



TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

May 2010

WWW.TRANSCENTRALPA.ORG

Volume 21, Issue 5

GROUP

May's Dinner will be at Café Fresco (www.cafefresco.com) for our pre-meeting dinner on Saturday, May 8 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 \$19-22 range. Please RSVP if you plan to attend at info@transcentralpa.org.

May Meeting is Saturday, May 8 at 8:30 pm. Doors will open at approximately 8:00 pm for those needing to change.

After Hours moves to Stock's on 2nd (www.stocksonsecond.com) in May. Stock's offers the opportunity to mingle and socialize in a friendly atmosphere as well as an opportunity to dance to some great music. So for great conversation, friendship and more, please join us at [Stock's on Second](http://www.stocksonsecond.com). There is no cover charge!

New Website is up. We have revamped our site and have integrated Google Calendar into our site. So if you know of an upcoming event, let us know so we can help spread the word! We have taken the picture pages down. I am looking at different programs that we can incorporate in our site to better display the pictures. In the meantime, we are going to utilize our TransCentralPA and Keystone Conference Yahoo Groups to collect pictures.

Yahoo Group Changes. We have



We had 14 people attend April's Dinner at Bricco and approximately 27 people attend the meeting afterward. Come join us at Café Fresco for May.

made changes to our Yahoo Groups to allow people to post pictures as well as messages. We have changed the settings to require that all pictures and posts be moderated. This is simply to deny spammers from hijacking the messaging system and post inappropriate solicitations and messages (as well as pictures).

groups.yahoo.com/group/TransCentralPA

Keystone Yahoo Group added! We have added a Yahoo Group to help us collect the myriad of pictures from the conference so we can use some of them for next year's site. Like our TransCentralPA Group, anyone can post pictures and messages, but they need to be moderated before they can be seen by anyone.

[Keystone Conference Yahoo Group](#)

Center Donation TransCentralPA

made a \$500 donation to the LGBT Community Center, much of which was used to support the LGBT Youth Butterfly Ball that occurred during the Keystone Conference.

Red Roof Inn Discount. We have negotiated a rate of \$42.99/night for 2010 for both TransCentralPA members and guests. To take advantage of this special offer, call the hotel directly at (717) 939-1331 and use the rate code "TCPA". They also are offering a special price for their Business King suites, too. Ask for details.

May Birthdays! Please say Happy Birthday to Donna Marie Gu., Tina La., Alexis Wa., & Karen, Fr.

2010 Membership Dues are now \$30. Normally \$40, the rates are re-

See 'Announcements' on page 3...

From the President



Jeanine Ruhsam

Two nights ago I stood before the Board of Directors of the Central PA LGBT Center and explained to them why the issue of gender non-conformity is not a mental disorder or disease. The Center's staff and directors had rightly signed on to a petition circulated by Centerlink, a networking site for the nation's LGBT community centers, which called on the American Psychiatric Association to eliminate all diagnoses addressing gender identity and non-conformity from the DSM-5 (the newest revision of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual is published by the APA and provides a common language and standard criteria for the classification of mental disorders). Unfortunately a few board members expressed non-support of that move, so the Center's president—an ardent supporter of TransCentralPA—asked me to try to educate the BOD on the issue so they would all stand behind this effort to de-pathologize gender non-conformity.

Interestingly—and quite importantly my talk led full circle to the current debate on ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act, soon to be voted on in Congress) which would prohibit discrimination against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. As many of you know, the debacle of the 2007 ENDA legislation (the bill ultimately died) stemmed from it being

stripped of its transgender-inclusive language in an abortive effort to get it to pass (only HRC [the Human Rights Campaign] of all the nations LGBT organizations backed this version of the bill, and suffers derision for that move to this day). There are opponents of ENDA, and they are loud- and they are nasty. They have targeted the transgender component of the bill in their effort to derail its passage, and their weapon is the DSM-4. Their argument is simple: gender non-conforming people (transgender people- all of us) are mentally ill—as proved by the DSM—and should not be given the same rights as “normal” people, for they might do harm to others. They love to trot out the bathroom and locker-room scenarios, wherein lurking men-in-dresses, given access to such facilities by the passage of ENDA, prey on helpless girls and women.

