



TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

April 2010

WWW.TRANSCENTRALPA.ORG

Volume 21, Issue 4

GROUP

April's Dinner will be at Bricco (www.briccopa.com) for our pre-meeting dinner on Saturday, April 10 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.

April Meeting is Saturday, April 10 at 8:30 pm. Doors will open at approximately 8:00 pm for those needing to change.

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 offering 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 and ample parking across the street.

Bon-Ton Thanks to all who purchased a Bon-Ton coupon booklet at our January and February meetings. In addition to the booklet sales, we received \$213 from Bon-Ton for TransCentralPA. Thank you Wendy Sw. who organized the fund-raiser on our behalf.

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



Over 100 Keystone Attendees spent Friday night having dinner at several restaurants in downtown Harrisburg. Pictured above are some of the attendees at Stallions.

special price for their Business King suites, too. Ask them for details.

April Birthdays! Please say Happy Birthday to Kristy Sn., Staci Ha., Donna Be., Jesse Bo. and Janine La.

March Birthdays! Please say Happy (Belated) Birthday to Randi Wa. and Courtney Ra.

2010 Membership Dues are now \$30. Normally \$40, the rates are reduced \$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!

EVENTS

Spring Fling to benefit the Central PA Pride April 17 in Harrisburg.

Diva Las Vegas April 18-23 in Las

Vegas, NV

International Foundation for Gender Education Conference April 22-24 in Alexandria, VA

Black & White Party on May 7 at ClubXS in York, PA

Empire Conference May 20-22 in Albany, NY

Be-All Conference June 1-6 in Chicago, IL

Trans Health Conference June 3-5 in Philadelphia, PA

Carolina Gender Odyssey Jun 3-6 in Gastonia, NC

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



From the President



Jeanine Ruhsam

Wow!! We did it again!

About a year ago someone (actually, a few someone's) said "You have a problem: Keystone 2009 was such a huge success that you'll never top it. It's too hard an act to follow!" Gee... just go ahead and throw the gauntlet down already! As if this gang of determined Transwomen- with the help of a few good Transmen- wasn't going to rise to the challenge...

So...guess what? I've already heard it repeated, just last week: "how can you top that, Keystoners? You practically doubled attendance in 2010, and those people went away in a state of near bliss...what are you going to do next year?"

Why, more of the same! Roll out a little more of our amazing community's energy, passion and dedication...and engage the complete participation of everyone who attends.

Thank you, everyone: Keystone staffers, helpers, attendees, vendors, presenters, musicians, and hotel staff...thank you. It was a whirlwind several days of magic and goodness, and it was the highlight of my year.

As Donna Rose exclaimed- just before the Burning House Band started to rock- "I'll be back in 2011!!"

With a warm heart,

Jeanine



TransCentralPA

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

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

info@TransCentralPA.org
www.TransCentralPA.org



The Vagina Monologues

Five women from TransCentralPA (Finnie, Janine, Jennifer, Danni and Alexis) joined with fifteen other women in the staging of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* this past Wednesday night and Saturday afternoon. This was the first time in Central PA that openly transgender women participated in Ensler's witty, soulful and moving play that was produced and sponsored by a coalition of women's anti-violence organizations.

The Vagina Monologues: A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer and a screening of the documentary film *Until the Violence Stops* are part of the local area **V-Day** campaign. V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls; it is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery. TransCentralPA was proud to be listed as a sponsor of this year's production of *The Vagina Monologues*.

From Donna Rose's Blog of March 15



...It was also nice to see friends from last year, and many new faces. They've done a great job with this "small" regional conference and some of the talk on the way home was an almost amazement that they've been able to pull things off so well. This event rivals other, much bigger national events in terms of the breadth of its workshops and the level of its presenters and whereas sometimes it seems like the behind the scenes effort is chaos here everything seemed to flow without incident. That's certainly saying something given that the hotel was full of wrestlers, too although I'm told that a group there for some sort of "pretzel" event was more disrespectful...

My workshop went well. My keynote seemed to be well received. The band was amazing. The food was fine. The hotel staff was great. The 150 (250! Ed.) or so people who came from all over the region to attend seemed in generally good spirits. All in all, I can think of far worse ways to spend a weekend and I've already invited myself back again next year!

Calendar of Events

Bold items are TransCentralPA sponsored

Apr 8	"Leah B.—And Her Brain" Philadelphia, PA
Apr 10	TransCentralPA Dinner TransCentralPA Meeting 'After Hours' @ Bricco
Apr 17	'Spring Fling' to benefit Central PA Pride in Harrisburg, PA
Apr 18	Diva Las Vegas Las Vegas, NV
Apr 22	International Foundation for Gen- der Education Conference Alexandria, VA
May 7	2010 Black & White Party Club XS, York, PA
May 8	TransCentralPA Dinner TransCentralPA Meeting
May 20	Empire Conference Albany, 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
Jun 19	Lancaster PA Pride Lancaster, PA

Visit www.TransCentralPA.org for
more event info!



\$42.99
**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.

Leah B.'s ----- And Her Brain

Thursday, April 8th at 7 pm

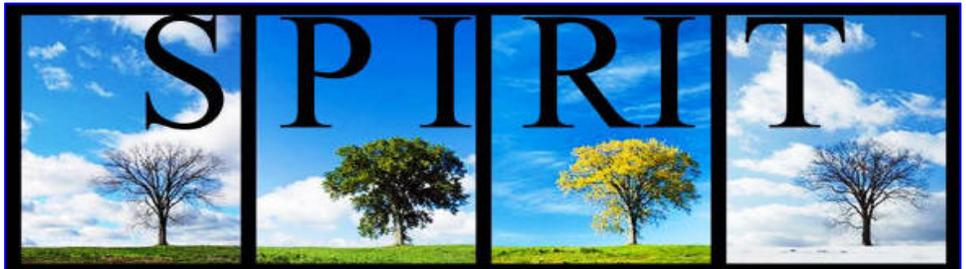
Wooden Shoe Books

704 South Street
Philadelphia, PA
215-413-0999

woodenshoebooks.org.



Join Leah as she presents her home-spun booklet entitled "----- and Her Brain ". Generally, it describes her experience living as an ever-evolving transsexual young woman. Her years of suppression and anguish, leading to her inevitable coming out process, are all depicted through numerous free-verse poetry/prose pieces, rapid sketches, and disposable camera photography. The readings are rather emotionally charged and may (at times) be accompanied by pre-recorded, barely audible, background music created in her basement in the late hours of the night. This booklet is the first installment of a multi-leveled project which will eventually produce a full length album that will hopefully be completed sometime during the summer. In addition to the spoken presentation, Leah will be discussing her initiative in starting a regional collective called Gender Edge. The purpose of the collective is to display to general society the strength, empowerment, and creativity brought forth by the younger, edgier transgender generations. It is basically an activism through art dynamic, a punk inspired movement for the transgender community.



Come join us for worship and friendship!

Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit
2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110

www.MCCoftheSpirit.org



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, April 10. There is no cover charge for this event!