



TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

June 2011

WWW.TRANSCENTRALPA.ORG

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Announcements

July's Dinner will be at Bricco on Saturday, July 9 at 5:30p (www.briccopa.com). We'll sit down promptly at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP if you plan to attend at info@transcentralpa.org.

July's Meeting is Saturday, July 9 at 8:30 pm. Doors will open at approximately 8:00 pm for those needing to change.

After Hours is at Stock's on 2nd Stock's (www.stocksonsecond.com). 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 2nd. There is no cover charge!

Pride Festival is July 30. TransCentralPA will have a booth at the festival and are looking for volunteers to help at the booth. We are looking for 12 people total to help us sit 3 shifts of 4 people each for 2 hours at a time starting at noon. We will provide a free wrist band to those 12 who volunteer. Of course you are more than welcome to hang-out at the booth with us. If you would like to sign-up to volunteer, please click [here](#). Remember, the parade portion of the Festival has been cancelled.

July Birthdays! Please say Happy Birthday to Jeanine Ru., Julia Wa., JoJo Br., Dante Gr., Auston Lu., Lacey Lynn Re., Kay Lo., Danni Fi., and Thom Be.

2011 Membership We have reduced the annual fee to \$25 thanks in part to the Keystone Conference and everyone's part in making it such a success. Dues are used to pay for meeting space, program literature, our website and our affiliation with and support of



"Making Strides for 20 Years Strong"

Saturday, July 30th

Come join us at the Pride Festival. Although there will not be a parade this year, TransCentralPA is still planning on hosting a booth. And for those of you who choose to sign up to staff it, you'll receive a free admission to the Festival. Please sign up at www.timetosignup.com/transcentralpa/signupsheet/4354

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!

Online Membership Application now available! You can either download the form and mail it in or you can fill it out online and pay via PayPal with a credit card. Visit our site and click on the Quick Link "[Membership Information](#)". Help us support the Transgender community.

Website Updates! We've added more businesses, services and information to our [Resources](#) pages. If you know of an excellent resource in the local area, please let us know about it so we can list it as well.

New SO Group Several of our GG spouses are forming a TransCentralPA online group for spouses and significant others to discuss issues and offer support for each other. Please email us at info@transcentralpa.org if you would like more information.



July, the heat of summer, and the Pride Festival of Central PA are here once again. This will be my 8th consecutive year attending it and helping with the TransCentralPA info booth... and it's been hot & sunny every time! It is being held as it has been for the past 18 years in Harrisburg's lovely Riverfront Park. Unfortunately this year there'll be no parade—a real disappointment, as our presence has grown each year that the parade has been held. Why—we won second prize for the marching groups last year! Nonetheless, TransCentralPA is proud to participate once again with setting up and populating our information booth on the Festival grounds. I ask you to participate—and to ask your friends and supporters to come join us—and continue to send the powerful message to the larger Pennsylvania community of our numbers and our place in society and the workplace.

From the President



Jeanine Ruhsam

Please sign up to staff our booth (and receive a free admission to the Festival) at www.timetosignup.com/transcentralpa/signupsheet/4354

Keystone Conference 2012—to be held on March 20-25—at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey—is well underway! After again seeing our attendance numbers grow from our previous efforts, to the point that we are the second largest gender conference in the USA, we are excited and hoping for an even bigger turnout for our fourth event. We have improved upon last year's successful program and are planning some exciting new additions, including continuing education credits for educators and health care professionals. We'd love your involvement!! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact one of the TransCentralPA officers. No matter what, mark your calendars and save the date!

Central PA's glam event of the autumn season is set for November 12: FAB '11 (Fall Achievement benefit), the formal dinner/dance affair hosted by the LGBT Community Center Coalition/Common Roads CentralPA, is set to rock again, this time back at the upscale Lancaster Marriot Convention Center! We of TransCentralPA have been working with the Coalition to be an integral part of what promises to be an elegant and amazing evening. So, Gentlemen, get your tuxes ready, and Ladies, find that gown—this will be a night to remember! TransCentralPA has two tables of ten reserved, and we'd like more if we can. Last year there were twenty-four of us, and the three hundred other attendees recognized our strong presence. Stay tuned to www.transcentralpa.org for more info as we get closer.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at dinner at Bricco and at our meeting on July 9!

Warmly,

Jeanine Ruhsam



Alexis Lake, MSS, LSW

Alexis is a licensed social worker who has completed her transition and is interested in helping others confront their gender identity and to honor their choices.

New office in Lancaster County!

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Calendar of Events

Bold text are TransCentralPA sponsored

Jul 9	TCPA Dinner @ Bricco TCPA Meeting After Hours @ Stock's
Jul 9	TGEA Annual Cookout Arlington, VA
Jul 14	The Curve —LGBTQA Youth York, PA
Jul 15	Common Roads —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
Jul 16	Laptop Lounge King of Prussia, PA
Jul 22	Common Roads —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
Jul 29	Common Roads —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
Jul 28	The Curve —LGBTQA Youth York, PA
Jul 29	Gender Spectrum Family Berkley, CA
Jul 30	Central PA Pride Harrisburg, PA
Jul 30	Laptop Lounge Mid Summer Masquerade King of Prussia, PA
Aug 5	Common Roads —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
Aug 6	TGEA Annual Cookout Arlington, VA
Aug 13	TCPA Dinner TCPA Meeting After Hours @ Stock's
Aug 20	Camp Highlight Wernersville, PA
Sep 21	Southern Comfort Conference Atlanta, GA
Oct 16	Fantasia Fair Provincetown, MA
Nov 2	Beauty at the Beach Rehoboth Beach, DE
Nov 12	Fall Achievement Benefit Lancaster, PA

Visit www.TransCentralPA.org for details & more event info!



