



TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

September 2008

www.TransCentralPA.org

Volume 19, Issue 8

Announcements

HOT

Hungry? Join us for dinner and drinks at the Blue Bistro and Wine bar (www.bluewinebar.com) on Saturday, Sep 6 at 5:30 pm prior to our meeting. Please RSVP to Kristy if you plan to attend the dinner at info@transcentralpa.org

Mara Keisling will be our guest speaker at the September meeting. This presentation will be free and open to the public so pass on the word and invite your friends. For more information about it, see the sidebar or visit our website. We'll meet at Liquid891 afterwards for drinks and dancing.

GROUP

Big Hug. Please welcome our newest members Joline K. and Sharon S.

Change of Plans. The Canna Bed and Breakfast Inn, where we have hosted our annual holiday party in December for the past several years, recently changed hands. There was little interest in hosting the party there again this year and we have canceled the reservation. Instead, we are looking at other venues so if you have any suggestions, please contact Jeanine or Kristy. We plan to pick a place by the October meeting.

Elections. Nominations for the 2009 positions will open at the October meeting and voting will be conducted at our November meeting. If you are interested in an office or simply want to get more involved, please let Jeanine know. Our group has grown considerably this past year and we are in need of people to help out in any way you can. We'd also like to hear any suggestions or ideas you may have for the 2009 year. Expect to hear some proposals for next year at our October meeting.

LOCAL

TransFaithOnline has joined the Central PA LGBT Center Coalition. Their website is www.TransFaithOnline.org

Trans-United is a new support group in the Baltimore area that meets on Tues-

days and Thursdays each week and is for individuals who want to build self empowerment in the Trans-community. Email Sandy Rawls at cabritt@yahoo.com for details.

EVENTS

Outing in Pittsburgh. Members of TransPitt are organizing a weekend outing in Pittsburgh on Sep 20th. If you are interested in going, ask Kristy for the details.

T-Movie. The Transgender documentary "Unraveling Michelle" will be shown in NYC on Sep 20 at 4:00 pm. For more info, visit www.unravelingmichelle.com. The director is from the local area.

Southern Comfort Conference is from Sep 30-Oct 5 in Atlanta, GA. SCC is the largest transgender conference in the country. Visit www.sccatl.org for more information and to register. The hotel is always sold out so make your reservations early.

34th Annual Fantasia Fair, Oct 19-26 in Provincetown, PA. "Fan Fair" is the oldest and longest running transgender conference. www.fantasiafair.org

TG/CD Weekend @ Rainbow Mountain, Oct 24-26 in Stroudsburg, PA. This is a weekend to let your hair down and party! There will be a talent show so come out and show your talent! There were over 100 ladies out for the last TG/CD weekend. Visit www.rainbowmountain.com for details.

Beauty at the Beach, Oct 29-Nov 2 in Rehoboth Beach, DE. For more details, visit www.cdspub.com/batb.html

2008 Fall Harvest, November 4-9 in Kansas City, MO. Fall Harvest began several years ago and was originally part of a group called the Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE). MAGGIE was an alliance of gender support groups in the Midwest United States. Visit www.fallharvest.org

2008 Lake Erie Gala, November 17-22

See 'Announcements' on page 2...



Mara Keisling

"Transgender Victories and Challenges"

Saturday, September 6th at 8:30 pm

TransCentralPA Speaker Series will host Mara Keisling, the Executive Director for the National Center for Transgender Equality.

The past six to eight years have seen dramatic transgender public policy victories concerning the treatment of transgender people around the country. There also have been challenges. Mara will discuss the victories and challenges we have seen and those that are expected.

She will touch on NCTE's new federal policy agenda that covers a wide range of federal policy areas that NCTE and others will work to impact over the coming years. Mara and NCTE have been key players in the UnitedENDA movement to pass a transgender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Mara will discuss what happened last year and what NCTE and the coalition are doing in the coming months to get this important bill passed.

Visit www.TransCentralPa.org for details and to RSVP for the event.

