

The TransGender New Hampshire (TG-NH) Monthly Bulletin

Email: [TransgenderNH@gmail.com](mailto:TransgenderNH@gmail.com)

Web: [www.tgnh.org](http://www.tgnh.org)

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## **1. Hello Again!**

It is hard to believe it has been nearly four months since our Stakeholders Mini-Conference in Durham, NH held in March. It was a wonderful get-together that featured some intense dialogues about the past, present and future of the transgender, transsexual, genderqueer and gender-variant communities in the Granite State. A number of important points came out of this day-long meeting. Chief among them were the need to build community in the state of New Hampshire for the transgender community. In addition, there was ample discussion about the need for us to engage in community-education efforts and the need for us to represent our community in positive and empowering ways. The transgender community needs to become more visible in the state and we need to continue the long-term effort of securing a non-discrimination bill that will prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit on the basis of gender identity/expression. We have much work to do, but the many victories of the past 20 years have shown that the trans community has grown by leaps and bounds. We at TG-NH look forward to working with you to realize these goals and to make the state of NH a more hospitable and welcoming place for members of the gender-variant community.

## **2. Panel and Pizza!**

We have held two follow-up events after the March Conference. In April, we held a panel entitled "Striving for Gender Justice: Intersectional Perspectives on Socio-Cultural Transformation." The panel was moderated by TG-NH Intern Nicole Garrity and featured commentary from six folks: Peter Welch, Trans Ally and Counselor at UNH Health Services; Janson Wu, Staff Attorney at Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), Otis Douce, Multicultural Coordinator for the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) at UNH; Joelle Ruby Ryan, Lecturer in Women's Studies; Mae Dunn, Trans Mentors International; and Courtney Marshall, Professor of English and Women's Studies. The topics all looked at gender, race and culture from a critical perspective. The issues covered included: making gender more expansive, trans legal issues, masculinities of color and trans men of color, transfeminism and body image, gender education and creating classrooms and academic cultures that foster inclusion and community. Nearly 40 people attended the session, which featured remarks from the panelists followed by a Q&A.

At the end of April, we held the first social meeting of TG-NH. The meeting was held at Flatbread Pizza in Portsmouth and was attended by a dozen members and friends of TG-NH. Thanks to all that attended for the conversation! While we are currently in Summer Hiatus, we plan to have some more social meetings in the Fall. If you have a space or restaurant that would be a good locale for a TG-NH social meeting, please send an email to TG-NH.

## **3. July Trans Conference in Concord, NH**

Transform NH Transgender Conference July 23-25, Concord NH. Sponsored by Trans Mentors International and NH Civil Liberties. TG-NH is pleased to attend and support this important transgender conference in our state's capital. Mae Dunn, who attended the TG-NH Stakeholder's Meeting in March, has been hard at work planning an excellent gathering for members of the TBLG Community and all our wonderful allies. Here is some text from Mae that tells more about the conference:

### TransForm New Hampshire

TransMentors International, in partnership with the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union, is hosting the first annual TransForm New Hampshire conference Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord. The purpose of this conference is to educate and raise awareness within the gay, lesbian and bisexual community (GLB) and the public on transgender identities within New Hampshire. TransForm New Hampshire will be a three day conference featuring performances, educational workshops, and films that highlight the Trans-identified community within the state. Additionally, there will be workshops for those who have little or no experience with Trans identities, giving those attendees the opportunity to learn more about the Trans community. This will be a welcoming event, focused on education and celebration, and will be open to the public.

Featured speakers for the event include Allyson Robinson, an activist and speaker for Transgender rights, world renowned performer and activist, Peterson Toscano, Kim Pearson the Executive Director and Co-Founder of TransYouth Family Allies, and many more. TransForm New Hampshire will culminate in a celebratory Picnic in the Park on Sunday afternoon at White Park. If you are interested in learning more about the event, speakers, or would like to register to attend please visit the website (<http://transform.transmentors.org/nh/>) or contact M. Mae Dunn ([MaeDunn@hotmail.com](mailto:MaeDunn@hotmail.com)).

### **4. Gender Identities Awareness (GIA) Week**

TG-NH's big Fall event will be a week of events held at UNH that foster dialogue about trans people, gender issues, social change and diversity. GIA will be held on November 15-19 and will feature films, workshops, speakers, performers and panels. GIA will also feature a program for the Transgender Day of Remembrance, an international, annual event that memorializes those who have died in the last year due to anti-transgender prejudice and hate crimes. We hope to put on at least one event (possibly 2?) for each day Mon-Fri. We will need your help!! We will begin to meet in early September to plan this week and we need people who are willing to volunteer to be on our GIA Planning Committee. If you are interested in volunteering on the committee, please send an email to TG-NH. Also, please let us know if you are interested in speaking, performing, reading, leading a workshop, singing etc. as we would love to talk with you about a potential program!

### **5. TG-NH Interns**

TG-NH was born in September 2009. One of the things which helped us get off the ground was the work of our two student interns during the 2009-2010 academic year. Please join me in

extending big gratitude to Nicole Garrity and Marissa Hurley for their service to TG-NH. We are also happy to report that Hanna Ovaska has agreed to be an intern for TG-NH in the Fall. Please join me in welcoming Hanna! In order for TG-NH to do its work, we need more interns every semester. If you are at all interested, please contact us to talk about being an intern. We also have a flyer that Marissa helped put together about being an intern.

## **6. Your Text Here!**

Do you like to write? Do you have a poem, a rant, a short article or experience you would like to share? Do you have a write-up pertaining to your organization or about an event that you attended and/or sponsored? We at TG-NH would LOVE to print your piece in this bulletin. Little publications like this rely on the kindness of people who graciously provide us permission to print their work. If you have a story related to transgenderism, please write to us about including it in the next or future edition of this Bulletin. It will be a great way to reach out to other members of the trans and allied NH community. Also, please forward this Bulletin to anyone who might be interested, and let us know if you would like an email added, or deleted, from this list.

## **7. What's In a Name?**

What should we call this Bulletin? Do you have a snazzy title that encapsulates the trans experience in NH or the idea of sharing our unique gender journeys? We want to hear your ideas! Please go to our Facebook page and go to the forum entitled Naming the TG-NH Bulletin and tell us your ideas. Also, tell us which names you like best. The person who chooses the winning name will receive a \$25 gift card to Best Buy!

## **8. Until August!**

Have a cool July all you trans-fabulous peeps and allies—and we look forward to talking again in our August Bulletin.