



TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

July 2013
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Issue 5

www.TransCentralPA.org
info@TransCentralPA.org

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

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

July's Dinner will be at [Home321](#) in downtown Harrisburg on Saturday, July 13th at 5:30pm. We'll sit down promptly at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP if you plan to attend at our [website](#).

July's Meeting is Saturday, July 13th at 8:30 pm. Doors will open at approximately 8:00 pm. Amy Keisling will be at the July meeting and invites input on which of these two topics you might like to discuss. 1) How do current events affect your reality as a trans person? and, 2) How do you explain to people that you are trans, and what sort of reactions do you get? If you would like to offer your thoughts prior to the meeting, please send them to us at info@TransCentralPA.org and we will forward them to Amy.

After Hours is at [Stock's on Second](#). Stock's offers an 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!

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

2013 Membership Dues are a one-time annual fee of \$20. Spouses or SOs are \$10 for the year. 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!



First-of-Its-Kind Decision Mandates Equal Treatment for Transgender Students

(From TLDEF website)

TLDEF is thrilled to announce that the Colorado Civil Rights Division has [ruled in favor of six-year-old Coy Mathis](#), whose school had barred her from using the girls' bathroom at her elementary school because she is transgender. This is the first ruling in the nation holding that transgender students must be allowed to use bathrooms that match who they are, and the most comprehensive ruling ever supporting the rights of transgender people to access bathrooms without harassment or discrimination. The ruling is featured in [The New York Times](#).

"Schools should not discriminate against their students, and we are thrilled that Coy can return to school and put this behind her," said Kathryn Mathis, Coy's mother. "All we ever wanted was for Coy's school to treat her the same as other little girls. We are extremely happy that she now will be treated equally."

"This ruling sends a loud and clear message that transgender students may not be targeted for discrimination and that they must be treated equally in school," said TLDEF's executive director Michael Silverman. "It is a victory for Coy and a triumph for fairness."

In a resounding victory for the rights of transgender students, the Colorado Civil Rights Division wrote that Coy's school had treated her in a manner that

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Last week the brave and relentless efforts of two females changed the lives of transgender Americans for the better in monumental ways. Both won court decisions in their effort to achieve equal and fundamental rights that directly-- and indirectly for some-- impact our lives. One is six years old; the other is eighty four.

From the President



Jeanine Ruhsam

Eighty four year old Edie Windsor sued the United States government because she believed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) discriminated against her and deprived her of fair and just treatment under the law equal to opposite-sex married couples. After her wife Thea died—they were a committed couple for 42 years—she was subjected to a \$360,000 inheritance tax bill. Were Thea a male, there would have been no tax whatsoever. The Supreme Court heard the case, and on Wednesday, June 26 ruled in Edie’s favor, striking down DOMA. President Obama said later that day [that DOMA] “treated loving, committed gay and lesbian couples as a separate and lesser class of people. The Supreme Court has righted that wrong, and our country is better off for it.” Transgender people are affected by this, like it or not, because by our very existence and identity we cross gender lines and often find ourselves in marriages that are same-gender. Unfortunately our culture and thus our courts largely conflate gender and sex, so we are subject to the loss of many benefits available to opposite sex couples. This decision pressed by Edie will affect many of our lives.

Coy Mathis is a six year old girl who happens to also be transgender. She was the plaintiff in a complaint her parents filed against the Fountain/Fort Carson, Colorado school district; her unfair and unjust treatment was that she was refused use of the girl’s restroom at the elementary school she attended. Coy, diagnosed as transgender at four, used the girl’s bathroom at the same school in kindergarten, yet was inexplicably denied it when she returned for her first grade year. On Monday, June 24 the Colorado Civil Rights Division ruled that Coy must be allowed the use of the bathroom that matched her gender identity. In their decision they stated that the school district “demonstrated a lack of understanding of the complexity of transgender issues” and “created a barrier where none should exist.” They particularly noted that “telling [Coy] that she must disregard her identity while performing one of the most essential human functions constitutes severe and pervasive treatment, and creates an environment that is objectively and subjectively hostile, intimidating or offensive.”

