale!**

**The Great Existentialist Annual Book & Bake Sale** will happen on Saturday, August 10, from 9:00 to 2:00. Please start collecting books, CD's, DVD's, puzzles, games, VHS, or cassettes and bring them to First E on Friday, August 9, after 1:00 p.m.. You can also drop off books and other items the week before. Also for sale will be fine baked goods and delicious sweets. We will need volunteers on Friday, August 9, to help set up, and on Saturday to sell books and baked goods and make coffee. We will especially need volunteers after 2:00 on Saturday to put the tables of books against the wall to get the Sanctuary ready for Sunday COL, and again on Sunday after the COL to box up any leftover books and get them ready to be picked up for donation (great bargains will be available on Sunday afternoon). To volunteer, contact Marsha Mitchiner. ~

### ***Guild Reports***

#### ***Program Guild***

*by Charlene Ball*

**In August**, Duncan Teague returns (August 4), along with Rev. Marsha Mitchiner (August 11) and Rev. Janna Nelson (August 18). In addition to our regular speakers, we will hear Dr. Toni Rossi speak on August 25. Musicians this month will be Alan Dynin, Richard Rifkin, Scott Hooker, and Charli Vogt. Facilitators will be D. Patton White, Lorraine Fontana, Karla Crawford, and Ted Pettus. If you would like to be a facilitator, see a member of the Program Guild.

The Program Guild consists of D. Patton White (chair), Charlene Ball, Linda Bell, and Bill Laney. If you would like to suggest a speaker or musician, contact us: Patton: [patton@beacondance.org](mailto:patton@beacondance.org); Charlene: [mcharleneball@yahoo.com](mailto:mcharleneball@yahoo.com); Linda: [lbell@gsu.edu](mailto:lbell@gsu.edu); and Bill: [bill339la@yahoo.com](mailto:bill339la@yahoo.com). We welcome your suggestions and input. ~

#### ***Membership Guild***

*by Wilj Sturkey and Charlene Ball*

The Membership Guild held a kiddush (light refreshments and beverages) on Sunday, July 28, coinciding with Glen Lopez's art opening. Tables were set up, and members, friends, and newcomers visited with one another.

We now have several Sunday openers! Thanks to Elaine Gale, who opens on the first Sunday of the month; Wilj Sturkey, who opens on the second Sunday; Andy Weiskoff, opening on the third Sunday; Stell Simonton, opening on the fourth Sunday; and Marsha Mitchiner, who opens on fifth Sundays when they occur. Openers arrive early and turn on the lights and air conditioning, straighten up if needed, make coffee and set out cups, etc. The opener for the day keeps the downstairs key during the service. ~

#### ***Communications Guild***

*By Andy Weiskoff*

The Communications Guild has printed multi-colored marketing cards and Book/Bake sale flyers for congregation to distribute starting Sunday, July 28 to local businesses and bulletin boards. We bought a stand for the info box in the front yard and will install it at the first opportunity. We will propose a new banner for the outside rotation at the next Board meeting. We continue to work towards having a First E info sheet with information on front and back, as well as a rental trifold available for Sunday services. ~

## *June 2013 Finance Report*

<b>2013 Cash Flow</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>All Other</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>28,533</b>	<b>29,373</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(31,662)</b>	<b>(16,432)</b>
<b>Net thru June 30</b>	<b>(3,129)</b>	<b>12,947</b>

<b>Fund Types &amp; Names</b>	<b>Account Balances on June 30</b>	
	< unaudited >	
<b>General Operating Account</b>		<b>(349)</b>
<b>Designated Operating Funds</b>		<b>21,327</b>

New "Use As Needed" Fund	3,500
Gay Dellinger Estate Gift	297
Sanctuary Accessibility	9,314
Lanier Clance Lighting	1,244
Leadership Development	255
Community Garden	(143)
Building & Grounds	1,708
Woodland Sanctuary	1,569
Minister's Discretionary	682
Original 1st E History	68
Labyrinth & Garden	256
Social Justice	1,055
Attic Insulation Fund	1,250
Children's Program	122
Music Fund	150

<b>Pat Hewatt Revolving Loan Fund (\$8K)</b>	<b>5,064</b>
<b>Special Use Permit Loan Fund (\$4.5K)</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Total First E Funds</b>	<b>26,086</b>
<b>Old Stone Church History Project</b>	<b>2,752</b>

