

The Holidays as a Transgender Couple



The Holidays ‘Without’ My Spouse

By: Bethany Roses

As Christmas quickly approaches, I find myself reflecting on the year. I look back on how much we’ve accomplished over the past year: a saved marriage, an re-engagement, a baby boy, and new friendships. Another thing that crosses my mind is past memories with my husband. Sometimes it’s difficult for me to think back because it retriggers grief of someone I ‘lost.’ Though when thinking optimistically, I never lost that person at all; I have a better version of them. Now our Christmas memories are even brighter because I have a wife who actually likes the gifts I bought her, can be her authentic self throughout the day, and that is genuinely a brighter person. I am thankful for our new traditions we’ve created as a family. For those that are entering the holiday season with uncertainty, know that your spouse/partner just needs your love. Choose a way to show them you love them this season with a tangible gift they’ll love or by increasing your emotional connection and having open conversations. Happy Holidays!

Early Transition Around the Holidays

By: Hazel Grace Roses

So as you all may know, coming out to everyone is a scary and awkward thing to go through. It can tear families apart, as well as bring them closer together. So let's face it; holidays usually mean family and friends. That also means that it's the first time for many that people are seeing you as your true self. Yes, that can be super scary and frightening, but also very rewarding. You are finally out to the world as your beautiful self. However, you don't know how they will react or how they will feel. Somehow you know and say to yourself that you need this to be happy and to live your life to your truest. So the holidays approach, say to yourself, 'I CAN DO THIS!' Be the person that you were always meant to be because no one can truly take away your happiness as long as you stay strong and continue to love yourself and take each day as it comes. Have a great holiday! XOXO

Quotes to Inspire you!

"It doesn't matter who you are, where you come from. The ability to triumph begins with you. Always."

–*Oprah Winfrey*

"Embrace uncertainty. Some of the most beautiful chapters in our lives won't have a title until much later." –*Bob Goff*

December Meeting Recap

We would like to extend a special thank you to all of those who brought dishes and attended our holiday potluck on December 14th. It's always great to see everyone and carry on meaningful conversations with those that are on similar journeys and can truly relate to our experiences. We also want to take a moment to welcome Catherine, Ginger, Evani, and Nancy to the Renaissance family.

Renaissance Shopping Event - Feb 22nd

Save the date because we have been invited back to the Perfect Fit Resale Boutique for another fun shopping event! This past summer's event served over 20 local trans women and we are hoping to break that record! If you are looking for amazing casual or career clothing, footwear and jewelry at even better prices, this is the place to be.

Keystone Conference - SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!

Thank you all for your submissions for the Keystone Conference Scholarship. We got a total of five applications and we are working to find ways to accommodate everyone. We should be announcing final winners and awards in mid January.

For people interested in attending, The Keystone Conference will be taking place on March 25-29, 2020. You can find out more about the conference at <http://www.keystone-conference.org/>.

More Gender-Diversity Events Coming Your Way

- **First Event:** First Event is one of the longest running conferences in the U.S. for transgender and gender expansive people and those who love and support them. First Event 2020 will be held January 29 – February 2 at the iconic Boston Park Plaza Hotel in Boston’s historic Back Bay neighborhood.
- **NEPA Trans Health Conference:** Located right in our backyard and held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 - this conference is targeted at healthcare providers as well as others that work with the gender-diverse population. <http://www.nepatranshealth.com/>
- **Trans Youth Forum:** The Trans Youth Forum is an annual event provided by HiTOPS. This all-day conference includes guest speakers, workshops, and activities where transgender, nonbinary, and otherwise gender expansive youth are able to connect and learn together. For more information on this event, click [here](#).
- **Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference:** Taking place on July 23-25, 2020, the Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference is all about community. Started by Charlene Arcila and a group of transgender community members, providers, and community base organizations, it has grown to become the largest FREE trans-specific conferences in the world.
- **TAVA Transgender Military Retreat:** The Transgender American Veteran Association will host a weekend retreat in Atlanta, Georgia from September 25-27, 2020. Registration is only \$50 until January 1, 2020 on a first come first serve basis. There is also an opportunity to attend an Atlanta Braves baseball game for an addition fee. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Diversity Conference at Kutztown University:** Kutztown University will be hosting its 10th Annual Diversity Conference sponsored by the Commission on Human Diversity. The date is Friday, February 28 from 9 am - 4 pm at the McFarland Student Union. You do not have to stay for the entire day and it is free and open to the public - although sponsorships are welcome. The registration link is not open yet, but we’ll keep you posted.