Yes, the bathroom is the frontier where the big civil rights battle for transgender people is being fought. It seems rather ludicrous on the surface, but it isn’t to transgender people: our lives are adversely affected by the policing of gender at the bathroom door. On the same day that Coy’s decision occurred, a study by The Williams Institute (at UC Davis) was published that revealed that 70 percent of their transgender survey respondents had experienced verbal harassment, assault, and denial of access to public restrooms, and further, that 54 percent reported having physical problems from dehydration to kidney infections because of their avoidance of public restrooms.

It seems obvious to those who understand the gender/sex split, or even just have some common sense, that this issue needs to go away: wouldn’t you feel more comfortable in such a gendered setting with people who appear to be conforming to the gender rules? Given a Texas Senator’s recent argument in support of his bill requiring one to use the bathroom as designated by the sex on their birth certificate, bald, bearded, bass-voiced trans men would enter and use the women’s room, and long haired, perfumed, big-breasted, perfumed trans women in heels would enter and use the men’s room. Little, cute and kind Coy is our heroine; the decision she won helps shift the focus of how the public—and the courts—view transgender people in gendered public spaces, and gives legal precedent to our right to access them.

Jeanine Ruhsam



Calendar of Events

Bold text are TransCentralPA sponsored

Jul 3	Common Roads —Safe Space Harrisburg, PA
Jul 4	Common Roads —Safe Space Carlisle, PA
Jul 5	Common Roads —Safe Space Lancaster, PA
Jul 6	LapTop Lounge King Of Prussia, PA
Jul 6	TGEA Meeting Virginia
July 10	Common Roads —Safe Space Harrisburg, PA
Jul 11	Common Roads —Safe Space Carlisle, PA
Jul 11	The Curve York, PA
Jul 12	Common Roads —Safe Space Lancaster, PA
Jul 12	NoVA MCC Support Group Virginia
Jul 13	TransCentral PA Dinner @ Home 231 Meeting @ MCC Of The Spirit After Hours @ Stocks
Jul 16	PFLAG York, PA
Jul 17	Common Roads —Safe Space Harrisburg, PA
Jul 18	Common Roads —Safe Space Carlisle, PA
Jul 19	Common Roads —Safe Space Lancaster, PA
Jul 20	LapTop Lounge King Of Prussia, PA
Jul 24	Common Roads —Safe Space Harrisburg, PA
Jul 25	Common Roads —Safe Space Carlisle, PA
Jul 26	Common Roads —Safe Space Lancaster, PA
Jul 27	Pride Festival Of Central PA Harrisburg, PA

Dates Continued on page 3...

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

Trans-Headliners

Below are several news stories, blogs, opinions and resources for your reading pleasure. Opinions & views in these links cannot be assumed to be of TransCentralPA, nor the Officers or Members of TransCentralPA. Our goal is to simply provide you with information & thought-provoking viewpoints. If you would like to submit a story, please email us at info@TransCentral.org

