

News You Can Use

November, 2019

Sometimes you need to take a risk and move forward into the unknown.

This was one of the thoughts that came to mind over this past weekend as I gazed into this train tunnel just across the river from Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.



Coming out as a transgender person involves many steps into the unknown. We risk disappointment and shunning from friends and family. We risk losing our jobs. We risk being treated respectfully in public spaces and, in some cases, we even risk our lives.

But for many gender-diverse people those risks have paid-off. We have met new friends. Have been embraced by a new chosen family. And have been able to pay it forward by helping others through the challenges of coming out. But the biggest reward is often simply being able to live as our true selves – to raise our voices and proclaim our pride.

The moral of the story is that while stepping into the dark unknown may feel risky, when you step into the light on the other side the risk pays off in a fuller and richer life. I know that is what I was thinking as I celebrated my Birthday and my Name Day with some of my chosen family by biking 30 miles to Harper's Ferry this past weekend.

Monthly Dinner

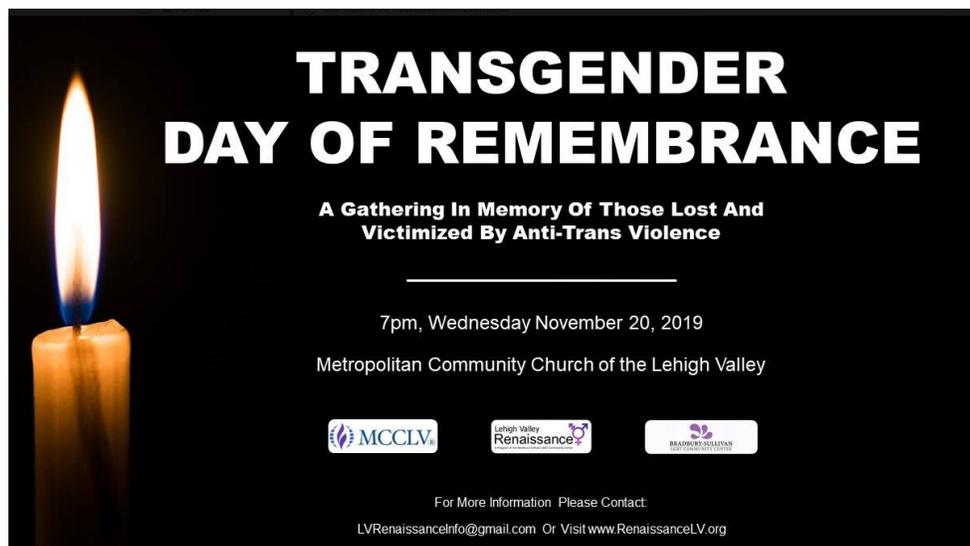
Join your host Nicole for a fun and tasty dinner at Applebees in Bethlehem prior to the Renaissance monthly meeting on Nov 9. Please RSVP you intent to join her [at this link!](#)

Did you see the story from Channel 39 on the new non-binary option for PA Driver's Licenses?

A special thanks to Khrys Exposito and Mars Bielski for doing such a wonderful job representing the non-binary community. This is an example of how local action can move the needle on supporting the trans/gender-diverse community. [You can see the story here:](#)

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Once again, LV Renaissance, MCCLV and the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center will be hosting a TDOR program to honor those who have fallen victim to discrimination and hate. The TDOR program will be held at MCCLV on November 20, 2019 at 7pm. After the program there will be time for gathering as a community with refreshments. Providers who offer services to the trans community will also be on-hand. [You can find more about the event here.](#)



The Category Is.... Ballroom!

Ballroom culture hold a significant place in the LGBT community (if you are unfamiliar with it, check out “Pose” or “Paris is Burning” on Netflix) and now the Project Silk at Night team is bringing Ballroom to the Lehigh Valley! The “Night Of The Living Dead Halloween Ball” will be taking place on Saturday, October 26th, 2019 from 9pm – 2am at the Revel Social Hall at 217 Broadway, Bethlehem. This is your opportunity to see and participate in this unique and fun artform. Categories include: OTA Performance

“Vogue For Your Life” and cash prizes will be awarded. There is a \$7 cover charge. Find details on the events Facebook page [here](#).

Keystone Conference Dates & Scholarship

Great News! The Keystone Conference has announced their dates for 2020. The Conference will be taking place on March-25-29. LV Renaissance is offering two fully paid scholarships for the Conference. Scholarships will cover two-days of Conference fees (Fri & Sat), shared hotel room, and all Conference-provided meals including the Gala Dinner. You can find out more about the Conference at <http://www.keystone-conference.org/>. and you can [download an application for the scholarship here!](#)



Fourth Annual
**Keystone
Conference
Scholarships**



Lehigh Valley
Renaissance
A member of the Lehigh Valley LGBT Community Center



BRADBURY-SULLIVAN
LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER
Serving the LGBT Community
of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Scholarship Includes*

- Two-Day Conf. Registration (Mar. 27-28, 2020)
- Two Night Hotel Stay (Double Occupancy)
- Lunch Both Days
- Saturday Gala Dinner
- Workshops & Social Events

Applications available at: www.renaissancelv.org/scholarships
For More Information Contact LVRenaissanceInfo@gmail.com

Speaking of Conferences:

- The first ever New York Coming Out Conference takes place Oct. 30-Nov 2. [Details Here:](#)
- First Event is bigger and better than ever. It takes place Jan 29-Feb 2 in Boston. [Details here:](#)

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Center Fall Gala

The BSC’s Fall Gala fundraiser is coming up on Oct 30th. It is a great time to meet and mingle with people from across the LGBTQ community while supporting a great cause. [You can find details here](#) – but tickets are going fast!

