



gala **news** THE LETTER

Summer – Fall 2005 – Volume 16 Issue 2

Dear GALA Members and Friends,

As Interim President of GALA, I would like to wish all of you warm (Missouri=Hot) greetings on behalf of myself and the Board.

We have had a very busy spring and summer working on your behalf. The Board has met each month through the convenience of the telephone. These meetings have been invaluable as we look toward the vision and mission of GALA in the years ahead. We will discuss these ideas at our upcoming retreat. These are exciting times, and we hope and pray that you will make the journey with us.



We are saddened by the death of two long-time GALA supporters. On the death of Vern Dixon of Farwell Michigan, we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Melba Jean Dixon and her family. And our prayers of support go to the family of David Gillfilan, one of the earliest GALA leaders from Canada. David passed away in Western Canada in April.

Members of the Community of Christ spent an exciting few days together at World Conference in early June. Many of us had grieved last December when Grant McMurray resigned as President of the Church. We had found in him a wonderful ally who not only spoke with us, but who had the courage to be present with us in retreat. We will greatly miss his wonderful pastoral leadership and ministry. We wish him and his family a joyful and successful life ahead.

Those of us who attended Conference were excited by the direction, spirit and fellowship of the four days. The GALA Board and I are eager to meet with our new President, Brother Stephen Veazey, and hope to develop a supportive rapport with him.

President Veazey shared his vision for the Church in the sermon he delivered following his ordination. His sense of history, community and inclusiveness came through clear and strong.

As with any organization with changing needs, GALA has its strengths and challenges. The one area of concern is the lack of people stepping up to assume the leadership roles. We are still in need of a president to fill out the remaining one-year term of Curt Filer, who had to resign because of his commitment to his new business. We also need someone to fill the President Elect position. If you feel inspired to fill either of these roles, please let me know as soon as possible

Our retreat in Paris, Ontario, Canada (just east of Toronto) is shaping up to be a remarkable experience of fellowship, worship and learning. We have the place, the leadership, and the plans. Now all we need are for the registrations to come rolling in. I look forward to seeing you and sharing with you in this wonderful experience.

Sincerely, Arthur Butler

Highlights Inside:

Treasurer's Report	2
Board Candidates' Bios	2
Field Coordinator's Report	3
Note from Shower of Stoles.....	4
GALA Event in Lawrence, KS	4
Dunlap/Cerer Commitment Service.....	4
“Straight Talk for Queer Folk”	5
Retreat Information & Registration	7

Treasurer's Report, 10/1/04 - 7/31/05

It has been requested that a financial report should be included in each newsletter. We feel it is important for members to see where our funding is coming from and how it is being spent. We also feel it is important to show how our actual income and expenses compare to the budget that was approved at last year's retreat. The total contributions received include \$5,900 from mission centers and one congregation. A copy of the detailed budget and income and expense report is available upon request.

Fran Zimmerman, Treasurer

Budget FY '05 Actual Expenses

Cash on Hand 9/30/04.....		\$15,155.00
Income		
Memberships	4,000.00.....	1,595.00
Contributions	63,800.00.....	21,628.00
Grants & Foundations.....		200.00
Merchandise Sales	100.00	
Fundraisers		1,117.00
Interest	30.00.....	9.00
Total Income.....	\$67,930.00.....	\$24,549.00
Expenses		
Administrative	6,115.00.....	1,960.00
Field Organizer	33,925.00.....	26,139.00
Retreat	5,500.00.....	1,587.00
Newsletters	3,850.00.....	1,309.00
Welcoming Community Network .	10,000.00.....	761.00
All Other Expenses.....	8,540.00.....	206.00
Total Expenses.....	\$67,930.00.....	31,962.00
Expenses in Excess of Income		\$ 7,413.00
Cash on Hand 7/31/05.....		\$ 7,745.00