I concluded my talk by stressing the point that what draws LGBT people together as a collective group is that *we all challenge gender conformity*. As such we need to fully support each other in our effort to achieve full equality for *all* people here in the United States of America.

TransCentralPA is dedicated to promoting acceptance of transgender people through education and visibility, and I look forward to being with all of you for dinner at Café Fresco, followed by the monthly TransCentralPA meeting and *After Hours* at Stock's on 2nd Saturday, May 8.

Sincerely,
Jeanine



Calendar of Events

Bold items are TransCentralPA sponsored

May 7	2010 Black & White Party Club XS, York, PA
May 8	TransCentralPA Dinner TransCentralPA Meeting After Hours @ Stock's on 2nd
May 15	ROSE York, PA
May 16	Espirit Conference Port Angeles, WA
May 18	PFLAG York, PA
May 20	Empire Conference Albany, NY
May 22	Tranquility Group Baltimore, MD
May 25	TLDEF's 5th Anniversary Benefit New York, NY
Jun 1	Be-All 2010 Chicago, IL
Jun 3	Trans-Health Conference Philadelphia, PA
Jun 3	Carolina Gender Odyssey Gastonia, NC
Jun 12	TransCentralPA Dinner TransCentralPA Meeting After Hours @ Stock's on 2nd
Jun 19	Lancaster PA Pride Lancaster, PA
Jul 10	TransCentralPA Dinner TransCentralPA Meeting After Hours @ Stock's on 2nd
Jul 14	Tri-Ess S.P.I.C.E St. Louis, MO
Jul 24	Central PA Pride Festival Harrisburg, PA
Jul 31	COLAGE Family Week Provincetown, MA
Aug 14	TransCentralPA Dinner TransCentralPA Meeting After Hours @ Stock's on 2nd

Visit www.TransCentralPA.org for more event info!

Announcements (continued)

duced \$10 each quarter. 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 Common 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!

NEWS & TIDBITS

T IS FOR TEACHER examines the experiences of 4 transgender teachers who transitioned from male to female within the American school system. Director Rohan Spong travels to New York, Minneapolis, New Mexico and Arizona to interview these remarkable teachers about their harrowing struggles and euphoric triumphs. Along the way, he captures the responses of students, parents, school administrations, a newspaper editor and conservative church groups. This bold documentary film charts a shift in the zeitgeist of American attitudes towards people of difference and leaves the viewer with a variety of poignant lessons about acceptance. Visit www.rohanspong.net/teacher

Illinois Passes Anti-Bullying Bill to Protect Students' Sexual Orientation. An anti-bullying bill, which Illinois Governor Pat Quinn is expected to sign shortly, is the latest in the country to specify protection for all students on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression.

Trans-Summer Camp - Parents have a new and welcome option this summer for their transgender or gender non-conforming child -- a weeklong, overnight summer camp called Camp Aranutiq (www.camparanutiq.org) Its



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organizers recently held a reception in the Boston area to introduce the program. In attendance were several new-age parents who, instead of rejecting their child's persistent gender non-conformity, are seeking ways to be understanding and helpful.

Transperson Elected - Marisa Richmond is the first openly transgender person to win an election in Tennessee when she was elected to the Davidson County Democratic Party Executive Committee. She is also the first African American transgender person to be elected delegate to the Democratic National Convention from any state.

Got Style? Three transgendered ladies take the stage on TRANSform Me, a VH1 series bent on changing lives. Led by Laverne Cox of I Want to Work for Diddy, this glamorous group is out to save style-starved ladies from making even more mistakes with their appearances.

OTHER

Trans-friendly certified Massage Therapist 16+ years experience in Swedish, Shiatsu and Reflexology modalities. Will travel to your home or come to mine! Highly discreet and understanding! Harrisburg area-- Donna Opuszynski CMT AAS BA 610-909-0097



Free Admission

to TransCentralPA Members on the second Saturday of the month.



Special Deal for TransCentralPA!

For 2010, we have negotiated the above rate at the Red Roof Inn on Eisenhower Blvd (across from Liquid891). Call the hotel directly at (717) 939-1331 to reserve the room under the "TCPA" rate.

TransCentralPA

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

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