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June 2008

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Happy Pride!

**Be Proud
Ohio!**



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PRIDE

**IT TAKES COURAGE TO GROW UP
AND BECOME WHO YOU REALLY ARE.**

~E.E. CUMMINGS

Check out Ohio's Pride Events on pages 3 and 4!

***Visit TransOhio at the Columbus Pride Festival on
Saturday, June 28, 2008***

Celebrate Ohio GLBT History in June

Two panel discussions examining GLBT history in Central Ohio are planned as a part of the Stonewall Columbus Pride Celebration during June 2008.

On Tuesday, June 3, 2008 a panel discussion about the History of the AIDS Crisis in Central Ohio will be held. Topics include the response of the central Ohio community to the AIDS crisis with a historical focus on how the crisis unfolded and the individuals and community organizations who fought to make a difference. Panel members include Deborah Coleman, Howard Fradkin, Dr. Teresa Long, Dr. Michael Para and Jose Rodriguez.

Wednesday, June 11, 2008, The History of the Transgender Community in Central Ohio, a panel discussion, will be held to discuss experiences of the transgender community in

Ohio with a historical focus on the issues surrounding the personal discovery of gender identity, relationships, politics and community resources and advocacy. Panel members include Meral Crane, Shane Morgan, Stephanie Singer and Dawn Marie Stansbery. This panel will be located on the 1st floor of the Center on High.

Both panel discussions will be held at Stonewall Columbus, 1160 N. High Street in the Short North and will begin at 7 p.m.

These events are sponsored by Stonewall Columbus, the Gay Ohio History Initiative, Our Stories: A Developing Record of Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation and Alliance at The Ohio State University and the OSU GLBT Alumni Society.

Local & National Calendar of Events

June 2008

- 2nd TransOhio Unity Picnic. Sunday, June 1, 2008. 12pm-5pm. Columbus. Visit www.transohio.org for more info.
- The History of the AIDS Crisis in Central Ohio, Tuesday, June 3, 2008. 7pm. The Center on High.
- Dayton Pride 2008, Saturday, June 7, 2008. Dayton, OH. Visit <http://www.daytonlgbtcenter.com> for more info.
- History of the Transgender Community in Central Ohio, Wednesday, June 11, 2008. 7pm. The Center on High.
- Pride Alive Festival, Saturday, June 14, 2008. Cincinnati, OH. Visit <http://www.prideisalive.com> for more info.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, June 15, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.
- Cleveland Pride 2008, Saturday, June 21, 2008. Cleveland, OH. Visit <http://www.clevelandpride.org> for more info.
- PFLAG-Columbus Monthly Meeting. Sunday, June 22, 2008. 2pm. Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus Ohio.
- Columbus Pride 2008, Saturday, June 28, 2008. Columbus, OH. Visit <http://www.stonewall-columbus.org> for more info.

July 2008

- LaGarou CampOUT 2008. July 10-13, 2008. Long Fork Campground. WV. Visit www.lagarou.org for more info.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, July 20, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.

August 2008

- Camp Trans. Michigan. August 4-9, 2008.
- 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.

September 2008

- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, September 21, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.
- 2008 Southern Comfort Conference. September 30-October 5, 2008. Atlanta, GA. Visit www.sccatl.org for more info.

October 2008

- 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

- 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

- The Crystal Club Holiday Dinner. Saturday, December 13, 2008. Columbus, Ohio.
- TransOhio Monthly Meeting. Sunday, December 21, 2008. 3pm. The Center on High.

Will you be in Columbus for Pride 2008?

Volunteer to help at the TransOhio Pride 2008 Booth!

Email transohio@wowway.com to volunteer!

Are you a member of another transgender or ally organization?

Contact TransOhio to see how *your group* can be part of the TransOhio Pride 2008 Booth!

