



**EDUCATE. ADVOCATE.
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Inside this issue:

Calendar of Events 2

A Loving Tribute to
Barbara Ann Eftimiades 3

Suicide Prevention
Resources 4

Transgender and Ally
Symposium 5

Local & National
Resources 6

Trans-Friendly
Businesses & Services 7

And more!

TransOhio Transgender and Ally Symposium

The TransOhio Transgender and Ally Symposium is only a matter of weeks away (August 22-24, 2008), and we're definitely looking forward to seeing many of our old friends, meeting new people and welcoming new people into our family! We're also following the weather forecasts for the symposium weekend - so, it's looking like it'll be relatively warm (mid-80's to mid-90's) and no snow!

We've got a full weekend planned of great events and workshops! We're thrilled that Kate Bornstein and Sile P. Singleton will be joining us for the symposium weekend! Kate and Sile will be presenting and performing during the weekend and you're not going to want to miss either of them!

The symposium will run August 22-24, 2008 at the Center on High in downtown Columbus. Show up on Friday the 22nd for our Meet & Greet at East Village for chance to mingle with other attendees and symposium facilitators. The main event will be all day on Saturday the 23rd followed by leadership meeting and brunch on Sunday the 24th.

Saturday, August 23, we have the following panels and workshops planned: Ohio Legal and Workplace Issues; Health & Safety Panel; Hello, Cruel World: An Outlaw's Mini-Guide to Survival. (presented by Kate Bornstein); We'd rather be "COLORED," so why don't you just ask? (presented by Sile P. Singleton); Trans People on Campus: Fighting for Gender Diversity, Inclusion and Justice (presented by Joelle Ruby Ryan & Transcendence members); Voice Communication and Therapy (Aly Rivero, TruVoice); and several break-out groups for SOFFA's, PFLAG, MtF's, FtM's, CD's and more! On Sunday, August 24, the Columbus AIDS Task Force will be presenting on Safe Sex and providing free HIV testing. We'll also be having a short GLBTQIA and leadership meeting.

Friday night activities include a Meet & Greet at East Village (7pm-9pm). Following the Meet & Greet, Sile P. Singleton will be performing at East Village. Sile's performance begins at 10pm. On Saturday, workshops and panels will be held and will be facilitated by some fantastic people! Workshops run 8am-5pm. Saturday night, Kate Bornstein will perform "On Men, Women, and The Rest of Us" at East Village. Kate's performance begins at 9pm.

On Sunday we'll have a GLBTQIA leadership meeting (everybody is welcome to attend). It'll be a great opportunity to meet some of your Ohio-based folks involved in the leadership of the Ohio community. CATF will also present a safe sex workshop, and provide free HIV testing (no needles!). After the workshop and meeting, there will be a Post-Symposium Brunch at Union Bar + Grill (11am-1pm). Again, everybody is welcome to attend brunch.

We've received some email from attendees about being nervous to attend a conference like this—that it'll be the first time they'll be in a setting that is safe and that it'll be the first time for them to be 100% themselves. Being nervous is fine! We are all individuals and our experiences of life have been different, but that's what is going to be so fantastic about the weekend. Connecting with new people, sharing stories, experiences and learning from one another. It's an opportunity to visit with people you may have known for years and an opportunity to make new friends. Every single one of you is important to us. Be yourself, laugh, cry, connect and continue to create your family of those who support you and love you, no matter what.

We look forward to seeing everybody on August 22nd! Be open. Be proud. Be yourself!

Travel safely and we'll see you soon!



Local & National Calendar of Events

August 2008

- Camp Trans. Michigan. August 4-9, 2008.
- TransOhio TG Support Group, Wednesday, August 6, 2008. 7pm. The Center on High. Columbus, Ohio.
- Equality Federation Summer Meeting 2008. August 6-10, 2008. Columbus, Ohio.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting & Symposium Volunteer Meeting. Sunday., August 17, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.
- TransOhio Transgender and Ally Symposium. August 22-24, 2008. Visit www.transohio.org for event info.
- Back-to-Leather School, Saturday, August 30th, 10pm. Warehouse Bar, 119 N. Erie St., Toledo, OH. Hosted by La Garou.

September 2008

- TransOhio TG Support Group, Wednesday, September 3, 2008. 7pm. The Center on High. Columbus, Ohio.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, September 21, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.
- Octo-BEAR-Fest, Saturday, September 27th, 10pm. Warehouse Bar, 119 N. Erie St., Toledo, OH. Hosted by La Garou.
- 2008 Southern Comfort Conference. September 30-October 5, 2008. Atlanta, GA. Visit www.sccatl.org for more info.

