



TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

December 2009

WWW.TRANSCENTRALPA.ORG

Volume 20, Issue 12

GROUP

December Dinner We'll be meeting at Café Fresco (www.cafefresco.com) for our December pre-meeting dinner on Saturday, December 12 at 5:30 pm. We'll sit down promptly at 6:00 pm. Menu items are priced between \$9 and \$26 with most entrees around the \$19 range. Please RSVP if you plan to attend at info@transcentralpa.org.

December Meeting is Saturday, December 12 at 8:30 pm. Doors will open at approximately 8:00 pm for those needing to change. 2010 Officer elections will be conducted as well as our normal social time and announcements.

2010 Officer Nominations opened at our October meeting. The nomination window for 2010 Officers closes at our December 12 meeting prior to voting. If you are interested in volunteering or have a nomination, please contact our current Secretary Gretchen Ly. at our email address info@transcentralpa.org. Nominations so far are Jeanine Ru. for President, Kristy Sn. for Vice President, Wendy Sw. for Secretary and Gretchen Ly. for Treasurer.

"After Hours" is TransCentralPA's newest event! So many have asked us to find a place to gather after our meetings that provides a great atmosphere to enjoy a drink and a little bite to eat while continuing to mingle and socialize. Bricco (www.briccopa.com), one of the top restaurant/bars in Harrisburg, is very eager and excited to help us start this new event! In fact, they are going to offer a special drink and late night snack menu specifically for us! **After Hours** is a return to a smooth and sophisticated evening scene and open to everyone. So please help us spread the word and come check out our new venue! There is no cover charge for the December event. Starting in January, we plan to institute a small cover charge/donation



Members and guests of TransCentralPA took part in the Fall Achievement Benefit in Lancaster on November 14th. There were over 525 attendees to this wonderful annual event. For more pictures, please visit our website.

for non-members (members will be free) with all proceeds going to TransCentralPA.

Want to be a Mentor? We are in the early stages of forming a Mentor program for Trans-youth individuals. If you are interested in being a big brother or sister, please let Jeanine Ru or Danni Fi. know or if you would like more information about the program.

December Birthdays! Please say Happy Birthday to Jayme Ja. and Sara Pe.

2010 Membership Dues are \$35 (same as 2009) if you renew on or before our Jan 9 meeting. Otherwise, 2010 dues will be \$40. 2010 Membership applications will be available at the December meeting. Current members can renew online. Email us at info@transcentralpa.org for directions. Dues are used to pay for meeting space, program literature, our website and our affiliation with and support of community groups and activities such as Com-

See 'Announcements' on page 3...

After Hours at Bricco

*Hosted by TransCentralPA, **After Hours** is a return to a smooth and sophisticated evening scene. Open to all, **After Hours** provides an opportunity to mingle and socialize in an inclusive and friendly atmosphere at one of the top restaurant/bars in Harrisburg. So for great conversation, friendship and more, please join us at **Bricco** (www.briccopa.com) on Saturday, December 12th. There is no cover charge for this opening event!*

As we come close to our final meeting for the year of 2009, I took a look back at our activity and accomplishments for the year. It is truly amazing! Our energy, effort and teamwork have led us to a level I have hoped for, but thought was years away- thank each and every one of you for helping us and our cause achieve so much, so soon.

My primary mission and goal as your leader has been to increase our visibility to the local and general public, and thus to foster their greater understanding and acceptance of transgender people. Together we continue to make huge advances doing so, and I look forward to 2010 with eager anticipation, knowing that as we come forth with pride and positive attitudes we continue to make the world a better place to be a transgender person.