[Retired Navy Seal comes out as Transgender, "Patriots" freak out](#)
[Transgender soldier meets the president](#)
[Public ridicule results in airport's apology to trans woman](#)
[Del.'s Attorney General Beau Biden wants legal protections for transgender people](#)
[Four Separate D.C. trans women attacked in ten days](#)
[The boy who was not a lesbian](#)
[Honorary role-model Texas State Sen. Wendy Davis](#)
[Boy starts hormone treatment at 12 after realizing he was trapped in a girl's body](#)
[Study confirms trans people's high risk of danger in using public restrooms](#)
[Right Unit finds bias against transgender student](#)
[Transgender 6-year-old wins civil rights case to use girl's restroom](#)
[Transgender woman stabbed repeatedly in D.C. attack](#)
[School's barring of trans-child from girls bathroom ruled discriminatory](#)
[Is Chaz Bono upset with WeHo?](#)
[Ally Robinson fired from OutServe/SLDN prompting staff & board resignations](#)
[Settlement: Sheriff was wrong to remove trans woman from women's bathroom](#)
[D.C. Drag entertainer beaten in viral video](#)
[California lawmakers pass K-12 transgender-rights bill](#)
[Did a victim's gender identity change prompt DA to drop charges?](#)
[Transgender people say they're ready for the spotlight](#)
[Trans people gain rights in Oregon, Delaware](#)
[Transgender professionals tell how they get over hurdles in the workplace](#)
[Nine-Year-Old Australian trans student wins bathroom & sports rights](#)
[How actress Laverne Cox broke the trans-glass ceiling](#)
[Transgender community awaits Maine's high court decision](#)
[Stealth trans people having sex should not be criminals](#)
['SheZow' is The Hub's first gender-bending cartoon hero \(video\)](#)
[Trans delegate to DNC 2012 denied admission to democrat women's association](#)
[Dancer takes beauty contest by storm as first transgender finalist](#)
[If the RAF can accept my gender transition, why can't the media?](#)
[Social Security eases trans angst with new transgender policies](#)
[Australia embraces new gender guidelines](#)
[Family and friends bid final farewell to campaigner Christie Edkins](#)
[Two trans women reportedly murdered in Mexico in recent days](#)
[LGBT Military group to choose new Board, Co-Chair at center of dispute to step down](#)
[Arrest made in pizzeria attack on drag performer](#)
[CA Senate passes bill supporting transgender student success](#)
[Murderer of SC trans woman sentenced to thirty years](#)
[Senate Ok's measure on transgender students on sports teams](#)
[TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly \(link through the University Of Arizona\)](#)
[Navy SEALs Team 6 unit member is transgender](#)
[Op-ed: Being married to a lesbian doesn't make me less of a man](#)
[Portraits of men wearing their girlfriend's clothes](#)
[Transgender Teens: What if a Girl were a Guy and a Guy were a Girl?](#)
[Christie Edkins: Trans musician, activist and more than a stat](#)
[Will Gov. Jerry Brown sign anti-discrimination bill to protect transgender students?](#)
[Transparent; A story of loss in a community misunderstood](#)
[Transgender bathroom rights bills passed by California lawmakers](#)
[The Christian Family Coalition hates transgender people too](#)
[DOMA, Don't Ask Don't Tell & the Transgender Community: No more waiting](#)
[Trans actions demands social justice](#)
[Arrest made in Hollywood trans woman brutal beating](#)
[Hate group ties transgender rights bill to empowering pedophiles](#)

Calendar of Events

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Jul 27	ROSE York, PA
Jul 27	Tranquility Support Group Baltimore, MD
Jul 31	Common Roads —Safe Space Harrisburg, PA
Aug 1	Common Roads —Safe Space Carlisle, PA
Aug 2	Common Roads —Safe Space Lancaster, PA
Aug 3	LapTop Lounge King Of Prussia, PA
Aug 3	TGEA Meeting Virginia
Aug 7	Common Roads —Safe Space Harrisburg, PA
Aug 8	Common Roads —Safe Space Carlisle, PA
Aug 8	The Curve York, PA
Aug 9	Common Roads —Safe Space Lancaster, PA
Aug 9	NoVA MCC Support Group Virginia
Aug 10	TransCentral PA Dinner @ Brick City Bar & Grill Meeting @ MCC Of The Spirit After Hours @ Stocks
Aug 14	Common Roads —Safe Space Harrisburg, PA
Aug 15	Common Roads —Safe Space Carlisle, PA
Aug 16	Common Roads —Safe Space Lancaster, PA
Aug 17	LapTop Lounge King Of Prussia, PA
Aug 18-25	Camp Highlight Wernersville, PA
Aug 20	PFLAG York, PA
Aug 21	Common Roads —Safe Space Harrisburg, PA
Aug 22	The Curve York, PA

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



gender reel
Philadelphia, PA
www.Genderreelfest.com

A COAST TO COAST EVENT
3 DAYS
Sept 19-21, 2013



The mission of the Jim Collins Foundation is to provide financial assistance to transgender people for gender-confirming surgeries. The Jim Collins Foundation recognizes that not every transgender person needs or wants surgery to achieve a healthy transition. But for those who do, gender-confirming surgeries are an important step in their transition to being their true selves. However, access to gender-confirming surgery is impossible for most. Discrimination against transgender people is so prevalent that many transgender people struggle to survive, never mind save for surgery costs. Even for those who have health insurance, coverage is systematically denied. Many insurance policies contain a "Transsexual Exclusion Clause" which excludes all medical procedures related to a person's transgender status. For many transgender people, access to surgery is out of reach.