Board of Directors

Arthur Butler, Interim President

9500 E. 30th St. South, Independence, MO 64052
cbnuneaton@yahoo.com, (H) 816-254-7786

Pam Mayfield, Secretary, pmayfield@kc.rr.com

4515 Westridge Rd., Kansas City, MO 64133
(H) 816-353-5156

Fran Zimmerman, Treasurer, fzimmerman@kc.rr.com,

707 NE Pilgrim Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64086
816-524-1695, (Cell) 816-506-9995

John Billings, Chaplain, jbchamp@aol.com

9 Cardigan Dr., Ferguson, MO 63135-1267
(H) 314-521-3992, (Cell) 314-341-4883

Gary Kelsey, gkelsey@comcast.net

448 Minnesota St. S., Bayport, MN 55003
(H) 651-275-0203, (Cell) 651-275-0206

Sam Marmoy, (H) 816-795-6276

2901 S Hickory Ridge Dr., Indep., MO 64057

Leah Sheppard, lsheppard@vanderbilt.edu

2005 Capers Ave. Apt. 13, Nashville, TN 37212-3118
(H) 615-321-6087

Meredith Bischoff, Western Facilitator & Webmaster

16899 Rosemary Lane, Chino Hills, CA 91709
merigrll@merrigrll.com
(H) 714-579-1573, (Cell) 714-501-2959

Candidates for Board of Directors

Sam F. Marmoy

I was born and grew up in the greater Kansas City, MO area. I attended Graceland College where I met Pat Rieske, whom I married in 1958. We have two children, Sam A. Marmoy and Kim Lubbers. After two years at Graceland I received my BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Kansas. My professional career was as a project engineer and manager for an oil company. In 1988 I took early retirement so I could work for the Church as director of the Temple construction team overseeing the design and construction of the Independence Temple. I am now retired and enjoy being a "snow bird" and play grandpa to our twin grandchildren in Arizona.

My interest in GALA began with a desire to assist the Community of Christ in its struggle to fully include homosexual persons. I have a deep conviction in the accepting love of God as exemplified in Jesus Christ, and believe that it applies to **ALL** persons. I have tried to prepare myself for this role by taking the three conflict resolution courses offered by the Church. I then became active in promoting and facilitating the two Temple School classes on sexuality. Last winter Pat and I took the Reconciling in Christ Core Team Leadership Training offered by Lutherans Concerned of North America. I believe change will happen at the grass roots level one congregation at a time.

David Woosley

I have been Transportation/Traffic Engineer for the City of Lawrence, Kansas, for 12 years. I joined the Community of Christ in 1974, and am now part of the leadership team of the Lawrence Congregation. While studying Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, last year, I realized that God had work for me to do. The chapter on "Sharing Your Life Message" says God "will give you a passion for something he cares about deeply so you can be a spokesman for him in the world... You will feel compelled to speak up about it and do whatever you can to make a difference." I realized immediately that I am called to do what I can to help GLBT individuals become accepted by all, the way God accepts them.

Last fall I filled in for a friend at a meeting that brought together members of the Community of Christ with Lutherans Concerned/North America in the Kansas City area. I realized at that meeting that I needed to attend the Lutherans' Reconciling in Christ Core Team Leadership Training in Houston, Texas, in January 2005, and I did. It was a wonderful experience and helped me understand how much work there is to do, and that I must be a part of it.

When I was asked to consider running for a position on the GALA Board, my response was that I would be glad to do whatever I can to help GALA make a difference. That is what I am called to do; it is the type of work God has for me, and I am committed to do what I can, with God's help.

My e-mail address: www.lawrencepublicworks.org/traffic.shtml
I can be reached at 785-832-3034.

GALA Field Coordinator: Sharon P. Troyer

519 NW Timberbrooke Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081
sptroyer@kc.rr.com,
816-554-1835, (Cell) 816-519-0649

GALA Newsletter Editor: Carol Cavin

214 E. Hansen Ct., Indep., MO 64055
816-252-5251, carol.cavin@sbcglobal.net

Are you With Us?

By Sharon P. Troyer, GALA Field Coordinator

On November 1st I will have served as your GALA Field Coordinator for two full years. Among the richest blessings has been the opportunity to hear the stories of your lives and to work beside some of the most gifted and creative people I have ever known. One year ago we celebrated GALA's twentieth anniversary at a joyful gathering which took place at Camp Doniphan. Chris Glaser, our guest minister last year, recently told me that he still frequently talks about his outstanding experience with us. Like others who have been in our retreats, he left our midst with a greater understanding of the meaning of "sacred community." GALA has much to teach about how the unconditional love of God becomes manifest in the actions of community. It is in this special family that many of us have found reconciliation with God in ways not bound by formerly limiting beliefs. This has enabled many to find peace between their sexuality and their deepening spirituality, and has therefore helped them discover the courage needed to step out boldly in society at large, as men and women who know how to love God, self and others.

