



# TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

February 2009

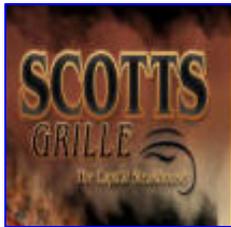
WWW.TRASCENTRALPA.ORG

Volume 20, Issue 2

## Announcements

### GROUP

**February Dinner** Join us at Scott's Grille ( [www.scottsgrille.com](http://www.scottsgrille.com) ) for our pre-meeting dinner on Saturday, Feb 7th at 5:30 pm. We'll sit down promptly at 6:00 pm. Menu items are priced between \$15 and \$31 with most entrees around the



\$19 range. Please RSVP if you plan to attend the dinner at [info@transcentralpa.org](mailto:info@transcentralpa.org).

**February Meeting.** Our next meeting will be Saturday, Feb 7th at 8:30 pm. Doors will open at approximately 8:00 pm for those needing to change. Discussion topics/groups for February are focused relationships:

*"Family & Friends"*  
*"Dealing with your Spouse/SO"*  
*"What to do about Kids"*

**January Stats:** We had 19 people join us for dinner at Café Fresco in January and 31 people attended the group meeting—both are new records for our group! We had 12 people renew and 7 new people join for a total of 31 members.

**Please Renew Your Membership** The 2009 Membership Application is available on our website. Only previous members may renew by filling out the form and mailing it to our address (below) along with a check or money order for \$35.

TransCentralPA  
c/o MCC of the Spirit  
2973 Jefferson Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

### LOCAL

**2009 Keystone Conference Update** Registration opened on Jan 11 and we have already had people from as far away as Florida and New York register for the event. Early registration ends Feb 15 and our low room rate of \$99/night at the Harrisburg/Hershey Sheraton Hotel is only guaranteed through Feb 23. We have a number of prominent speakers/presenters from around Pennsylvania and the region who are excited and eager to present at the Conference (see the flyer on page 3 for a list of some of the speakers). Visit the [Keystone website](#) for more information and to register.

**2009 Gay Straight Alliance Leadership Summit.** Common Roads is planning their annual leadership summit which will be held at Dickinson College on February 26th. Adults \$30, Students \$10. Email [info@commonroads.org](mailto:info@commonroads.org) for more information.

**Transgender Column** TransCentralPA is writing a monthly Transgender column in the Panzee Press. Check out the article written by Jeanine in the January edition of the Panzee Press.

**Transgender Survey.** Penn State is conducting a 10 minute survey on Transgender discrimination at

[online.survey.psu.edu/endtransdiscrim/](http://online.survey.psu.edu/endtransdiscrim/)

**Winter Arts Festival 2009** promotes the arts in the LGBT Community in Central PA and is a collaborative event between Common Roads and the LGBT Center Coalition. Running from January 17th through February 14th, Winter Arts Festival includes events throughout the region benefiting and hosted by various LGBT and allied groups. Be sure to take a look around - There's sure to be something for everyone.

[www.winterartsfestival.com](http://www.winterartsfestival.com)

**Common Roads Merges with the LGBT Community Center Coalition** On Jan 8, Common Roads and the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central Pennsylvania formally merged into one organization after an unanimous resolution by both organizations to better serve

*See 'Announcements' on page 2...*

**Keystone Conference  
Early Registration Ends:  
February 15th!**

**Red Roof Inn Discount!** We have negotiated a deal with the Red Roof Inn on Eisenhower Blvd (across from Liquid891) for \$39.99 a night (\$49.99/night for their all-inclusive business kings) on our meeting nights of Feb 7, Mar 7 and Apr 4. A new deal will need to be negotiated through the late spring and summer which is the hotel's busier time. You must call the hotel directly (717) 939-1331 to reserve the room at the "TransCentralPA" rate.

**Got Brochures?** We just received professional printed brochures for the group to hand out at community events, speaking engagements, visitors, guests and others that are interested in our group.





January's dinner at Café Fresco set a new record in attendance at 19 members and guests. Come join us for the February dinner at Scott's Grille.

## From the President



Jeanine Ruhsam

What an amazing time of year this is! Caught tight and hard in the grip of Winter's frozen grasp...yet the days grow longer, and the birds' voices grow in volume as Spring comes closer. So, as a nation, we sink deeper into recession, yet promise beckons and we hold out hope...so, as a community, struggling with gender identity issues we sink at times into despair, but rise again with love for ourselves.

This little special city of Harrisburg that we call our home - the capitol of this amazing old and self-sufficient state of Pennsylvania- seems to be one of the finer places in this great United States of America to wind up as a Trans person. In fact, it's a good place to move to if you are a Trans person. Six years ago I'd never spent a moment here, and now it's my home, and I think I'll stay - happily ever after!

