



TransCentral PA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

www.TranscentralPA.org

January 2008

Volume 19, Issue 1

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania



Jake Kaskey from Equality Advocates Pennsylvania spoke at our January 5th Membership Meeting. Equality Advocates' mission is to achieve equality

for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in Pennsylvania through direct legal services, education and policy reform.

Founded in 1996, Equality Advocates is the only organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania offering direct legal services for the LGBT community. Equality Advocates is home to the country's only law student clinic dedicated to LGBT issues.

Mr. Kaskey outlined some of the services that Equality Advocates provides for the Transgendered Community. He also addressed the failings of the HRC and the EDNA debacle.

Mr. Kaskey made a plea for help in passing pending state legislation that would provide for Transgendered anti-discrimination laws. These current bills are HB1400 in the House and SB 761 in the Senate.

If you are interested in helping this cause, visit Equality Advocates' website to learn more.

www.equalitypa.org

There you will find information about how to set-up a meeting with your state legislatures, a summary of the issues, and finally a form letter you can sign. These documents are also available on our website in the Members' library section. So check it out and see what Equality Advocates is doing for the Transgendered community.



Jake Kaskey
Equality Advocates
Education and Outreach Director

Spotlight on Local Transgender Resources



www.liquid891.com

Finally after much anticipation, Harrisburg's newest alternative nightclub opened up this past December where the old Pink Lizard use to be.

Liquid 891 is a full service establishment with two service bars, a large dance floor with great music, lounge areas, reserved seating, free parking and the friendliest staff in Harrisburg.

AND, Their martinis are legendary!!

We are very pleased to announce that Club Liquid 891 has graciously offered TransCentralPA members free cover charge and TransCentralPA guests 50% off the cover charge on the first Saturday of each month. You must present your TransCentralPA membership or guest card at the front door.

So the next time you're looking for a great place to hang out with friends, try Liquid 891. And don't forget pass on your thanks as a TransCentralPA member or guest to Jeff, Tim and the staff of Liquid 891.

Inside this issue:

Managing Director Comments	2
Reflecting on Transition	2
Reaching Out	3
Spring Fling '08	3
Upcoming Events	4

From the Managing Director

Dear Members,

TransCentralPA's first meeting of the New Year was well attended and quite lively, with Jake Kaskey from Equality Advocates leading off at 8:30 with his presentation.

Kristy, our Secretary & Communications Director, and I were able to negotiate an arrangement with the club *Liquid 891* (formerly *The Pink Lizard*) to admit all TransCentralPA members free on meeting nights. Spread the word: paying membership dues will actually save you money if you regularly attend a club on Saturday night! We are hoping to attract more people from near & far to "Tranny Night" at *Liquid 891*.

Our next meeting on Saturday,

February 2nd will feature two guest speakers who are both in the health field—one, a medical practitioner, and the other a mental therapist. Both these professional women regularly treat transgender



Jeanine Ruhsam
Managing Director

patients, and refer patients to one another. Best of all, they are local to the city of Harrisburg and surrounding area. They will begin speaking at 8:30; we'll be sure to have the MCC doors open by 8:00 PM. We'll have great snacks for our break and mingling time, and many of us will be heading across town to

"Tranny Night" when the doors close at 11:00 PM.

Remember that our Party of the Year is coming up on March 15th: the **Spring Fling** at Bube's Brewery. It's your chance to dress up, dine in elegance and enjoy an evening out at a fun establishment. We are welcoming non-members, too, so if you have Trans or Trans-friendly friends from here or out of town, ask them to come. If you'd like to help it become a great success, please think of volunteering to help (we could use it for the silent auction), and contact Trina, via our website, www.transcentralpa.org

Warmly,

Jeanine



Personal Stories: Reflecting Upon My Transition



Pamela H
Outreach Director
(Picture Unavailable)

I will be celebrating my first anniversary on Jan. 19th. I used Dr. Preecha in Bangkok. After checking prices of a number of surgeons through various links from sites (prices ranged from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for GRS) I investigated a number of Thai surgeons. I focused on two and started investigating them. Almost all Thai surgeons stated in the first sentence "student of Dr. Preecha" so I figured "why go to the student..".

His price for GRS was \$7500. I

asked for referrals as well as found others through sites. I read only one complaint (lack of depth).

The person who handles contacts is the doctor's son. He seemed very nice. It turned out he had grossly mis-quoted my nose job which the office manager and I worked out once I got there. The staff was excellent and the results are extremely satisfactory. The only thing I am waiting for is more feeling below. I found using a plastic loofah sponge in the shower helps stimulate the nerves. Plus, being lesbian, I have yet (or will ever) have a live stimulus.