How does this happen? Remember, GALA was initially born out of the need for gay and lesbian people to find a supportive community of persons who understood that we could both love God deeply and at the same time find wholeness in intimate relationships with same gendered persons. Because of dualistic perceptions that trapped much religious thinking, causing many to believe that white was superior to black, and male superior to female, so most religions have seen heterosexual as superior to any other sexual orientation or gender identity. This belief fails to recognize God's creative genius in broader creation that we don't yet fully comprehend. As the world begins to better understand bisexuality and the needs of transgendered persons, we will need to once again challenge our dualistic assumptions about life. Life is full of mystery, and that is where we most often find God!

GALA came into being when the language about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons was rarely written and almost never spoken. Men and women were victims of spiritual violence that told them there was something wrong with them, that God's love and grace was not sufficient for them. Thank God that is changing! Every major faith tradition now faces the need to re-examine their thinking. How they will do it remains to be seen. In Community of Christ, the family of faith that has brought most of us together, we have dedicated a temple in the shape of a spiral to symbolize that our understanding of the Divine is ever expanding, and that there is a tremendous need for reconciliation and healing of the spirit. To become

a people that build bridges of peace, the love of God must be proclaimed as available for all!



The bad news is that many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons and their loved ones get stuck in the pain and suffering of exclusion. Because most religions have not welcomed them, 85% of LGBT persons leave the churches of their backgrounds. This is largely true in the Community of Christ also, as we are no different than the national statistics here—except for one thing. With our heritage and sense of deep relationship to a church that calls us to build communities which promote the reign of God, the loss and grief is immense when people come to believe there is no place for them at the table of full participation.

Some who leave seek out new church homes, and though the loss of their presence with Community of Christ is felt deeply, many of us fully understand and affirm their journey to find community in places where they can once again feel they "belong." This happened when women couldn't yet be ordained, and it is happening now as many of us long to serve within our churches and are denied full inclusion. One problem, however, is that many LGBT persons do not move beyond recognizing victimhood, and they remain bitter and angry at the church and society, and many times their spiritual lives suffer accordingly. Like all forms of abuse, there is a time for naming the problem, for breaking silence and telling our stories. To use the words that title a book by Joan Chittister, only when we recognize that God has not abandoned us in our struggle, can we say that we are "*Scarred by Struggle and Transformed by Hope*"! This can lead to knowing we deserve abundant life, the message that lies at the heart of the Gospel of Jesus.

The good news is that Spirit is at work all around us. There are over 1500 congregations of various denominations across the U.S.A. and Canada that have officially become part of what is called the Welcoming Church Movement. In some ways it is similar to the Civil Rights Movement, except that the focus is on helping churches re-examine thinking that has led to closed hearts, minds and doors.

In the ministry of the Welcoming Community Network (WCN), which GALA offers to Community of Christ congregations, there is an invitation to *become churches that open hearts, minds and doors to all!* In the same spirit in which Jesus mingled and ate with the "untouchables," we are called to challenge the myths of who is clean and who is unclean. We must learn to stand on the promises of God and say, (*continued on pg. 6*)

FROM THE SHOWER OF STOLES PROJECT

Dear Friends,

I was so deeply honored to join you as witnesses to the ordination of Stephen Veazey as the Community of Christ's Prophet-President on June 3. It was a precious moment in the history of your church, and a remarkable experience for this Presbyterian!

One moment stood out for me as representatives from each of the continents presented gifts to the church. The gift from Australia and the Pacific Islands was a stunning wooden model of an outrigger canoe, its mast and sail standing shoulder high. The woman who spoke on behalf of the group spoke of the centrality of the canoe to their history, beginning with those who first journeyed over 3,000 miles across the sea to reach these islands. To this day these simple wooden boats symbolize the very lifeblood of their commerce and culture, the key to all that they are as a people. She ended her presentation with this simple, eloquent statement: "Jesus is the outrigger canoe who will carry our stories forward."

This one beautiful, evocative statement reminded me of how impoverished and culture-bound my own images of the Divine are. But it also struck me like a breath of hope: Jesus will, indeed, carry our stories forward – *all* of our stories, especially those to which the church has turned a deaf ear.



In his challenge to the ordinand, Apostle David Brock reminded us that the gospel doesn't say, "For God so loved this church"; it says, "For God so loved the world." God's unconditional love extends to each of us – as deep and wide as the sea.

I invite you to join me as we "carry our stories forward." If you have not contributed your own story of faith to the Shower of Stoles collection, consider doing so in the coming months. Together, our stories will stand as a powerful witness to God's boundless love, and to the gifts that *all* of God's children have to offer this great church!