This year, we of TransCentralPA have:

- Presented a panel discussion to a Gender Studies class at York College (Jeanine R., Finnie W. and Casey S.)
- Presented the "Trans 101" panel at the GSA Summit at HACC (Jeanine R. & Mykal S.).
- Founded and hosted the first annual *Keystone Conference: A Celebration of Gender Diversity* at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey hotel. Wow!! We did it!! It's huge success, still being talked about across the country, has shown everyone that we are the most with it, active and forward thinking local trans group in the region, if not the entire country.
- Attended a reception by the LGBT Community Center for TransCentralPA following a performance of *Hedwig & The Angry Inch* at the Open Stage Theater in Harrisburg
- Marched (twenty members) behind our banner in the Central PA Pride Parade
- Set up and staffed an information booth at the Central PA Pride Festival
- Officers of TransCentralPA have been regularly attending *the Leadership Training Series* hosted by the LGBT Community Center

From the President



Jeanine Ruhsam

- Become involved and worked as chaperones and mentors to transgender youth through the LGBT Community Center/Common Roads (Danni F.)
- Presented a talk and Q&A to the GSA at Elizabethtown College (Jeanine R.)
- Maintained membership and attended meetings of the CPGLCC (*CentralPA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce*) (Jeanine R. attended their greet & meet mixers as your representative)
- Attended FAB (twenty four of us), the holiday gala dinner dance hosted by the *LGBT Community Center* (Jeanine R. as TransCentralPA's representative & planning committee member)
- Organized and staged the first annual *Transgender Day of Remembrance* candlelight ceremony at the

State Capitol, attended by about 40 people

- Participated in the lovely *Transgender Witness* service put on by Rev. Charles Tigard at the MCC of the Spirit
- Organized and attended dinners at local mainstream restaurants every month prior to our meetings
- Had an invited presence and explained our group's mission at "The Gay Ole Holiday Party" at Liquid 891.
- Launched **After Hours**, the new nightclub scene in Harrisburg

I have personally been further involved as the sole transgender board member of the LGBT Community Center of Central Pennsylvania (www.centralpalgbtcenter.org), and also have accepted an invitation to serve as a director of IFGE (International Foundation for Gender Education www.ifge.org). This I have done with the desire to help advance the purpose and goals of TransCentralPA, the voice and home of the transgender community of central Pennsylvania.

Thanks, Members and supporters, for another great year!

Warmly,

Jeanine Ruhsam



The first Central Pennsylvania candlelight vigil for Transgender Day of Remembrance was held on November 20th at the Pennsylvania Capitol steps.

Calendar of Events

Dec 5	TGEA Holiday Gala Arlington, VA
Dec 12	TCPA Dinner TCPA Group Meeting 2010 Officer Elections! 'After Hours' @ Bricco
Dec 19	Baltimore GLCC Holiday Party Baltimore, MD
Jan 9	TCPA Dinner TCPA Group Meeting 'After Hours' @ Bricco
Jan 12	First Event Peabody, MA
Feb 13	TCPA Dinner TCPA Group Meeting 'After Hours' @ Bricco
Feb 26	3rd Annual GSA Summit Dickinson College, PA
Mar 11	Keystone Conference 2010 Harrisburg, PA
Mar 13	No TransCentralPA Meeting Join us at the Keystone Conference instead!
Apr 10	TCPA Dinner TCPA Group Meeting 'After Hours' @ Bricco
Visit www.TransCentralPA.org for more event info!	

TransCentralPA

is a member of the

LGBT
center coalition

Don't Forget!

Enter to win a free night stay at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel during the 2010 Keystone Conference by pre-registering by December 14th.



For more information and to register visit:

www.TransCentralPA.org/Keystone.htm

Announcements (continued)

mon Roads, the Community Center, Central Pennsylvania Pride, etc. Please continue to support our organization and efforts by joining or renewing your membership—we are making a difference!

November Meeting Stats: There was no meeting in November, but we had 24 TransCentralPA representatives/attendees at the Fall Achievement Benefit!

Keystone Conference 2010 TIME IS RUNNING OUT! Don't forget to pre-register by December 14 for a chance to win a free night stay at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel during the conference (everyone except TransCentralPA Officers and family are eligible to win). Please help us to spread the word! You can visit the Keystone website by clicking on the link from our website. If you would like to volunteer or have any thoughts or ideas, please share them with Jeanine or Kristy.