Time for Some Light Reading

Renaissance was recently able to make a donation of 40-plus books on gender-diverse topics to the LGBT Library at the Bradbury-Sullivan Center. Male sure you check them out. Titles include:

- He Said, She Said
- Tomorrow Will Be Different
- Pink is for Boys
- Whipping Girl
- The Trans Generation
- Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Trans
- She's My Dad
- The Art of Being Normal
- He/She/They – Us
- Between Shadow and Sun
- Tranny: Confessions of Punk Rock's Most Infamous Anarchist Sellout

Renaissance Sponsored Speaker

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, LV Renaissance is proud to be able to sponsor Austen Hartke, creator of the Transgender and Christian YouTube channel and author of Transforming: the Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians to speak at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Center. Austen is a graduate of Luther Seminary's Master of Arts program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies, and is the winner of the 2014 John Milton Prize in Old Testament Writing from the same institution. The event will conclude with a book signing and dessert reception with our featured guests.

Spreading the Word... And the Workload

Renaissance is lucky enough to have regular opportunities to spread the word about trans inclusiveness. An example is a recent tabling event at NCCC (photo below with our friends from MCCLV and Project Silk). If you would like to participate in these events, let a Renaissance leader know!



Make Sure You Stay Up-to-Date On the Latest LV Renaissance Info

We send out newsletters once or twice a month, but we update our Facebook page daily. So if you want the latest Renaissance news or other info that is relevant to the Trans and Non-Binary community, that is the place to be! [Follow us Here!](#)

News You Can Use – Links to News Stories Around the World

- Fashion is an important part of the queer experience. [Here is an article](#) that explains why.
- Over 6,000 LGBTQ people attended the recent [LGBT Workplace Summit](#) in Washington.
- In an acknowledgement that transmasculine people need to use their products too, [the feminine hygiene brand “Always”](#) has decided to remove the “Venus” symbol from its packaging.
- Travelling as a trans person can be stressful, [but travel agents](#) are slowly but surely becoming aware of the issues and can provide appropriate advice to help.
- The Mormon Church recently [issued rulings](#) that equated “biological” sex with gender. But the good news that there are [organizations in Utah](#) that can assist trans people as well!
- On October 8th the Supreme Court heard arguments in cases that speak to LGBTQ rights in employment. [The Justices’ questions](#) indicated a lack of understanding about transgender people. This lack of understanding and empathy also extends to lower courts including [a Texas court that ruled](#) that Obama Care’s trans protections were invalid.
- Trans cyclist Rachael McKinnon recently struck gold at the Masters Track World Championships. Trans athletes that succeed at the highest levels are controversial, [but this article does a good job](#) of detailing the issues.
- Want to know why using a person’s chosen pronouns are so important? [Here is a conversation](#) in honor of National Pronouns Day that gives you the details.

- [Actress Rosario Dawson](#) has recently been accused of holding down a trans-male employee while a family member beat him. She reportedly misgendered him regularly and the employee was beaten after they complained.
- A school system that had recently implemented a trans-affirming bathroom policy [has now revoked](#) that policy due to death threats to administrators.
- A transgender woman of color was recently reported murdered in Kansas City. Brianna "BB" Hill is the 21st trans woman of color to be killed this year. Her alleged [killer has been arrested](#).
- But justice for trans people is possible. The person who publicly assaulted Muhlaysia Booker in Dallas was [recently convicted](#).
- This year marks the 20th anniversary of the [release of the controversial film](#) "Boys Don't Cry."
- Many of us knew – or knew of Daphne Dorman. Daphne was a transgender comedian, software engineer, and an activist. Unfortunately, [Daphne recently took her own life](#). We lose too many of our community members to suicide. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or text TALK to the Crisis Text Line at 741741. You may also call the translifeline at 877-565-8860.

Events Calendar

- Oct 23 - Parents of Trans Kids. 6pm at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center
- Oct 23 – Transfeminine support group. 6:30pm at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center
- Nov. 9 – Monthly dinner at Applebees on Motel Dr., in Bethlehem. Please RSVP [at this link!](#)
- Nov. 9 - Renaissance Transgender Meet-up for trans folk and allies. 7:30pm at MCCLV 1401 Greenview Dr., Bethlehem (Doors open at 6:30)
- Nov. 13 - Parents of Trans Kids. 6pm at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center
- Nov. 19 - Queer and Trans People of Color group. 6pm-8pm at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center
- Nov. 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance Program 7pm at MCCLV, 1401 Greenview Dr. Bethlehem
- Nov. 26 – Transmasculine group. 6:30pm at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center
- Nov. 27 - Parents of Trans Kids. 6pm at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center
- Nov 27 – Transfeminine support group. 6:30pm at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center

Other Services of Note:

- Free LGBT Legal Clinic: Free half-hour consultations with attorneys re: name change, discrimination, harassment, and more. Every other Tuesday from 4-6pm.
- HIV/STI Testing: Free, totally non-judgy, drop-in testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 4-6pm.

Privacy Notice: Lehigh Valley Transgender Renaissance and the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Center respect everyone's right to privacy. You received this email because you signed-up for the Renaissance mailing list. If you no longer wish to receive emails from us, please reply to this email with that request.