



TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

October 2009

WWW.TRASCENTRALPA.ORG

Volume 20, Issue 10

Announcements

GROUP

October Dinner is at Bricco (www.briccopa.com) on Saturday, October 10 at 5:30 pm. We'll sit down promptly at 6:00 pm. Bricco specializes in Mediterranean and Tuscan styled food with pizzas and primis priced \$11 to \$22 and full entrees priced \$24 to \$38. Bricco is associated with the Olewine School of Culinary Arts at Harrisburg Area Community College. Please RSVP if you plan to attend at info@transcentralpa.org.

October Meeting is Saturday, October 10 at 8:30 pm. Doors will open at approximately 8:00 pm for those needing to change. Come meet therapist Alexis Lake, a post-operative MTF, who will be joining us for dinner and the meeting. Alexis is based in Malvern but recently opened a new office in Lititz. See the box for details.

Welcome! Please welcome our newest members Carol Wi, Karen Fr and Patti Kn.

2010 Director Nominations open at our October meeting. The nomination window for 2010 Officers closes at our Dec 12 meeting prior to voting. If you are interested in volunteering or have a nomination, please contact our Secretary Gretchen Ly at our email address info@transcentralpa.org.

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 October meeting. Current members can renew online. Email us



TransCentralPA members pose with Governor Ed Rendell during our August Dinner. (I forgot to post the picture in the September newsletter. Oops!)

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 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!

September Meeting Stats: We had 10 people join us for dinner at Carley's Ristorante and 39 people attend the group meeting. Long-time supporter and therapist Amy Keisling (sister-in-law of National Center for Transgender Equality Executive Director Mara Keisling) joined us to

meet our new members and guests as well as listen to our stories and offer her guidance. Ann Foster from the Harrisburg Patriot Newspaper also joined us. Ann is working on a pictorial/article for the newspaper on the difficulties of being Trans.

Found! Someone left a spring jacket at our September meeting. Also, a small, blue make-up bag was left months ago and is still unclaimed.

October Birthdays! Please say Happy Birthday to Gretchen L.

Keystone Conference 2010 website is officially up and running! We've had dozens of people already pre-register 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

National Equality March
in Washington, DC

Sunday, October 11th, 2009

www.nationalequalitymarch.com



See 'Announcements' on page 4...

In the few days that I was in Atlanta last week attending the Southern Comfort Conference, central Pennsylvania seemed to have deftly made its transition from summer to autumn. Today I symbolically put my swimsuits away and brought out my warm sweaters...as my pulse quickened to the chill in the air and the thought of all there is to do as the year winds down.

The impact of TransCentralPA and our Keystone Conference on the national transgender scene was amazingly evident at SCC, where a majority of the 600 plus attendees knew or had heard of our event here in Harrisburg. We expect our second annual Celebration of Gender Diversity on March 11 through 13, 2010 to be even more successful! We have already had our

From the President



Jeanine Ruhsam

first KC planning committee meeting, and I want to thank all of you who will be on board with your presence, energy and effort to help ensure that the event goes well. If you have any interest in helping us stage this event but haven't gotten involved yet, raise your hand- we want you to be part of our great team!

We will be opening nominations for the annual election of officers for TransCentralPA for 2010 at our up-

coming October 10 meeting. The election will take place as the first item on the December 12 monthly meeting agenda.

Our annual Fall Holiday Party will take place at FAB in Lancaster on the evening of November 14, in lieu of our November meeting. At the time I write this we have filled two tables with twenty transpeople. With over 500 LGBT people & supporters expected, I'd like to see more of the "T" represented, so please look on our website for information and make your reservation there! It promises to be a glam and fun evening, and a great way for you to be with friends and mingle with others while wearing your holiday best.

With warm wishes,

Jeanine



FALL ACHIEVEMENT BENEFIT

Saturday, November 14, 2009



Come join us at the new and beautiful Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Penn Square in Lancaster, Pennsylvania to mingle, dine and dance the night away at the 2009 Fall Achievement Benefit. Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB) is a cele-

bration of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community in central Pennsylvania. We promise an evening of great friendships, wonderful dinner, community awards presentation, and dancing all night long.

Proceeds from FAB 2009 will benefit the LGBT Center Coalition and Common Roads which have recently merged resources to better serve area LGBT youth and adults, alike. The Central Pennsylvania LGBT Center Coalition is a volunteer led effort to create a regionally representative community center that is both a location and a unifying point for central Pennsylvania's large, diverse and multi-county LGBT population.

As a member of the LGBT Community Center Coalition, TransCentralPA is happy to support and participate in the Fall Achievement Benefit and has

volunteered to help advertise this exquisite event to the Transgender Community and our friends, family and allies. We have several tables already reserved for TransCentralPA members & guests so come join us!

Tickets to FAB can only be purchased through 'Table Captains.' TransCentralPA has volunteered to be one and has set up a webpage to register and pay (you may also elect to pay via check or money order).

To reserve your seat with us, please visit the webpage below and complete the online registration. Reserve your tickets early. They are expecting a sold-out event with 500+ guests so don't delay!

www.TransCentralPA.org/FAB.htm



Calendar of Events

Oct 10	TCPA Dinner TCPA Group Meeting
Oct 11	National Equality March Washington DC
Oct 18	Fantasia Fair Provincetown, MA
Oct 21	2nd Annual Interfaith Service Lancaster, PA
Oct 22	Rainbow Mountain TG/CD Weekend East Stroudsburg, PA
Oct 22	Pinkfest Chicago, IL
Nov 4	Beauty at the Beach Rehoboth Beach, DE
Nov 14	Fall Achievement Benefit Lancaster, PA (No regular TCPA Dinner or Meeting in lieu of FAB)
Nov 16	Lake Erie Gala Erie, PA
Nov 20	HACC "Drag Idol" Harrisburg, PA
Dec 5	TGEA Holiday Gala Arlington, VA
Dec 12	TCPA Dinner TCPA Group Meeting 2010 Officer Elections!
Feb 26	3rd Annual GSA Summit Dickinson College, PA
Mar 11	Keystone Conference 2010 Harrisburg, PA

Visit www.TransCentralPA.org for more event info!