For more information about donating a stole or other sacred object to the Shower of Stoles, visit our website at www.showerofstoles.org.

--Martha Juillerat, National Program Director

Our congratulations to Forrest & Donna Swall, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception in Lawrence, KS, on August 6.

GALA'S FIRST EVENT in LAWRENCE, KANSAS!

On Saturday, June 18, 26 individuals attended the first-ever Kansas City area GALA event in Lawrence, Kansas. The great turn-out showed that there is a significant base to establish an official Lawrence chapter of GALA. Cricket and John Mercer hosted the event at their beautiful home south of town. Great food, games, conversation, new friendships, and a palpable excitement for the future made the event so noteworthy!

Though no regular schedule has been set yet for the Lawrence fellowship, a considerable contingent from Lawrence drove to Independence for the July 16 event at Alan Zimmerman and Richard Kent-Jordan's home. George King and Mike Boring have agreed to be the "communication hub" for the Lawrence folk. If you'd like to be on the mailing list, please e-mail lawrencegala@aol.com.

--Mike Boring, Reporter

COUPLE HOLD COMMITMENT SERVICE

The Holy Spirit is often described as the wind. It has never seemed truer than on May 14 when Michele Dunlap and Donna Cerer held their commitment service at Shelter House #9 in Fleming Park at Lake Jacomo. The lake glistened in the sunlight as Michele and Donna covenanted their love and fidelity before their families and friends.

The laughter of children and relatives of the couple, along with balloons, filled the air at the reception, during which a close friend played a song composed just for the couple. The event, historic in its meaning, was supported by members of GALA. Donna and Michele reminded everyone of the power of love with their statements of commitment.



Dear Gay, Lesbian, Bi-, and Trans- Friends:

As you know, you are the last minority in America to be legally, socially, and culturally vilified. Everyone else seems to have made it—the Equal Rights Amendment almost had enough ratifying states to constitutionally guarantee the civil rights of women and people of color, among others. (By the way, given the tenor of the times, I'm giving odds that an anti-gay marriage amendment will make it into the Constitution sooner than the ERA).

Even though it (incredibly) took until 1948, the Native American has been granted the vote and guaranteed citizenship. The disabled have gotten all those wheelchair ramps cut into urban street corners across the nation. Even the folks allergic to peanuts have forced the airlines to switch to little packets of pretzels. Admittedly, fat people are still on the outs, but then, they're responsible for their own weight issues, right?

So now it's just down to you. You're the last ones left outside of the American Circle of Inclusivity. Our stout defenders of public morality are pushing legislation through states like Texas, Kansas, and Washington that guarantee your exclusion from the United Nations' Bill of Human Rights.

You haven't fared much better in the Church, called to be a loving society within a society. After millennia of your quiet and unobtrusive contributions to the community of faith, a lot of Christians have gotten very Old Testament-y and, barreling right by the Sermon on the Mount, have jumped to the lesser parts of Saint Paul in an attempt to keep you in your place (that place, of course, being impotence and anonymity).

So what's going on? Why all the current vitriol and watch-dogging? Why now? In a serious attempt to find out, I've done more than a year of research on the internet, inviting queer folk to answer some questions (62 questions, specifically). Men and women ranging from 20 to 82 years of age from all over the world responded generously with time, experience, and tremendous personal pain.

I discovered some things that, as a straight man, I never would have guessed or imagined. I doubt that many other straight folks have thought of these things either. I know that you know these things, but I'd like to go through them, because I also realized that many of you think you're all alone out there.

First, I found out that no one wants to be gay, at least not at the beginning when they are discovering who they are. The overwhelming majority of those who wrote to me shared their experience of horror, fear, confusion, denial and revulsion at the thought that they were so radically different from everyone else around them. Blessedly, many of them came to love and accept who

they were in spite of the immediate and violent rejection of many family and friends, but that self-love and acceptance was hard to come to. The stories you shared of the cruelty and violence of families and friends as you tried to explain what you were experiencing were truly horrifying.

I thought of my own children and tried to imagine if I could cut them off, throw them out, shame them in public because they weren't just like me. I tried to think of Jesus calling anyone a "dirty little faggot," or kicking someone out of the Upper Room, and I just couldn't do it. I came to the conclusion that the problem wasn't with you, but with our capacity for love.

I learned, through the responses to my questions, that you have to endure some things that straight people never face, and that it makes your lives harder than the lives of any other minority in America. For one thing, many of you choose to be honest with people you love in telling them that you are fundamentally different than they are.