October 2008

- TransOhio TG Support Group, Wednesday, October 1, 2008. 7pm. The Center on High. Columbus, Ohio.
- IDKE X. October 15-19, 2008. Columbus, Ohio. Visit www.idkex.com for more information.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, October 19, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.

November 2008

- TransOhio TG Support Group, Wednesday, November 5, 2008. 7pm. The Center on High. Columbus, Ohio.
- 10th Transgender Day of Remembrance. Columbus, Ohio. Details TBA.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, November 16, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.
- TransOhio Thanksgiving Dinner. Thursday, November 27, 2008. Details TBA.

December 2008

- TransOhio TG Support Group, Wednesday, December 3, 2008. 7pm. The Center on High. Columbus, Ohio.
- The Crystal Club Holiday Dinner. Saturday, December 13, 2008. Columbus, Ohio.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, December 21, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.
- TransOhio Holiday Gathering. Details TBA.

TransOhio TG Support Group

This is a peer led support group that meets at The Center on High (1160 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43201) on the 1st Wednesday of every month. Open to all - FtM, MtF, Cross Dressers, Gender Queer, Intersexed, etc. Drop-ins welcome! Facilitated by TransOhio staff.

Questions? Email TransOhio@wowway.com or call (614) 441-8167.

**Educate. Advocate.
Support. Community.
www.transohio.org**

A Loving Tribute to Barbara Ann Eftimiades

I remember that morning vividly. The sun was hot and bright in the July day and I was driving home along the interstate highway when I got the call from another sister telling me that Barbara Ann was dead. I immediately began to cry and was crying so hard I had to pull over to the side of the road and stop the car because the tears were streaming so hard down my face I could not even see to drive. When she told me Barbara had died of her own doing I cried even more. I was stunned but I really should not have been. I knew Barbara was in pain, deep pain.

However, I know many of us in this community are to varying degrees as we struggle with the fact we were born with the wrong body parts and grapple with our true identities and the pain and anguish it causes us and to those we care about such as families and friends. Barb was no different. Although I knew she was hurting and going through some tough times with the family, as did many others including some of her closest friends, I truly did not expect her to end her own life. Our community lost a warm, beautiful and caring person when Barbara Ann has departed this life. I can only hope that she has finally found the peace she sought for so long here.

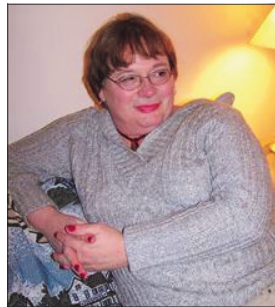
Barbara Ann Eftimiades came into this world as “Tom”. She, like most of us in this community struggled with her true identity. She did the traditional things all “males” are suppose to do, including settling down and getting married and raising children. Barb had two children of her own and three others she raised like her own from her wife’s previous marriage. It did not matter to her and her love and compassion were not limited by blood or formalities- her heart was much too big for that kind of limitation!

Over time Barbara emerged from her shell – her true self shined brightly and she never ever turned her back on her two young daughters who remained at home. She took care of them with all of the tenderness and deep caring any parent could ever have for their child. Her wife on the other hand despised the emergence of Barbara – her true essence and she reminded her everyday of her pain and usually offered Barb words of condemnation and humiliation. Barb and her wife filed for divorce. Barb stayed there at the house to support, love and help take care of her two daughters despite this constant abuse and disdain. The divorce was finalized two days before her death and she would now be facing the daunting task of leaving her home and separating herself from the girls she loved so much and gave so much to in her shortened life. Her eldest daughter found her the morning of her death. When she died, the transgendered community lost a good friend and she will be sorely missed by her friends which were many... for if you knew Barbara, you loved her- it was that simple.

Barbara loved people! She loved her brothers and sisters in this community and she would help anyone who asked for it or needed

it. She gave herself freely in a way I know many of us would love to do but for the fear that if we give too much there will be nothing left of us. Barbara always talked with her friends and those of us in the community. I remember the first time I ever met her after we had exchanged some e-mails and chatted online for a while. Her words to me were simple but I can recall them clearly. *“Girl you better like hugs cause I am going to hug the stuffing out of you when we meet!”*

She did and I loved it- for hugs are one of my favorite things in this world. We talked for over two hours the night we first met. I could tell she was troubled but her heart was so big it hid a good deal of her pain. I chatted with her nearly everyday and she was always helpful and warm and she frequently left me messages of hope and courage as I faced my own dilemmas and pain. Every time we met she hugged me!