Emily Platt

1937-2009

Our friend and fellow Transwoman Emily Platt passed out of this temporal life on September 9 after a brief struggle with colon cancer. Only a month before she & I made plans to go sailing together on the Chesapeake—one of her many passions that included wine-making, skiing and, most of all, her monthly Ladies' Night Out.

Emily started LNO in 2003, and it steadily grew in popularity. Her premise was that transgender people would gain society's acceptance only through exposure to and interaction with the public, and her method was to organize a group of transpeople and their SO's to dine at choice restaurants throughout the eastern PA/Western NJ area. Emily's last LNO was at the Stockton Inn the last Saturday of September, where her memory and life were celebrated. Her many followers have pledged to continue the enjoyable outreach of Ladies Night Out, and we at TransCentralPA will continue to help the cause.

Emily was a friend and supporter of TransCentralPA, publishing news of



our activities to her email list of LNO members. She also attended *the Keystone Conference 2009* and *Spring Fling* in 2008. During her stay at the *Keystone Conference* Emily and I snuck away from the event for a few hours of skiing together—and what a skier she was! I could never have guessed that day that she'd be taken away from us so soon.

Good bye, Emily...and thank you for gracing us all with your life.

Jeanine



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.



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!

100 Highlands Drive, Suite 301C
Lititz, PA 17543
(717) 575-3757

TransCentralPA

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

www.TransCentralPA.org
info@transcentralpa.org

Announcements (continued)

link from our website. If you would like to volunteer or have any thoughts or ideas, please share them with Jeanine R. or Kristy S.

No November Meeting! In lieu of our normal dinner and meeting, come join us at the Fall Achievement Benefit on Nov 14 at the Lancaster Convention Center! Check out our website for more information and to make reservations. This event is expected to sell out soon, so don't delay!

Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB)

Nov 14 at Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott to benefit the LGBT Community Center and Common Roads of Central Pennsylvania. Don't miss out on this fun and meaningful evening! We have about 20 people signed up and would love to have more! The special discounted room rate offered by the Marriott Penn Square for FAB attendees ends on Oct 15. Call 888-850-6146 and mention FAB to receive the discounted rate.

EVENTS

National Equality March Oct 11 in Washington DC. For more info, visit www.EqualityAcrossAmerica.org

2nd Annual Inter-Faith Service Oct 21 at 7:00 pm. Lancaster PA Pride 2009 is sponsoring this event to celebrate all GLBT persons and their communities of faith. This year's event will be held at Grace United Church of Christ, 1947 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA. Please call Grace United Church of Christ at 717-397-1012

2009 Beauty at the Beach Nov 4-8, in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Prices for double occupancy start at \$580 for Thursday to Sunday. Visit www.cdspub.com/batb.html for more info and details.

Lake Erie Gala Nov 16-21 in Erie, PA. Visit their website at www.eriesiters.org for more information.

HACC's "Drag Idol" Nov 20 at 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). Watch and cheer as students (both Queens and Kings) from every HACC campus compete for the title of HACC Drag

Which of These Two Faces is Male and Which is Female? (see box below)



Idol 2010 at the Cooper Student Center with guest performances by Glenda, Ms. Biscuit, Kalina KirkPatrick, Johanna Star Diamond, Jamayka Stephens and Madelyne Sterling! Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door. Proceeds benefit ALLIES and Common Roads. For details, visit www.thecentralvoice.ning.com.

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.

Ready to Step Up? The LGBT Community Center along with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) is offering a series of training sessions on organizational and leadership development to the community once a month at either St. Michael or All Angels Episcopal Church. If you would like to participate, please see Jeanine R. for more details.

OTHER

Anti-TG Ballot Initiative Kalamazoo, MI passed a wonderful non-discrimination ordinance that some people want to take away. And, of

course, they are using the most mean-spirited anti-transgender tactics in their attempt to overrule the fair people of Kalamazoo who stand with us. The National Center for Transgender Equality (www.nctequality.org) and the Transgender Law Center (www.transgenderlaw.org) are hosting a virtual House Party Across America on Tuesday, October 6 at 8:30pm ET (7:30 CT, 6:30 MT, 5:30pm PT). Visit their websites for details or if you would like to participate.

Transgender Candidate Brittany Novotny is a Transgender woman who is running for the Oklahoma State Legislature Her website is www.brittany4hd84.com

Secure Flight On Aug 17, The [Transportation Security Administration](http://www.transportation-security-administration.gov) (TSA) rolled out a new phase of their Secure Flight program over the weekend. Passengers will now be required to provide their birth date and gender when they book an airline ticket as part of a move to help distinguish passengers from those on the government's "watch list" (often called the "no-fly" list). NCTE has issued a new [FAQ \(Frequently Asked Questions\)](#) about the Secure Flight program and its impact on transgender people. The resource includes information about how to navigate the new process, particularly if you have ID that does not match your gender presentation. 

The illusion of gender! Turns out, the two 'faces' belong to the same person. The only difference is the level of contrast in each image.