I learned that for those of you who have the courage to risk authenticity, you almost certainly invite rejection.

I learned that for most of you over 25, there were no role models, no ready sources of acceptance and identification to help you be the best queer person you could be.

I learned that your journey of self-discovery forced you into dangerous and often prurient situations, leaving you feeling dirty and shame-filled.

I learned that your hunger for companionship and relationship was at least as deep as mine, but that while the dominant culture approved of my search for a partner, it vilified yours.

I learned that rights which I take for granted about sharing resources with my partner or even visiting her in the hospital when she is ill are routinely denied you.

I learned that an incredible number of you have a deep and empowering relationship with Jesus Christ as the Lord of Life, and that you pursue it in communities of faith despite the constant threat of rejection and expulsion.

I learned that a surprisingly large number of you live in long, committed, monogamous relationships (the average of those responding was 15 years), much longer than many of your straight counterparts who take advantage of the dubious benefits of "no-fault" divorce (there's an oxymoron!).

Surprisingly, my most remarkable learning was that every pain, every horror, every anguish you face is imposed on you by our fear and subsequent rejection of you. *(continued on page 6)*

I learned that the depression, the self-loathing, the suicide attempts, the "terror in the closet" could all be prevented if we just told you that we don't believe God makes mistakes, that your presence with us and contribution to our lives since the dawn of time is not an aberration, but part of what is real in God's creation.

So I would like to apologize. I would like to share with you the depth of my sorrow that so many straight people are so insecure in themselves and in the breadth of God's possibilities that they have to reject you to feel good about themselves.

But I need you to know that the end of your exclusion in cultural and ecclesiastical life cannot just be brought about by well intentioned people like me. You must bear responsibility for breaking into the circle as well.

Ultimately, the straight world's fear of you will not be overcome until each and every person loves someone who is queer, for only love can conquer fear. That means, among other things, that you must be available for loving. It probably even means that you must demand loving.

While availability and demand will certainly prompt more rejection, we must have hope that the One who is Love Incarnate has the power to overcome all that is fearful and excluding.

I know there are plenty of people who disagree with me, and in their disagreeing, they brandish words like "relativism" and "modernism" as a defense against Christ's mandate to love. They may say they love you, but that love is conditional. You can be loved as long as you do not live into yourself, into your true being.

Please understand, they're not bad people—they've just never had the opportunity to truly love someone unlike themselves. Part of your ministry, your service to the good God who made you, is to give them that opportunity.