The Jim Collins Foundation raises money to fund gender-confirming surgeries for those transgender people who need surgery to live a healthy life, but have no ability to pay for it themselves. We recognize that for those people who require surgery for a healthy gender transition, lack of access to surgery may result in hopelessness, depression, and sometimes, suicide. The Jim Collins Foundation is a community-based initiative promoting the self-determination and empowerment of all transgender people. Dru Levasseur and Tony Ferraiolo are available for speaking engagements.

www.JimCollinsFoundation.org



JOIN US FOR FAB 2013

A NIGHT OF GLAMOUR TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF COMMON ROADS

The Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB) is Central Pennsylvania's premier gala fundraiser of the LGBT Community Center Coalition! Make sure to be part of this special evening! TransCentralPA was honored last year and the first organization to receive the award.

Tickets are \$125 or \$100 if you order before 10/1/13—[CLICK HERE](#) to order your tickets today!

FAB 2013 will take place on November 9th at the

Hilton Harrisburg
1 North 2nd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

The festivities begin at 6:30pm with a cocktail hour, featuring delectable passed hors d'oeuvres. Explore the fantastic silent auction and bid on beautiful art, delightful dinners, and fantastic adventures! Grab a drink from the cash bar and mingle with the crowd. At 7:30, the doors open into the ballroom and Executive Director Louie Marven will greet you. Black tie optional.

Come celebrate the FAB award honorees including a special award to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of COMMON ROADS! [Get your tickets today!](#)



TRUTH, RESPECT, UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR LIVES TRANSITIONS

*Transgender Support Group for
Spouses, Significant Others and Family*

<http://www.SignificantOtherPA.org>

contact us at: info@significantotherpa.org



We Can Help

Let's Talk

Introducing THE TREE HOUSE at Alder Health



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth account for up to 40% of homeless youth throughout the United States. Many LGBT Youth are forced or asked to leave their homes as a result of their sexual orientation and/or their gender identity. As a result many young people are left with nowhere to turn and are living on the streets doing what they can to survive.

With no place to live, with the possibility (or the reality) of losing family and friends and often without community support, homeless LGBT face tremendous challenges in their efforts to find their way, to access health and wellness services, to chart a course for their lives and to emerge as strong, productive leaders in our community.

During the past year, Alder Health received multiple reports and requests from organizations working with homeless youth. The Agency recognized the need in the community for services and support for homeless LGBT youth (18 to 24) in our region and the tremendous impact homelessness and their individual experiences has upon the short-term and long-term health of LGBT youth. As a result, Alder Health Services has launched The Tree House at Alder Health.

In its infancy, the program will work to include shelter, support and longer term transitional housing to support LGBT youth in our community as they determine the desired direction for their lives. The plans for the Tree House program include access to health care, mental health services, education and life skills training program all provided according to the self-determined goals established by the program participant.

Donald Anklam has joined Alder Health Services as the Director of The Tree House Project. To learn more about The Tree House or become involved as the project takes shape please e-mail Donald@AlderHealth.org or call 1.800.867.1550.



Sunday, July 21 - At Hershey Park hosted by Alder Health Services



Join Alder Health Services and Central Voice for a wonderful day at Hersheypark on Sunday July 21. The day offers multiple ticket options to accommodate all interested members of the community. All participants receive a commemorative event t-shirt.