**Please consider a special donation  
to the Accessibility Fund  
(formerly Ramp/Lift Fund).  
We have almost reached our fundraising goal!  
Many thank-you's to all the generous givers--the  
Chalice Lighters, CPNO, and First E Members--  
and Friends  
for your support.**

**Third Friday Film Series  
presents  
The House I Live In  
Friday, August 16, 2013  
Doors open 7:00 pm – film starts at 7:30 pm  
Popcorn and refreshments available  
Donations welcome - \$1 to \$10 sliding scale  
No one turned away  
Co-sponsored by  
The Georgia Justice Project  
and First E's Social Justice Guild  
Discussion after the film led by  
Ms. Willie Bolden of The Georgia Justice Project**

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**Wednesday Night Ukeleles!  
each Week  
6:30 to 8:00/8:30 pm  
in the Sanctuary  
Bring your ukelele**

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### **Geek Chorus on First Wednesdays** *By Donna Palmer*

**Howdy Merry Music Makers! Our next get together is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7th.** Due to the fluid nature of the event facility rental market, Thursdays will not always be available at the First E. So, Kitty to the rescue! The regular Wednesday night ukelele crew has graciously agreed to let us join them on the first Wednesday of each month. So, if your mind is like mine and tends to wander, I recommend you go ahead and set up your calendar:

Wednesday, August 7  
 Wednesday, September 4  
 Wednesday, October 2  
 Wednesday, November 6  
 Wednesday, December 4

Remember to bring enough of your favorite beverage to share, a love offering to the First E for allowing us to use the space and any musical instruments you want to pluck, bang or strum.

If you haven't had time to join us yet, I encourage you to find a way. Every time I leave the building on Geek Chorus night, I feel alive, so alive, and full of renewed energy. Please come and you'll see what I mean. Donna ~

# Social Justice Corner

## Recent U.S. Supreme Court Decisions on Same Sex Marriage

By Lorraine Fontana

Basically, the California Prop 8 case (Hollinsworth v Perry) didn't create any new federal same-sex marriage law. The Supreme Court decided to hold that the Prop 8 proponents had no legal right to appeal the trial court decision that invalidated Prop 8. That means the trial court's decision was allowed to stand, and Prop 8 is unconstitutional. Therefore same-sex couples can once again get married in California.

The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) case (U.S. v Windsor) was a challenge to Section 3 of DOMA, which defined "marriage" and "spouse" as limited to one man and one woman. That definition controlled over 1,000 federal laws in which marital or spousal status is addressed. That section of the law was struck down as unconstitutional.

This is very significant, as it was the only remaining federal statute that directly discriminated against gay people. Don't Ask, Don't Tell has already been repealed, meaning that the last vestige of de jure discrimination has been removed from the U.S. Code. Where we are now is similar to the place where African Americans were after the last federal Jim Crow laws were struck down as unconstitutional. That obviously didn't end discrimination against Black folks, and this doesn't end discrimination against LGBT folks.

***... this doesn't end discrimination against LGBT folks.***

The opinion states: "The federal statute is invalid, for no legitimate purpose overcomes the purpose and effect to disparage and injure those whom the State, by its marriage laws, sought to protect in personhood and dignity. By seeking to displace this protection and treating those persons as living in marriages less respected than oth-

ers, the federal statute is in violation of the Fifth Amendment" (the part that says "No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law".)

For me, this really is a state's rights decision. It says the federal government should not have the right to override a state's decision to grant its gay citizens marriage equality, that the federal government must continue to do as it always has in relation to marriage—accept a state's right to define and determine its marriage laws. The legal actions of 13 states that now grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples must be respected by the federal government, but the refusal of 37 other states to grant such marriage rights must also be respected. Section 2 of DOMA still stands. It allows states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed under the laws of other states.

In addition, the decision did not state that LGBT people were a class protected (as classes based on race, religion, sex, age and national origin are) under the 14th Amendment's due process and equal protection clauses, and did not establish what level of scrutiny should be applied to a law which takes away such protections from LGBT people.