Barbara Ann Eftimiades
March 13, 1953 – July 19, 2008

Barbara Ann talked three other transgender persons out of doing what she ultimately chose to do herself. She worked diligently to save the marriage of a spouse and her transgender partner even when it looked almost hopeless. If a person in our community needed help or a kind word, she was there to hand it out. She saw qualities in others they did not even see in themselves. Her heart was five times the size of her body and she loved her friends and this community deeply.

When she died her ex wife told the Transgender community we were not welcome at the funeral and that “he” would be memorialized as “Tom”. Those of us who knew her for whom she really was and always had been decided that she should be remembered for who she truly was and all she had done for the community. A candlelight memorial for her was held the week following her death. People came from five states to pay tribute to her and her loving memory. They shared stories and talked about all she had done for others - how much she loved and helped others. Tears flowed freely as each person shared. Barbara would have hated all the attention but she would have hugged every one of us if she had been there herself. I know that for a fact.

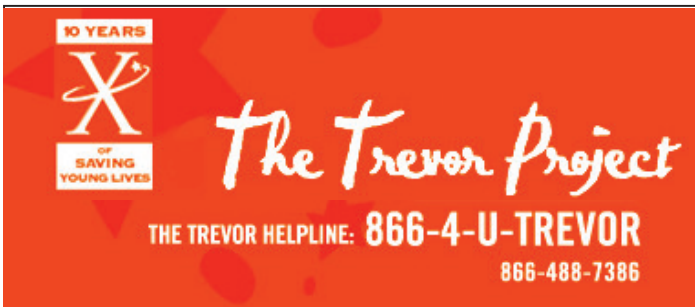
I only hope that any one of us in the community ever feels the pain too deeply or just needs to talk to someone, please reach out and talk to someone and when you do; I hope you find someone like Barbara Ann Eftimiades on the other side of the conversation.

The best tribute anyone could ever give her is to do as she did when it came to helping others and remember to hug the other person. Hug the stuffing out of them!

Rest in sweet peace my friend.

—Melissa Alexander

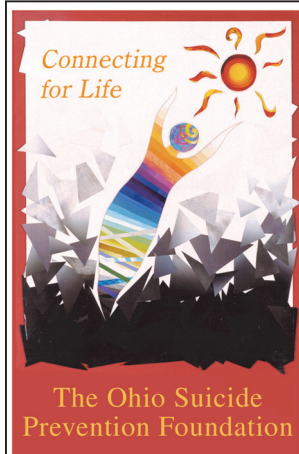
Suicide Prevention Resources



The Trevor Project operates the only nationwide, around-the-clock crisis and suicide prevention helpline for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. If you or a friend are feeling lost or alone call The Trevor Helpline.

For more information about The Trevor Project, visit www.thetrevorproject.org.

If you are a youth who is feeling alone, confused or in crisis, please call 1-866-4-U-TREVOR. You'll be able to speak confidentially with a trained counselor 24/7.



The Foundation is a catalyst to eliminating the stigma attached to suicide, mental illness, substance abuse and addiction. Suicide is a major public health problem that kills 1,200 Ohioans each year with an average of three deaths per day. Suicide is preventable. Please join the Foundation in preventing suicide, restoring hope and connecting for life. For more information, visit www.ohiospf.org.

1900 Kenny Road,
Columbus, Ohio 43210
1-614-292-8585
1-800-848-4815 ext. 84480

Feeling Suicidal? CALL 1-800-273-TALK(8255)

Helping in a Crisis

Do

- Reach out
- Ask questions
- Show that you care
- Encourage your friend to talk
- Listen without making judgments
- Talk openly about suicide
- Be positive
- Remain calm
- Ask direct questions: Are you planning on killing yourself? How? When? Where?
- Suggest people you can both turn to
- Know your limits
- Get help
- Act quickly if you think your friend is in danger

Don't

- Make your friend's problem sound unimportant\
- Act shocked
- Keep your friend's suicide plans a secret
- Try to take any weapon away from your friend
- Leave your friend alone when he or she is in crisis
- Assume that your friend is simply having a bad day
- Take on the responsibility of your friend's safety by yourself
- Stop being a good friend, no matter what
- Lose patience if your friend tries to reject your help
- Give up hope

Full document at <http://www.helppreventsuicide.org>.