HHS Includes Transgender People

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has revealed new plans to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in their survey research. This is huge. Just last week, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said that they would work to collect data on LGBT health. Today, they've shown us the plan to do just that.

As told to reporters, transgender people haven't been included in federal studies before because the research on how to study our community hasn't been available. Now, we have the Obama Administration's commitment to support the groundwork needed to do the real research right. Once we have the scientifically accurate data on transgender health, we'll be able to fight for the vital health programs and resources that we need.

There are still a lot of questions in the air and the Department of Health and Human Services is giving us a chance to talk about them.

Read the full statement [here](#).

Birth Certificate Gender Markers

A birth certificate is an important document used to prove one's identity and citizenship. For those who can afford one, a passport can serve the same purposes. However, the ability to change one's sex designation on birth certificates remains an important issue for many transgender people. As lawyers at [Lambda Legal](#) point out, states have varying procedures for updating these documents, and a few actually prohibit changing the gender marker on birth certificates.

Many states model their policies for amending birth certificates on the Model Vital Statistics Act and Regulations (or Model Law). Currently being revised, the Model Law is developed by consultation between the state and federal governments and was last updated in 1992. The Model Law is intended to be a guide for states, so that states can model their own vital statistics laws and regulations after its suggestions.

Read the full brief [here](#).

Three Social Security Policies Worth Changing

NCTE advocates with many federal agencies on many issues. Often the policies we work for are obscure, small-seeming tweaks that most transgender people haven't thought much about. They are important, but generally thought of or understood less. In other cases, the policies we want are very familiar and desperately important to many transgender people. One example is our advocacy with the Social Security Administration (SSA). Most transgender people know that SSA has a troublesome and outdated policy for changing gender markers on Social Security Accounts. And many folks are aware of the so-called "no-match letters" that many of us have received at work, effectively outing us as transgender when we have an inaccurate gender marker on our Social Security (SS) account. But transgender SSA policy work actually has a third component: SSA's Program Operations Manual System (POMS) guidance that treats all marriages involving transgender people as "questionable" or suspect, without providing clear guidance, resulting in inaccurate and wasteful scrutiny of beneficiaries' medical status. Clearly, we want to fix all three areas.

Read the full brief [here](#).

UN Passes Resolution to Prevent Human Rights Violations for LGBT People

Today, the international community took an important step in the fight for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights around the world. In a narrow 23-19 vote, the United Nation's Human Rights Council passed a [resolution](#) calling attention to the daily mistreatment, discrimination and violence that LGBT people face. It charges the Human Rights Council High Commissioner, Navanethem Pillay, with preparing and presenting a study on discriminatory laws and practices that restrict or oppress LGBT people. The resolution also establishes appropriate follow-up to seek recommendations to eliminate them.

Read full statement [here](#).





Summer Camp!

Camp Highlight is a one week overnight camp for children with gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender parents.

When: August 20-27

Where: South Mountain YMCA in Wernersville, PA

Who: Youth ages 8 to 15

www.CampHighlight.com



Free

Screening

Walk-in STD Screening, Treatment and HIV Testing is available every Wednesday from 6PM to 9PM at Alder Health's Harrisburg Health Center (100 N. Cameron St., Ste. 301-East, Harrisburg). No appointment necessary. For more information visit www.AlderHealth.org or call 800-867-1550.

Primary Care On Track

for July 5 Launch

The Primary Care Services of Alder Health are quickly taking shape. Equipment and supplies arrive every day, and a strong medical team is being assembled to provide quality health services to the South Central Pennsylvania community. All the Health Center's staff have a strong commitment to meeting the unique health needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and individuals who are struggling with addiction.

While we are happy to welcome you as a new patient at any time, the first medical appointments will be available on July 5th. The Agency is working quickly to secure relationships with many health insurance providers serving the South Central Pennsylvania region. Currently Alder Health has established relationships with both Highmark and Aetna. Please visit our website (www.AlderHealth.org) for updates to the list of insurance plans accepted for primary care services at

Alder Health.

For individuals who may be uninsured or do not have a plan currently accepted by Alder Health Services, you may qualify for participation in the Agency's sliding fee scale program, which provides discounts based upon your household income.

Mental Health Counseling

Affordable Care for People of All Income Brackets Counseling.

Committed to making all of the health services offered by Alder Health accessible and affordable, the Board of Directors has created a sliding-fee-scale that is utilized to assure that the mental health services offered by the Agency are affordable regardless your income.

Members of the community may access professional counseling services for as little as \$6 based upon their household income. However, the Board of Directors has also placed a maximum limit on the cost of care for individuals accessing mental health services at Alder Health. While it is not unusual to hear of individuals being billed in excess of \$120 per counseling session, no participant in Alder Health's program will pay more than \$60 per session.

For more information on Mental Health Services at Alder Health or to schedule an appointment please call 1-800-867-1550.



Youth Training Offered

The Center is pleased to announce that we will be growing our professional training program through a summer institute for K-12 professionals called *Understanding & Supporting LGBTQ Students*. The training will take place July 11-15 from 9am to 4pm.

This summer institute is a week long training program for K-12 professionals that will provide an opportunity to engage a wide range of topics regarding effectively supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning students, including gender and sexuality 101, advocacy and gay-straight alliances, curriculum development and classroom management, legal issues, LGBTQ youth in the child welfare system, and gender bullying as sexual violence. Thanks to Temple University Harrisburg, who will be hosting the training, for offering Continuing Education Social Work and Act 48 Professional Development Credits. Up to 30 are available. Registration is \$250. See more information and register today [online](#).



TransCentralPA

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

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