Columbus Pride 2008— Event Schedule

Sunday, June 1

2nd Annual TransOhio Unity Picnic

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Goodale Park

Tuesday, June 3

History Panel:

“The Central Ohio Response to the AIDS Crisis”

7:00 p.m. Stonewall Columbus Studio One (2nd floor)

Thursday, June 5

An Exhibit of Pride Art Show - Stonewall Columbus

5:30 p.m. \$25 Champagne Reception

7:30 p.m. \$5 General Admission

www.columbuspride.org/artshow

Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7

OUR POWER Pride Kick-Off Weekend

Pride Kick-Off Outdoor Concerts

6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Stonewall Columbus Outdoor Plaza

www.columbuspride.org/weekend

Wednesday, June 11

History Panel:

“History of the Transgender Community in Columbus”

7:00 p.m. Stonewall Columbus Center on High, 1st floor

Saturday, June 14

Pride Poker Run

11:00 a.m. Registration - Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum, Pickerington

www.columbuspride.org/pokerrun

Saturday, June 14

Fore! Pride Golf Outing Inaugural Event

11:00 a.m. Shotgun Start - Raymond Memorial Golf Course

www.columbuspride.org/forepride

Sunday, June 15

Leslie Jordan “Pink Party” Pride Fundraiser

8:00 p.m. Stonewall Columbus Studio One

www.columbuspride.org/pinkparty

Monday, June 16

Leslie Jordan: My Trip Down the Pink Carpet One-Man Show

8:00 p.m. Southern Theatre

www.columbuspride.org/pinkparty

Friday, June 20

Stonewall/In The Kno Diversity Pride Meet and Greet

7:30 p.m. Stonewall Columbus

Friday, June 20

CATF “Skate 4 Life”

9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Skate Zone 71

www.catf.net

Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21

Rocket Man

Columbus Gay Men’s Chorus

8:00 p.m. Capitol Theatre at the Riffe Center

www.cgmc.com

Saturday, June 21

Run for Pride 5K Run/Walk

9:30 a.m. Goodale Park

www.columbuspride.org/runforpride

Saturday, June 21

Stonewall/In The Kno Diversity Pride Celebration

7:30 p.m. Sobe Lounge 560 South High Street

Sunday, June 22

Stonewall/In The Kno Diversity Pride Sunday

9:00 a.m. Advent United Church of Christ

2340 N. Cassady Avenue

Brunch Immediately Following - Details TBA

Thursday, June 26

After Stonewall DVD Showing

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Whetstone Branch of Columbus Public Library

www.columbuswcw.org

Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28

8th Annual Rockin’ in The Streets

6:00 p.m. Gate Open - East Village

www.rockinginthestreets.com

Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28

QASIS Pride 2008

189-203 North Fifth Street

www.qasispride.com

Saturday, June 28

DRAGSTOCK!

7:00 p.m. Axis Nightclub

www.columbusnightlife.com

Sunday, June 29

Pride Brunch

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Westin Great Southern Grand Ballroom