Fall Achievement Benefit was FABULOUS! There were over 525 attendees. TransCentralPA and our attendees were specially recognized at the ceremony during the introduction. Thanks to all who attended and represented the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

The MCC of the Spirit, LGBT Community Center and TransCentralPA hosted a candlelight vigil on the steps of the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building on November 20th. There were approximately 50 people in attendance.

EVENTS

TGEA Holiday Gala Dec 5 in Arlington, VA. Join our TGEA friends and compatriots at the 2009 Holiday Gala in Arlington, VA. There will be entertainment, a DJ and dancing, mirth and merriment. Formal attire is highly encouraged and appreciated. This truly is a night to sparkle and shine! A block of rooms have been reserved under the name of "TGEA." Visit www.TGEA.net for more details or see their ad on page 4.

Baltimore GLCC Annual Holiday Party is Saturday, Dec 19 from 8 to 11 pm. Everyone is welcome. Please visit groups.yahoo.com/group/giginmd for more details. The street address of the BGLCC is 241 W Chase Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

CPGLCC Annual Meeting and Din-

See 'Announcements' on page 4...

The
KEYSTONE CONFERENCE
A Celebration of Gender Diversity

March 11th—13th, 2010 in Harrisburg, PA

Announcements (continued)

ner will be held at the historic Hamilton Club, on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 6 PM. The Hamilton Club is located at 106 East Orange Street in Lancaster, PA. The Chamber will be highlighting its accomplishments for 2009, as memberships - both individual and business - have dramatically improved. National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Chief of Staff & Director of Affiliate Relations, Kate Karasmeighan, will be the keynote speaker. Music will be provided by local pianist Anthony Haubert. Sponsorships for this event are welcome. Members and Guests must register in advance for the event by Friday, January 8, 2010. Cost is \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. Registration and sponsorship forms are available at www.cpglcc.org.

OTHER

New MTF Group Starting Therapist Alexis Lake is starting up a discussion/counseling group in Lititz for those transitioning or contemplating transition from male-to-female. An organizational meeting will be held on Friday, Jan 15 from 7-8 pm at her Lititz office. There will be no charge for this hour long session and all are invited to attend. Future sessions will meet on evenings the group itself chooses for two hours. The cost will be \$40.00 for each two hour session. This will be an open group and each member will pay as they attend. Please contact her at (717) 575-3757 for additional details and directions.

Also, if there is interest, she will hold another organizational meeting at 8 pm on Jan 15 for friends and loved ones of transitioning male-to-female individuals.

TGEA
Holiday Gala

JOIN THE CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009
7:00 P.M. TO 1:00 A.M.

<p>Holiday Inn Arlington 2650 Jefferson Davis Hwy Arlington, VA 22202</p>	<p>Ask Hotel for TGEA Room Rates (703) 684-7200</p>
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Tickets \$65 for Members \$70 for Non-Members
After October 31, 2009 tickets are \$70 and \$75
Late Evening Dancing and Desert \$25
Cancellations before Nov 15 will receive full refund.
From Nov 15 – 28 only a partial refund after expenses.
All reservations must be received by Dec. 2nd
Reservation form and info online at www.tgea.net

S P I R I T

Come join us for worship and friendship!

Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit
 2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110
www.MCCoftheSpirit.org

TransCentralPA
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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

www.TransCentralPA.org
info@transcentralpa.org

Special Deal for Members & Guests!

	Standard Room	All-inclusive Business King
Jan — Apr	\$39.99	\$49.99
May — Aug	\$49.99	\$59.99
Sep — Dec	\$39.99	\$49.99

We have negotiated the above rates at the Red Roof Inn on Eisenhower Blvd (across from Liquid891) on our meeting nights only. You must call the hotel directly at (717) 939-1331 to reserve the room under the "TransCentralPA Group" rate.