We're living in pregnant times, and as anyone who has ever been pregnant (or lived with someone pregnant) knows, pregnancy can be pretty uncomfortable. That's one of the reasons why the Episcopal Church is "groaning in labor" (St. Paul's words, not mine) right now. We are longing, he said in one of his better moments, for the birthing of the children of God. That means you, too.

~~~~~  
Dr. Douglas G. Scott is a fully certified Marriage and Family Therapist Licensed by the Counseling and Therapy Practice Board of the State of New Mexico.



like Peter said to Cornelius in the early church when he had to face his discomfort in sharing the gospel with Gentiles, "in Christ there is no partiality"!

GALA faces great challenges at this time. We need to become more visible at the jurisdictional levels of the church so that those who need support, fellowship, acceptance and sanctuary can find us. We need to work more closely with jurisdictions that have shown support to GALA by prayerful, emotional and financial generosity. We want the numbers of people and mission centers that donate funds to GALA to double and triple in the next two years! This can happen as new GALA chapters develop, and the healing they bring begins to be felt throughout the church. But we cannot do it alone! We need your help.

In the last two years we have begun to train volunteers in core leadership skills in order to assist GALA in bringing ministry within congregations who want to be-come more welcoming. It is a process of learning, and we have worked hard to prepare excellent materials to help us.

Do you want to come with us? Are you ready to step out into possible discomfort in order to bring healthy change within churches? Do you want to strengthen GALA and its connection to the church so it can more fully become the prophetic people who alleviate suffering and proclaim the love of God in the world? I hope your answer is "yes," and that your actions stand on the promises that in Christ, "God is with us" on the journey!

\* \* \* \*

**At the Temple in Independence, Dec. 1-4, 2005, Welcoming Community Network will co-sponsor core leadership training with the *Reconciling in Christ* Lutherans and *Welcoming and Affirming* United Methodists.** Check GALA's website for information in September. GALA is taking its unique place in a wonderful circle of those desiring to **share the peace of Christ.**

"The Left mocks the Right. The Right knows it's right. Two ugly traits. How far should we go to try to understand each other's point of view? Maybe the distance grace covered on the cross is a clue." --Bono, from the band U2

# Got a hole in your soul, eh?

## Holey, Wholly, Holy Coming Out Spiritually Whole

GALA International Retreat  
Five Oaks Educational & Retreat Centre  
[www.fiveoaks.on.ca](http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca)  
Paris, Ontario, Canada  
September 2-5, 2005

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness...to give you a future and a hope.”  
Jeremiah 29:11 ESV*



- **Come to Canada!** Join together with friends and family for **the first International GALA Retreat held outside the borders of the United States** as we enjoy the warm welcome of our neighbors to the north, Canada. **Fly into the cosmopolitan city of Toronto** and drive 90 minutes north into Ontario to a place waiting to greet you with open arms, Five Oaks Educational and Retreat Centre.
- **Enjoy the guest ministry of Don H. Compier**, Ph.D., as our Guest Minister this year. Don is the dean of the new Community of Christ Seminary, a part of the Independence Campus of Graceland University.
- **Join together “holey”** with fragmented, bruised and broken spirits.
- **Experience spiritual wholeness** through the body, mind, and soul.
- **Come out “holy”** in a sacred celebration of our spiritual health.
- **Retreat check-in** begins at 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005.

### Prepare to cross the border

You will need to have appropriate documentation with you to cross the border. You **MUST HAVE AT LEAST** a (1) government-issued picture identification, such as a driver license or state ID card, AND (2) a certified copy of your birth certificate. Crossing the border with a passport is preferred by the U.S. Customs office, but is not required until Jan. 1, 2006.

### Register Now!

- Complete and mail the attached registration form with your check
- Register online at [GALAweb.org](http://GALAweb.org) and either mail in your check or pay with e-check or credit card online.

### For more information contact:

Meredith Bischoff     [merigrrl@merigrrl.com](mailto:merigrrl@merigrrl.com)     714-579-1573



# Got a hole in your soul, eh?

## Holey, Wholly, *Holy* Coming Out Spiritually Whole

GALA International Retreat  
Five Oaks Educational & Retreat Centre  
Paris, Ontario, Canada  
September 2-5, 2005

### Registration Form



– I want to become spiritually whole!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs:  Lodging  Food Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

### Flight Information:

- I/We will need transportation assistance from the airport.  
 I am/We are willing to provide transportation assistance to/from the airport.

Airport \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time \_\_\_\_\_

Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration Fees:

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                                                                                                        |              |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| • Early registration (before August 15 <sup>th</sup> )                                                                 | \$200.00 USD | \$250.00 CAD |
| • Late Registration (on or after August 15 <sup>th</sup> )                                                             | \$215.00 USD | \$268.75 CAD |
| • An additional service fee is added to the registration fee when paying with a credit card online. Early registration | \$210.00 USD | \$262.50 CAD |
| • Late online registration                                                                                             | \$225.75 USD | \$282.20 CAD |

Mail your registration form and check to: GALA, P.O. Box 2173, Independence, MO 64055

## Join Or Renew Memberships Online!

Streamlining the way GALA does business has been a goal of the executive board for some time. You can now join, renew, or make gift contributions on GALA's web site, [GALAweb.org](http://GALAweb.org). Our Webmaster, Meredith Bischoff, has designed a way to get WHAT you want WHEN you need it. If you have not yet paid your annual dues for 2004 or made your pledge, we invite you to do so now using this service!

GALA continues to need your support. Your gift, membership or contribution helps:

Produce and publish our GALA newsletter  
Operate our web site <http://galaweb.org/>  
Provide sponsorships for retreats  
Finance our new Field Coordinator position  
Support the costs of GALA's many expenses

Our organization has the vision. We have the leadership. Now, all we need is YOU.

### Membership & Contribution Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Membership Level** (U.S. dollars)

Individual (\$25)  Family (\$40)  Limited Income (\$10)

#### **I would like to make an additional contribution to advance GALA's outreach and educational goals:**

\$50  \$100  \$200  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions to GALA are tax deductible.*

**Please return to:** P.O. Box 2173, Independence, MO 64055

I would like to receive the galaNEWSletter electronically for future issues. This will help save GALA money and make better use of our web site, [www.GALAweb.org](http://www.GALAweb.org)