The Stephanie Chaffin Fund

Please consider a donation to The **Stephanie Chaffin Fund** through TransOhio and Stonewall Columbus. This is another symbolic way of keeping Stephanie's name alive. This goal is deemed more meaningful in light of the way Stephanie's estranged and rejecting family chose to have a funeral where she was shown as a man. Your contribution no matter how small will be very welcome. At the end of each Stonewall TG support group meeting, we typically pass around an envelope to collect donations to help Stonewall. Stephanie, whose funds were clearly limited as a result of which she neglected and could not afford to take her heart medication, used to always empty her pockets of the change she had on her, which was at times as little as a few cents. Thus please contribute what you can as Stephanie did. Our goal is to have The Stephanie Chaffin Fund be used for a medical emergency for a transgender person, such as the kind of medical help Stephanie could have benefited from.

Donations for The Stephanie Chaffin Fund can now be made online through the TransOhio and Stonewall Columbus website. To donate to The Stephanie Chaffin Fund, visit <http://www.transohio.org/donate.html>. Donations made to this fund are tax-deductible through Stonewall Columbus.

For additional questions about making donations to The Stephanie Fund, please email us at TransOhio@wowway.com.

Upcoming Center on High Events

Stonewall Health Check

Free nurse- run wellness clinic on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. Blood Pressure Screening, Nutrition Help, Glucose Screening, Legal Help: Free power of attorney and living wills. Referrals: Find health care providers that understand the GLBT community. ...and More! Help with organizing and understanding medications, assistance with compiling a family medical history, STD testing info, foot inspections, and advice to help you make the most of your health care.



Transgender and Ally Symposium

August 22-24, 2008

Columbus, Ohio

www.transohio.org

Educate. Advocate. Support. Community.

Our Sponsors: The Center on High; Union Bar + Food; East Village; The Apothecary Shops; PFLAG-Columbus; PRIDE The JP Morgan Chase Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Allies Employee Networking Group; TransFamily of Cleveland; Gender Diversity Program of Central Ohio; The LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland; Delaware Gay Straight Christian Alliance; HRC, TruVoice; Equality Ohio. Additional funding was provided by a grant from the Legacy Fund of The Columbus Foundation.

"I ASK MYSELF, IN MERCY, OR IN COMMON SENSE, IF WE CANNOT ALTER THE CONVICTION TO FIT THE BODY, SHOULD WE NOT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, ALTER THE BODY TO FIT THE CONVICTION?" – DR. HARRY BENJAMIN, M.D

Ohio Local Resources

- BRAVO (Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization): www.bravo-ohio.org
- Columbus AIDS Task Force: www.catf.net
- Central Ohio CD Support: www.crossohio.org
- Chi Lambda Epsilon, a Chapter of Tri Ess (Ohio & Western PA.): www.triess-cle.org
- COLAGE: www.colage.org
- CrossPort Cincinnati: www.transgender.org/crossprt
- Equality Ohio: www.equalityohio.org
- Gay People's Chronicle: www.gaypeopleschronicle.com
- Gender Diversity Program of Central Ohio: www.genderprogram.com
- GenderBloc: www.GenderBloc.org
- Kaleidoscope Youth Center: www.kaleidoscope.org
- Outlook News: www.outlooknews.com
- PFLAG Columbus: www.pflagcolumbus.org
- PFLAG Dayton: www.pflagdayton.org
- SpeakOUT: www.speakoutcols.org
- Stonewall Columbus: www.stonewallcolumbus.org
- The Apothecary Shop: www.theapothecaryshop.com
- The Alpha Omega Society: www.aosoc.org
- The Crystal Club: www.thecrystalclub.org
- Transcendence: www.transbg.org
- TransFamily of Cleveland: www.transfamily.org



Donate to TransOhio!

TransOhio operates under the umbrella of the Stonewall Columbus 501(c)3 status, which makes your monetary donation to TransOhio tax-deductible!

To make an online donation to TransOhio, visit our website at www.transohio.org/donate.html

Thank you for your support!

National Resources

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): www.aclu.org/lgbt
- FTM International: www.ftmi.org
- Hudson's FTM Resource Guide: www.ftmguide.org
- Human Rights Campaign (HRC): www.hrc.org
- InterPride: www.interpride.org/12/2008_Events.htm
- Out & Equal Workplace Advocates: www.outandequal.org
- National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE): www.nctequality.org
- National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF): www.theTaskForce.org
- PFLAG: www.pflag.org
- PFLAG's Transgender Network (TNET): www.pflag.org/tnet.html
- Queertransmen.org: www.queertransmen.org
- Tgcrossroads: www.tgcrossroads.org
- Transster.com: www.transster.com
- World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH): www.wpath.org



Do you have a local or national resource that you'd like listed in the TransOhio newsletter?
Please email your listing to TransOhio@wowway.com!

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1-877-CD-GIRL-U

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Annual Participant Be-All, Chicago's Transgender Convention



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Email: TransOhio@wowway.com for info!

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