It's fitting that we are working hard to successfully host the Keystone Conference: A Celebration of Gender Diversity here in Harrisburg. It is a good time and the right place for this to happen...and we need full participation of everyone in the community. Please rally friends, family and supporters to attend...it's our time to come alive and grow.

With warm wishes,

Jeanine Ruhsam

### TransCentral PA

c/o MCC of the Spirit  
2973 Jefferson Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 236-7387

Website: [www.TransCentralPA.org](http://www.TransCentralPA.org)  
Email: [info@transcentralpa.org](mailto:info@transcentralpa.org)

## Mark your Calendars!

Feb 2 - Feb 8	<a href="#">IFGE Conference</a> Alexandria, VA
Feb 7	TCPA Dinner at <a href="#">Scott's Grille</a> <a href="#">TCPA Group Meeting</a> Harrisburg, PA
Feb 11 4:00 pm	Freedom to Marry Rally Dauphin County Courthouse
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 15	Early Registration Ends for the Keystone Conference
Feb 26	Common Roads 2nd Annual GSA Leadership Summit, Dickinson College, PA
Feb 28	Trans-Masculine Alliance, Baltimore, MD
Feb 28	Tran-Quility Support Group Baltimore, MD
Mar 7	TCPA Dinner <a href="#">TCPA Group Meeting</a> Harrisburg, PA
Mar 12 Mar 14	<a href="#">2009 Keystone Conference</a> , Harrisburg, PA

Visit [www.TransCentralPA.org](http://www.TransCentralPA.org)  
for more event info!

## Announcements (continued)

their members and work in this turbulent economy. For 15 years, Common Roads has served LGBT youth exclusively, offering education, mentoring, safe space and overall support to young people. Common Roads will become the service arm while the LGBT Community Center Coalition will serve as a "management umbrella," while it seeks to create and sustain a LGBT community center for the region.

## EVENTS

**IFGE Conference** from Feb 2-8 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](http://www.ifge.org/conference)

**2009 Keystone Conference** Mar 12-14 in Harrisburg, PA. Come join us at the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel at the low rate of \$99/night. The registration packages are at least 50% of similar conferences making Keystone the most affordable conference in the country!

**Liberty 2009 Conference** from Apr 30—May 2 in Philadelphia, PA. Volunteers will receive reduced or free registration to the event. If you are interested in volunteering or need more information about the conference, visit their website at [www.transeventsusa.com](http://www.transeventsusa.com)



Come join us at Keystone Conference 2009, "A Celebration of Gender Diversity," hosted by TransCentralPA in the capitol city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania!

The Keystone Conference treats event attendees to one full day of varied and meaningful workshops and seminars and two nights of social functions, the finale being Saturday night's gala dinner and dance in the Sheraton's resplendent ballroom. For those desiring more social activities, we have arranged activities for Thursday and Friday as well, and our extraordinary special event rate for this bright and luxurious hotel is extended for those desiring a longer stay in this clean, lovely and historic riverside city.

We not only promise you an informative, inspirational and wonderful time among members and supporters of the Transgender community at the lovely Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel, but also that you won't find a better value for your dollar at any other Trans event or conference in the U.S. this entire year!

	Early Bird by Feb 15	Normal Rate	Student Rate
Full Event (Thu-Sat)	\$119	\$139	
Weekender (Fri & Sat)	\$109	\$119	
All-Day Sat	\$99	\$109	
Sat Conference & Lunch	\$49	\$59	\$39
Sat Conference only	\$25	\$35	\$10
Sat Evening Gala		\$49	



For more information visit  
[www.TransCentralPA.org](http://www.TransCentralPA.org)

### **Thursday, March 12th**

-Daytime social & shopping outings  
 -Bus trip Thursday evening to the Hollywood Casino and Penn National Race Track for dinner and entertainment.

### **Friday, March 13th**

-Social & shopping outings  
 -Evening reception at the hotel bar  
 -Transportation to downtown Harrisburg for dinner, entertainment and clubbing

### **Saturday, March 14th**

**Mara Keisling**, The Executive Director for the National Center for Transgender Equality

**Dr. Richard Levine**, Hershey Medical Center, specializing in Transgender Adolescent Medicine

**Donna Rose**, Transgender activist & nationally renowned speaker

**Dr. Cerise Richards** discusses Brain Gender Identity, "Why We Are, Who We Are"

**Papillion Gender Wellness Center**, Specializing in Transgender medicine and surgery

**Dr. Michele Angello**, Therapist specializing in gender variant youths and adults

**Dr. Sherman Leis**, Director and Chief Surgeon of the Philadelphia Center for Transgender Surgery

**Dr. Maureen Osborne**, Therapist specializing in gender identity & counseling

**Amanda Richards**, Professional make-up artist and TG image consultant

**And many more** conducting seminars & workshops on Transgender counseling, youth, sexuality, relationships, image presentation, medical options, resources, etc. And don't forget our annual "**Spring Fling**" Gala dinner & dance with live entertainment celebrating 20 years of service to the Transgender community.