The remaining obstacle to all same-sex, legally married couples being treated the same as opposite-sex couples, is what happens if two women get married in an equality state (e.g. California, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, Delaware, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, Maryland, Washington) but reside in a non-equality state like Georgia. There are some federal benefit programs (e.g. Social Security) that are administered under the laws of each state. If those state laws are used to determine eligibility, same-sex couples will be excluded since the way they determine if your marriage is legal is based on the state where you live, not where you were married. It appears that this may be corrected by Executive level action, which Obama is in the process of promulgating under his announcement that he wants all federal agencies to make the case's decision effective asap, if there is no specific federal law/statute that encodes such a law. If there is, an amendment may need to be passed.

This was a 5-4 decision written by Justice Kennedy and joined by Ginsburg, Breyer, Sotomayor and Kagan. As one

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# **Supreme Court Decisions on Same-Sex Marriage**

## **Continued from Page 5**

might have predicted, Roberts, Scalia, Thomas, and Alito dissented. Scalia's dissent is amazingly stinging – he's a brilliant writer who uses his skill to belittle and excoriate his opponents. Here are a few tidbits:

“The sum of all the Court's nonspecific hand-waving is that this law is invalid (maybe on equal-protection grounds, maybe on substantive-due process grounds, and perhaps with some amorphous federalism component playing a role) because it is motivated by a ‘bare . . . desire to harm’ couples in same-sex marriages...the Constitution neither requires nor forbids our society to approve of same-sex marriage, much as it neither requires nor forbids us to approve of no-fault divorce, polygamy, or the consumption of alcohol.”

Scalia hates being called a bigot, and that Congress was said to have acted with animus in passing DOMA and characterizes the majority opinion as “a lecture on how superior the majority's moral judgment in favor of same-sex marriage is to the Congress's hateful moral judgment against it...the real rationale of today's opinion, whatever disappearing trail of its legalistic argle-bargle one chooses to follow, is that DOMA is motivated by “ ‘bare . . . desire to harm’ ” couples in same-sex marriages...By formally declaring anyone opposed to same-sex marriage an enemy of human decency, the majority arms well every challenger to a state law restricting marriage to its traditional definition.” (Let's hope he's right on this one!)

“In the majority's telling, this story is black-and-white: Hate your neighbor or come along with us. The truth is more complicated. It is hard to admit that one's political opponents are not monsters, especially in a struggle like this one, and the challenge in the end proves more than today's Court can handle. Too bad. A reminder that disagreement over something so fundamental as marriage can still be politically legitimate would have been a fit task for what in earlier times was called the judicial temperament. We might have covered ourselves with honor today, by promising all sides of this debate that it was theirs to settle and that we would respect their resolution. We might have let the People decide.” Like debating if civil rights for Black folk was really God's will? Like allowing the people of Mississippi and Alabama and Georgia to decide if “separate but equal” were morally right and justifiable? Been there, done that.

I'm hoping that Scalia is right when he writes “as far as this Court is concerned, no one should be fooled; it is just a matter of listening and waiting for the other shoe.” In other words, this is just the first step in an inevitable SCOTUS case asking for section 2 to be overturned and people with minority sexual orientations to be considered a class due equal protection and heightened scrutiny under our 14th Amendment. ~

Below are websites where you can go to read about the decisions in more detail.

**Georgia Voice** piece at <http://www.thegavoice.com/news/georgia-news/6429-historic-rulings-show-work-remains-for-marriage-equality-here>

Lambda Legal explains how federal benefits are affected: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/publications/after-doma>

Windsor decision re section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA): <http://www.popehat.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Windsor.pdf>

Perry (Prop 8) decision: [http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/12pdf/12-144\\_8ok0.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/12pdf/12-144_8ok0.pdf)

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**Please 'like' us on Facebook!**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/43340332955/>**