I liked the idea that he will do what

you want, but will not push. While there, I met a lady who transitioned 30 years ago with Dr. Preecha and was back to have her breasts lifted. She really did not need it and the doctor told her she would love the results for about three years and then they would droop even more. She did not elect for the surgery. The only warning is you will be dealing with a different culture. For example, they take great pride in their jobs. If you find fault, you have to be very polite in asking for something different. You will get it with great pride, though. Remember, always ask nice and have a positive attitude.

—Pamela



Reaching Out



Ellen Davidson
Contributing Member

Recently I had the opportunity to participate in a very worthwhile and rewarding experience. Another transgendered support group that I belong to was contacted by the parents of a 13-year-old girl from York, who said she wanted to be a boy. This was not a case of your ordinary tomboy but this child was well informed and claimed she was transgendered and was born in the wrong body.

We met with the parents and this child, whom I will call 'George.' The subject of school came up and I was informed he was being harassed and ridiculed by his peers in the middle school. George insisted on dressing like a boy and even had his hair cut short. He apparently was going through puberty and was starting to develop breasts. I am sure this was adding to his own confusion and that of others.

The parents are very supportive and said they love "George" unconditionally. The mother informed me that he often came home crying due to this bullying because he wants to be who he is inside. We found him a therapist in Lancaster who is quite familiar with Transgenderism and was willing to work with the parents and George.

We recommended the parents contacted PFLAG in York as well as a new organization called the Curve. We also suggested that George check out the TG support group Common Roads for adolescents and teenagers.

The school is now willing to at least recognize transgendered children and to assure there is no discrimination by the students or staff. George is now permitted to

dress and identify as a boy at school and is meeting regularly with the school guidance counselor to discuss his progress. It will be interesting to follow him over the next several years to see how the school adjusts to what may well become a more common phenomenon as more children strive to identify as their true gender.

As everyone knows we cannot act as a therapist or counsel any Trans person because we are not a licensed affiliation nor are we trained psychologists or therapists. We can however give direction to the parents as to who to see, what to expect and how to deal with problems we all know will arise. We can also give support to this little boy and his parents and introduce them to others like himself so he can ask questions and the parents can ask questions and get answers from Female-to-Male individuals who are living as their preferred gender.

Keep the date of March 15

open. The Spring party at Bubes Brewery in Mount Joy is coming up. Trina will have more details at the meeting in February.

Two more clubs have been added to the list of Trans-friendly nightclubs in the area. These are the Dawg Haus in Manheim located at 168 Main St (Rt 72) and Liquid 891 on Eisenhower Blvd. in Harrisburg. Both have a great dance floor and sound system, nightly bar specials, and a friendly staff. If you haven't been out recently, check them out.

Incidentally our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday February 2, Groundhog Day. Also since Tuesday, February 5 is Mardi Gras, (Easter is really early this year) most of the clubs will be celebrating Mardi Gras on Saturday. This is a great opportunity to get out and even wear a costume if you want.

See you at the meeting,

Ellen



Don't Miss.....

Spring Fling '08

May 15, 2008

Visit
www.TransCentralPA.org
for more details

Upcoming Transgender Friendly Events

Mon Jan 28 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia

Sat Feb 2 TransCentralPA Monthly Meeting at 8:00 pm, Harrisburg

Sat Feb 2 "Tranny Night" at Liquid 891, Harrisburg

Mon Feb 4 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia

Mon Feb 11 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia

Sat Feb 16 Common Roads presents "The Kinsey Sicks" at the Strand Capitol Theatre, York

Sat Feb 16 Winter Hearts Ball at Club XS, York

Sat Feb 16 Laptop Lounge at Shangrila Restaurant, King of Prussia

Mon Feb 18 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia

Thu Feb 21 Colorado Gold Rush, Denver, CO

Mon Feb 25 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia

Sat Mar 1 TransCentralPA Monthly Meeting at 8:00 pm, Harrisburg

Sat Mar 1 "Tranny Night" at Liquid 891, Harrisburg

Mon Mar 3 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia

Mon Mar 10 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia

Sat Mar 15 TransCentralPA's Spring Fling '08 at Bube's Brewery, Mt. Joy

Sat Mar 15 Laptop Lounge at Shangrila Restaurant, King of Prussia

Mon Mar 17 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia

Mon Mar 24 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia

Visit
www.TransCentralPA.org for
more information about these
and other upcoming events!

TransCentral PA
c/o Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit
2973 Jefferson Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 236-7387