Pride in the Park Welcome Area is open for ticket pick-ups and information from 9:30AM to 2:00PM. The Community Picnic will be held from 12:00Noon to 1:00PM. Tickets to the picnic are limited so do not delay. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance. All tickets must be picked-up at the Pride in the Park Welcome Area at the tram drop-off at Hersheypark that day between 9:30AM and 2PM. No tickets may be sold that day. All tickets purchased before July 12 include an event t-shirt. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit [Pride in the Park 2013](#).

- Admission Ticket Only: \$42
- Admission and Picnic: \$56
- Picnic Only (Season Ticket Holders): \$25

Pride in the Park is a private event hosted by Alder Health Services and co-sponsored by The Central PA Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, The Harrisburg Men's Chorus, PFLAG-Central PA, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, TransCentralPA and Freedom Rings of Lebanon Valley College.



... 'Announcements' from Page 1

2014 Keystone Conference—It's Official! We've renewed the contract with the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel as the host hotel for the 2014 Keystone Conference. Mark the date now: March 26th-30th. To make your room reservations, please visit our website at www.keystone-conference.org for more information.

Spouse/SO-only Dinner—Sara and Lorrie are looking to plan a July dinner for spouses and SO's at a centrally located restaurant towards the end of the month. If you would be interested in attending, contact them at info@significanttotherpa.org

Central PA Pride—The Central Pennsylvania Pride Festival & Parade is Saturday, July 27th. 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 on our [Pride Festival Page](#).

Our Condolences—We are sad to announce the passing of JoAnne Roberts, founder of CDS Publications, TGForum, Beauty at the Beach, Paradise at the Poconos, and many other significant pre-Internet era accomplishments died Friday June 7 after a long illness. JoAnn's Paradise in the Poconos event resulted in the founding of Transpitt some 30 years ago in 1983. Our community has lost a wonderful and energetic leader. She passed away at the age of 65.

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 Aranu'tiq](#).

Red Roof Inn Discount We have negotiated a rate of \$42.99/night for 2013 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 are also offering a special price for their Business King suites, too. Ask for details.

Have an announcement? Email it to us at info@TransCentralPA.org

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
GAY AND LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Upcoming Business Networking Mixers

Members: Free

Prospective Member: \$10

Bring your business cards and 30 second elevator speech. Business dress requested.

Thursday, July 25, 2013
6 - 8:00 PM at:
St@rtup

1519 N Third St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Thursday, October 17, 2013
6 - 8:00 PM
Alder Health (Lancaster)

Thursday, November 14, 2013
6 - 8:00 PM
Goldcrafter's Corner

For additional information or to register, go to www.cpglcc.org



Transgender People and the Social Security Administration

In June 2013, transgender people can update the gender marker in their Social Security records without having to undergo specific medical procedures. The new policy allows transgender people to update their Social Security records by submitting either government-issued documentation reflecting a change, or certification from a physician confirming that they have had appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition. For seven years, in collaboration with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, NCTE has worked to change this policy. They prioritized it because of how Social Security records affects all aspects of our lives. Learn more about the revised Social Security policy with their new resource, [Transgender People and the Social Security Administration](#).

... 'Coy Mathews' from Page 1

was "hostile, intimidating," and "offensive."

Coy was labeled male at birth, but has always known that she is a girl, which she has expressed since she was 18 months old. Since kindergarten, Coy had worn girls' clothing to school. Her classmates and teachers used female pronouns to refer to her, and she used the girls' bathrooms, just like any other girl in her school.

[Click for photos of the Mathis family.](#)

In mid-December 2012, the Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 informed Coy's parents that Coy would be prevented from using the girls' bathrooms after winter break. The District ordered Coy to use the boys' bathroom, a staff bathroom, or the nurse's bathroom.

Despite our [efforts to get the District to reconsider its decision](#), it [refused to do so](#). Coy's parents removed her from school and TLDEF filed a Complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Division on Coy's behalf.

In addition to TLDEF, the legal team representing the Mathis family included Michael Flynn, Lucy Deakins, Jami Mills Vibbert, and Rosario Doriot Dominguez of Norton Rose Fulbright. We are grateful for their assistance.