# *Community News & Activities*

- Book discussion group meets August 18** downstairs after the COL. We will discuss Chapter 6 of *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. Please bring snacks to share.
- The First E Annual Book & Bake Sale will take place Saturday, August 10, at First E from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** We will set up on Friday, August 9, at 1:00 p.m. til it's done. Donate books, CDs, DVDs, (even VHS, tapes, and LPs!). Then come buy more! Also for sale: fine baked goods and delicious sweets. To volunteer, contact Marsha Mitchiner.
- Art Opening, the Extraordinary Photographs of Glen Lopez, on Sunday July 28. Please stay and Enjoy.** Glen's marvelous nature photographs will be on the Sanctuary walls for at least a month.
- Wednesday evening Ukuleles Galore**, practice & community, at First E around 6:30 or 7 start time, including instruction.
- Submissions and news for the September Newsletter** are due to Charlene by August 18. Board and Guild reports and member news items, opinion pieces, poems, meditations. The newsletter welcomes your submissions.
- Mark White's sister lost an eye many years ago.** Recently she required cataract surgery on her remaining eye, a very scary situation. Happily it turned out very well and her vision is good.
- Our senior child-care specialist, Stephanie Murphy**, is looking for house-sitting, pet sitting or care, child-care in her home, or other possibilities.
- Martha Renfroe-Garner, a member of 1st E for many years** and of the Phoenix Congregation (our precursor in the building) before that, has dealt with a variety of health challenges over the last few years, including multiple knee surgeries, dialysis and being on the waiting list for kidney transplant. She was just released from Emory Orthopedic after the most recent knee surgery, and requires 1 more knee surgery before she can move to the top of the waiting list to receive a donated kidney. Please keep her and her partner Sharon in your loving thoughts and meditations.
- Lorraine requested energy** for herself and others who are in an organized discussion group that meets at the Little 5 Points Community Center for improved race relations, especially in the aftermath of the Trayvon/ Zimmerman trial. If anyone is interested, the next meeting will be August 18 from 5-8:00.
- Victoria has a 45-year-old friend who has been on dialysis** for 13 years and needs a living donor.
- Braden's brother-in-law Ray Braun** is having retina surgery. Healing thoughts are welcomed.
- Victoria has decided to target October 1** to open her market offering sandwiches, prepared foods from local farmers and growers, and locally produced arts and crafts.
- Happy Birthday to Shelly Ahmann and to Aurora** (who turned 5!).
- The Candler Park Geek Chorus** meets once a month at First E on Wednesdays at 6:30.
- Obsessively Clean Domicile:** expert house cleaning at reasonable prices. Call 404-287-4372.
- The Atlanta Women's Chorus** invites you to join its 2013/2014 Inaugural Season. Auditions will be held July 25, August 4 and August 8 at St. Mark United Methodist.
- The Mountain Retreat and Conference Center** invites you to come stay this summer, enjoy programs and walking in the mountains, good food and a supportive, loving atmosphere.
- Contact Robert Stewart** with your news and activities: [rstewart@toyodausa.com](mailto:rstewart@toyodausa.com) . ~

## ***Duncan Teague on "Standing Your Ground"***

**Duncan Teague will speak on August 4 at First E.** About his topic, "Standing Your Ground," he says, "We are here now surrounded by many neighbors, friends, and even adversaries in need of conversations our country, our systems, and our culture have avoided at the cost of lives and much energy. Some of us have been waiting a long time for this opportunity. Let us take the risk and begin."

Teague is a Ministerial Candidate with the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Association, where he also serves on the Appointments Committee of the UUA Board. He is a member of the UU Congregation of Atlanta. He completed his Ministerial Internship with the Tennessee Valley UU Church of Knoxville, Tennessee, and he has been a pulpit guest at many Unitarian Universalist congregations as well as at other churches and synagogues. This past year he was the guest alumni preacher of the annual UU student worship service of Cannon Chapel at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. He served with Rev. Marsha Mitchiner and Rev. Janna Nelson as part of the Interim Ministry Team at the First Existentialist Congregation as a lay minister upon the retirement of Rev. Lanier Clance.

Teague has more than twenty years of work in HIV/AIDS advocacy, prevention, education and research. He is a contributor to *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South* by E. Patrick Johnson and appeared in the reader's theatre production and the staged adaptations of the book. He was the senior member of the ADODI Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble. He is happily married to his long-time companion of nineteen years, David Thurman. ~

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## ***"Lost-n-Found Youth, Inc." -- Rick Westbrook and the Sisters Create LGBTQI Youth Homeless Shelter***

**Lost-n-Found Youth, Inc., (LnF) is an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization** whose mission is to get homeless youths who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer off the streets and help them transition into more permanent housing. LnF was founded by activists Rick Westbrook of the Atlanta Chapter of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Art Izzard of the Queer Justice League, and Paul Swicord of Manifest4u.

LnF opened in November 2011 and has served over 150 youths between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five. The shelter can currently house up to six young people.