www.columbuspride.org/brunch

Bat -N - Rouge

3:00 p.m. Afrocentric School

www.cgsa.net ; www.cgsa.net/BNR/BNR.html



Dayton Pride

Saturday, June 7, 2008

www.daytonlgbtcenter.com



Cincinnati Pride

Saturday, June 14, 2008

www.prideisalive.com



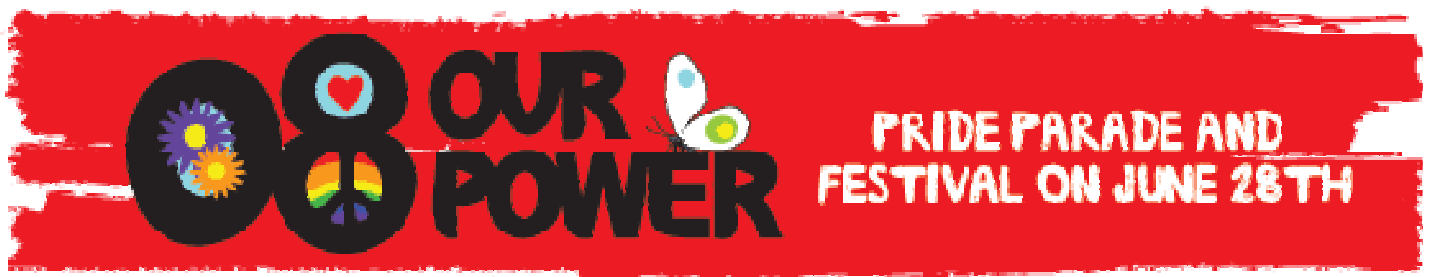
Cleveland Pride

Saturday, June 21, 2008

www.clevelandpride.org



Columbus Pride



Transgender and Ally Symposium

August 22-24, 2008



Scott Turner Schofield is a Southern queer FTM writer, performer, and educator creating theater about gender and sexuality in the Deep South. He is also a man who was a woman, a lesbian turned straight guy who is often called a fag. Not surprisingly, his work centers on contradictions and comedy. His three solo shows, "Underground Transit," "Debutante Balls," and "Becoming a Man in 127 EASY Steps" have toured to nationwide acclaim since 2001. His activist art has received several honors, among them a 2007 Princess Grace Foundation Fellowship in Acting, and a "Fruity" for his Off-Broadway success as part of New York City's Fresh Fruit Festival. To find out more about Scott Turner Schofield, read his book, *Two Truths and a Lie* (Homofactus Press) or visit www.undergroundtransit.com.

Photo by Maximilian Corwell



Sile P. Singleton, a leading force in promoting the current, continuous and ever-changing development of the 'modern day' Drag King Cultural Explosion. Sile, a life student of gendered nuances and disruptions has been publicly engaged in visual representations of gendered identities for just about 14 years. Sile originally broke onto the scene with the now 'famous drag queen character', LUSTER as Lustivious Dela Virgion (LUSTY) grand dame and emcee hostess with the mostest. For more information about Sile P. Singleton or the International Drag King Extravaganza, visit www.fastfridayproductions or www.idkex.com.

Workshops Include:

Legal/Workplace Issues Panel

Health & Safety Panel

Scott Turner Schofield presenting the workshop: Crossing Boundaries, Building Bridges

Sile P. Singleton presenting the workshop: We'd rather be "COLORED," so why don't you just ask?

Trans People on Campus: Fighting for Gender Diversity, Inclusion and Justice
(Joelle Ruby Ryan & Transcendence members)

Columbus AIDS Task Force presenting on safe sex and providing free HIV testing

Break-out sessions facilitated by SOFFA's, PFLAG, MtF's and FtM's

Friday night Meet & Greet

Sunday brunch

GLBTQI and Leadership meeting

Interested in volunteering? Please email Angie at angie@transohio.org

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.

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.

Open Mic @ TransOhio

I Was, I Am

By Skylar Vincent Christopher Seward

I was quiet

I was shy

I was afraid

I was really sad

I was alone

I was apathetic

I was suspicious

I was stuck in the unfairness, the injustice of my burden.

I was protected by my walls

I was introverted

I was safe from the bad in the universe of my mind

I was a loner

I was not who people thought

A glimmer, a shred of hope. I will finally be whole at 12 years old.

But...

You killed me!

You killed me puberty!

You killed me my parents!

You killed me church!

You killed me God!

Every time you called me girl, you killed me...

When you looked into my eyes, saw who I really was, yet called me girl, you killed me...

You killed me, you killed a real person, a human being, you killed your son...

When you look me in the eye, why can't you see me, the real me...

Why do you refuse to acknowledge me-your son, brother, cousin, uncle...your child?

I was dead and you didn't even care...

I am God's creation and child

I am at peace

I am experiencing real joy

I am an active participant in my life

I am setting goals

I am compassionate

I am philosophically deep

I am unique even on a molecular level

I am giving

I am excited to help my brothers and sisters and their family members understand

I am analytical

I am knowledgeable

I am passionate

I am capable of loving myself and willing to accept love given to me

I am cherishing every moment that I draw breath

I am married and rejoice in the relationship

I am a critical thinker

I am fair minded

I am political

I am embracing the journey God gave me.

I am becoming the man everyone said I could not be

I am alive, I am alive because you looked into my eyes and saw my heart.

You looked into my eyes and really saw me...and you loved me.

My name is Skylar and I am, well, I am me.

SOFFA Corner - Finding Myself by Angie

So that's it. No more financial planning, no more therapy, no more doctors appointments, no more surgery.

TRANSITION COMPLETE right? WRONG!