The Transgender Education Association of Central Pennsylvania is fortunate- and quite pleased- to have Mara Keisling, the founder and director of the National Center for Transgender Equality (www.nctequality.org), present her "Transgender Victories & Challenges" talk at our upcoming meeting on Saturday, September 6 at 8:30PM at our regular monthly meeting place of MCC of the Spirit on Jefferson Street in Harrisburg. We will be starting the evening off with dinner at the Blue Bistro and Wine Bar (www.bluewinebar.com) at 1313 North 2nd Street in Harrisburg, with Mara as our guest. Reservations are required; please contact us at info@transcentralpa.org to make yours. Don't miss out! This is a wonderful little restaurant, ideally located at 2nd & Verbeke right on the way to our meeting

From the Managing Director



Jeanine Ruhsam
Managing Director

place. Pam Minhas, the owner, is delighted to welcome our group on what is also the weekend of their celebration of their 1st year of business.

I've been a member and contributing supporter of NCTE for quite a few years, along with my wife Julia, and have personally known and been a friend of Mara's. We have watched her grow this wonderful, meaningful and now powerful lobbying organization up from its roots. I met her when she & I were residents of

Washington, DC, some five years ago. Though that is her official residence now, Mara calls Harrisburg, PA her home. She was directly involved with our group about eight years ago when we were called Renaissance Lower Susquehanna Valley. Recently her sister-in-law Amy Keisling (www.rieglershienvold.com/about-us/amy-keisling) presented a talk on her work as a therapist for Trans people to TransCentralPA at this February's meeting.

Mara's presentation is not to be missed, and we are very honored to have the pre-eminent spokesperson for the Trans cause in the United States coming back home to Harrisburg to share her energy with us.

Sincerely yours,

Jeanine Ruhsam



Announcements (continued)

in Erie, PA. This is a 10th anniversary event complete with sightseeing trips, wine tasting, fashion shows, evening entertainment, casino night, etc. in Erie, PA. Visit www.eriesisters.org for details.

IFGE Conference (Feb 2-8) will be held in Alexandria, VA. The discounted hotel room for the event is \$132, half the standard rate. The block of rooms available actually starts on Feb 2 and will go quickly, so make your reservations early at www.ifge.org/conference

Liberty 2009. Dr. Kristine James from TransEvents USA is looking for volunteers to help plan and organize the Liberty 2009 conference in Philadelphia April 30 – May 2. Volunteers will receive reduced or free registration to the event. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information about the conference, visit their website at www.transeventsusa.com

DID YOU HEAR?

'America's Next Top Model' Goes Transgender. one of the 14 women competing on the 11th cycle of "America's Next Top Model" is transgender. 22 year-old Isis is a native of Prince George's county, Maryland and will be on

America's Next Top Model starting on Wednesday, September 3.

OTHER

The Gender Identity Project (GIP) offers services to transgender, gender non-conforming and gender questioning individuals, their partners and families. The GIP works to foster the healthy development of transgender and gender non-conforming people, partners, family and community. For more information, contact the Gender Identity Project at 212-620-7310, or by e-mail at gip@gaycenter.org

Volunteers Needed. In cooperation with the Task Force and NCTE, the United ENDA campaign is looking for volunteers to help create action teams around the country and more specifically in congressional districts where constituent lobbying effort could pay off when ENDA comes back up in the next congress. Tim Holden's district (PA-17) is one of the specific targets. They have specifically contacted our group to solicit help, so if you are interested, please see Kristy.



Mark your Calendars!

- Aug 30 Gender Spectrum Family Conference, Seattle, WA
- Sep 6 TCPA Group Meeting with Mara Keisling**
- Sep 10 GIG Meeting in Baltimore, MD
- Sep 30 SCC in Atlanta, GA
- Oct 4 TCPA Group Meeting 2009 Nominations Begin**
- Oct 19 34th Annual Fantasia Fair in Provincetown, MA
- Oct 24 CD/TV Weekend at Rainbow Mountain, E. Stroudsburg, PA
- Nov 1 TCPA Group Meeting 2009 Elections**

Visit our website for more event info!

TransCentral PA

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