Rick Westbrook, Executive Director of LnF—and the office administrator at the First Existentialist Congregation, estimates at least three hundred to four hundred LGBTQI youths are homeless in Atlanta. "It is a big problem in the Southeast because we are in the Bible Belt. [K]ids today are coming out at an earlier age, and here in the Bible Belt that does not always work. Some parents put kids out like they are disposal trash. I know of a case where parents found out from a text message that their child was gay and they put the child out on the expressway, not even near an exit. Jesus keep me protected from some of your followers," Westbrook said.

One fourth of LGBTQI young people who come out to their families are kicked out of their homes. Some who leave home are fleeing homophobic families or conservative communities with religious and cultural beliefs that demonize homosexuals; others flee from drugs, abuse, and/or poverty. Many homeless youth are squatting in abandoned warehouses, apartments, homes, and buildings, and some camp out in the woods or sleep in cars. They are at risk for physical attacks and sexual victimization.

LnF is the only youth shelter that is actively taking Atlanta's LGBTQI homeless youth off the streets. Westbrook and others LnF members go out into the streets to find homeless youth and take them off the streets. "They are often hard to find because queer kids try to look good to blend in," says Westbrook. "Lots of our work comes through our 24/7 hotline. When we learn where a kid is and what their needs are, we put them on our waiting list. We monitor them until we can get them in a house or another program. We take them food, water, whatever they need so they can survive until we can get them placed. We work with Covenant House, Jefferson Place for males, and Gateway downtown."

Other services provided by LnF are tests for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, mental health evaluations, medical care, clothes, food, help obtaining lost or stolen birth certificates or drivers' licenses, and GED training and testing. LnF operates a 24/7 hotline: the phone number is 678-856-7825 or 678-8-LOST-25.

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# **August 2013 Sunday Celebrations of Life**

- August 4**      ***Standing Your Ground***  
***Speaker: Duncan Teague***  
***Facilitator: D. Patton White***  
***Accompanist: Alan Dynin***
- August 11**      ***Finding Inspiration***  
***Speaker: Rev. Marsha Mitchiner***  
***Facilitator: Lorraine Fontana***  
***Accompanist: Richard Rifkin***
- August 18**      ***Reflections on Back to School; Punished by Rewards***  
***Speaker: Rev. Janna Nelson***  
***Facilitator: Karla Crawford***  
***Accompanist: Scott Hooker***
- August 25**      ***TBA***  
***Speaker: Dr. Toni Rossi***  
***Facilitator: Ted Pettus***  
***Accompanist: Charli Vogt***
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## **Lost-n-Found Youth** *Continued from page 8*

“A lot of the LnF kids have been able to get their own apartment, host homes for other homeless kids, or go to college,” according to Allen Peebles, Director of Residential Services at LnF and a social worker.

80 percent of LnF funding comes from individuals via donations and fundraising events. Ten percent comes from businesses and another ten percent from private grants. Lost-n-Found Youth hopes to raise one million dollars by October 2014.

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence is a national network of primarily men who dress in drag as very fabulous nuns, with black and white face paint and excessive amounts of glitter. The Atlanta Sisters bring hope, joy, glitter, love, and money to LnF; the Sisters began a project called “Saint Lost and Found,” which became LnF. ~

(This article is adapted from Gloria Tatum, “Activists, ‘Sisters’ Behind New LGBTQI Youth Homeless Shelter,” *Atlanta Progressive News*: July 11, 2013.)

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# The Back Page

## Members and Friends Speak Out



### *I Watched It Grow Into a Tree*

By Braden Baker

*That tiny seed of a Washington, spat out, tossed aside, forgotten, disregarded,  
appearing lifeless,  
Seemingly out of existence, a story untold;  
Until a wandering fawn whiffs a verdant sprout about to unfold, revealing a  
treasure priceless.*

*I listened to the homeless harper,  
The zoo-character of a zydeco player,  
Soft-faced angel of a lonely violin poet,  
Beside a tin cup with change, ones, mingled with rusty rainwater.*

*All passed by-  
All appleseeds.*

*Seldom noticed of their deeds.  
Life passes by, people lose friends, youthfulness,  
In their frantic hurried style,  
And most seem to forget all the while.*

*Yet the most indelible moments are children that remember,  
Whisper that they want to be near the grown apple tree,  
And that's what sets us all free.*

~

*The First E Newsletter is published monthly. Deadline for September 2013 newsletter is August 18. Send your articles and announcements to [mcharleneball@yahoo.com](mailto:mcharleneball@yahoo.com). The editor reserves the right to edit or refuse any material submitted.*