One of the hurdles I had to cross in being the spouse of a fully transitioned transsexual, for me anyway has been leaving the past in the past. Has my spouse fully transitioned now? Yes, but the question I've had to keep coming back to over and over again is, "HAVE I?" Am I a transsexual in need of SRS? No.

However, my transition is no less important.

Part of the process of accepting what a loved-one tells you regarding their own self-perceptions; is learning how to deal with and relate to them according to those perceptions. Part of my process has also been learning who I am both in relation to him and on my own.

In the past, my self esteem and self perceptions were very much rooted in my "performance" as a spouse. I had lots of "rules" for myself relating to being a "proper" wife; the house must always be clean, dinner must always be ready when he got home, he must always have clean clothes and other "musts." In my mind, a "proper" wife never rested. Of course, being there emotionally whenever he might need me was also a must. Obviously since my spouse was living in a perpetual hell trying to be something he wasn't, my "performance" didn't necessarily call for a standing ovation. He wasn't abusive, and he didn't cheat-he just wasn't there. It was almost as if he were invisible; I was invisible too.

Sometimes, I didn't notice since I was so busy being a "proper" wife. Sometimes, I did and it hurt. When he did show up, it was usually to tease me or chide me for something I had done. I knew that his words weren't said to hurt me. That just made his behavior all the more confusing. However, what I eventually taught myself was that he didn't respect me because I didn't deserve it. Now that he is fully transitioned and fully complete within himself, those behaviors have disappeared. He is in tune with his emotions, more sensitive, affectionate and kind. He found himself.

However, I realized, late in the game that I was in need of a transition too, and I'm still a work in progress. My performance based world didn't just start when I became a spouse. I've always lived in that world. I AM what I DO; at least that is what I thought. This, of course, is problematic because I can't NEVER do enough to be a good person.

I was brought up believing that when you are in a relationship with someone-any kind of relationship, you are NOT the point of that relationship, the other person IS. Not just that, but you should always be selfless and put the other persons needs above your own. Those are great philosophies and ways of living and

I still believe in them, but with boundaries.

For many years I took them to the extreme and made myself forget that I had any needs at all. My identity and worth as a person was wrapped up in him and now he was healthy and happy. Don't get me wrong, I wanted that and spent years praying for it. There was just one problem, he no longer "needed" me in the same way and I was lost. I had nothing to DO anymore so who was I? More importantly was I really who I was meant to be? I continue to search for those answers on a daily basis but I have found something-I'm not perfect and more to the point I never will be. I have accepted that I don't have to DO anything to BE somebody.

I said in the beginning that one of the most significant aspects of my transition has been learning to leave the past in the past. I'm also learning that there is more to the lesson than that; let me explain. You see, when my husband came out to me it was like some sort of switch flipped in me. I decided right then and there (unbeknownst to me at the time) that in order to fully embrace the future, I had to reject the past...but only the good parts. I'm realizing/remembering now, that we do have a past; some of it was horrible but some of it was very, very good. We laughed together, communicated, went on vacations and held each other. Sometimes we were very happy and it's OKAY.

Transition isn't just the business of a transsexual. It's the business of all of us and it's a lifelong process. We each have a responsibility to come out of our respective closets and affect the world around us, to be the people we are truly meant to be. I am not responsible for fixing the entire world; but I am responsible to affect the people and situations closest to me and I can only do that if I am willing to first do the work of finding myself.

TransOhio is currently in the process of planning a SOFFA-Only support group. Would you like to attend? Let us know! Email us at TransOhio@wowway.com and we'll make sure you receive meeting dates, times and locations!

Are you the spouse, partner, lover, friend, parent, child of a person who is transitioning, considering transitioning, or who identifies differently than you along the gender spectrum? Interested in sharing your experiences, thoughts, opinions or observations with us?

If so, email your story to us at:

TransOhio@wowway.com, we'd love to hear from you!

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

More details coming soon!

Save these dates!

Educate. Advocate. Support. Community.

"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 (Columbus and Cleveland Chapters): 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.stonewall-columbus.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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Get listed with TransOhio and be seen!

Email: TransOhio@wowway.com for info!

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