Spouses and Partners Support Group

When a gender-diverse person transitions their spouses and partners transition as well. This time can be highly stressful as a person's partner deals with the upheaval in family relationships, the fear of being stigmatized, reevaluating their sexuality, and the grief that happens as a result of "losing" a partner.

We are pleased to be launching our [Partners Support Group](#). Running at the same time as the Renaissance meet-up, the first formal meeting will take place this January 11th at 7:30pm. All spouses and partners are welcome and all information shared at this meeting is strictly confidential.

January Meeting Guest

We are scheduled to have a special guest at our January meeting. Flo Spector is a tailor who can make custom garments for trans folk. Stay tuned for details.

Looking for Trans-Friendly Resources?

If you're looking for information regarding local doctors, therapists or other trans-affirming resources, please visit the resources page at www.renaissancelv.org

Help Out On A Medical Study

We're sharing an opportunity for people who identify as transgender to take a 15-minute research survey about how people think about themselves and injectable work. Some may know of injectable work as filler work or pumping procedures. This study is being run through the Temple University College of Public Health Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in partnership with Bradbury Sullivan LGBT Community Center. Eligible participants who complete the survey will receive an electronic gift card via email. If you have any questions, contact the project coordinator at patrick.kelly@temple.edu Click this link to be directed to the survey. <https://tinyurl.com/injectable>

Transgender Topics in the News

- A transgender engineer sues Nike for gender identity [harassment](#).
- Former [marine](#) is exploring new identity as transgender.
- [Warren](#) vows to read names of transgender victims every year in Rose Garden.
- Transgender [golfer](#) shares her dream in competing in World Long Drive events.
- We are deeply saddened to learn of the death of Yahira Nesby, a 33-year-old Black transgender woman who was killed in Brooklyn, New York [in an act of gun violence](#) on December 19th. She is at least the 26th transgender person murdered this year.
- With Author JK Rowling's divisive tweets about trans people we thought you might be interested in finding some [trans-friendly Young Adult fiction](#).



Corinne's Corner - You Can Make A Difference

As many of you know, I - along with several others - have been working on a new project that is focused on providing direct financial assistance to trans folk in the Lehigh Valley. The Eastern PA Trans Equity Project is that program. We are incorporated as a non-profit and our website is under construction.

Beginning in late Q1 we will be offering microgrants to help transgender people pay for their legal name change. We will also be providing financial assistance for the purchase of gender-affirming garments/prosthetics such as binders and gaffs.

You can make a difference in a transgender person's life by making a donation to help us get started. Legal name changes in our area can cost between \$250 and \$700 while a good quality and safe binder can cost \$75.

More details will follow as we get closer to launch, but you can make a difference in someone's life now by making a tax deductible contribution at <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/EasternPATransEquityProject/general>

Always Stay in the Know - Follow Us on Social Media!

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!



Upcoming Events

- Jan 4th 9pm - MATC First Saturday at the Stonewall Inn, Allentown
- Jan 6th 6-8pm - LGBT Spirituality Mini-Series featuring Joy Ladin (RSVP Required) - @ Bradbury Sullivan Center
- Jan 8th 6-7:30pm - Parents of Trans Kids - @ Bradbury-Sullivan Center
- Jan 11th 7:30-9pm - **Spouses and Partners Support Group meeting** @ MCCLV 1401 Greenview Dr., Bethlehem (Doors open at 6:30, Meeting starts at 7:30)
- Jan. 11th 7:30-10pm - **Renaissance Transgender Meet-Up** @ MCCLV 1401 Greenview Dr., Bethlehem (Doors open at 6:30, Meeting starts at 7:30)
- Jan. 13th 6-8pm - LGBT Spirituality Mini-Series featuring Austen Hartke (RSVP Required) - @ Bradbury Sullivan Center - **Cosponsored by LV Renaissance**
- Jan. 21st 6-8pm - Queer and Trans People of Color - @ Bradbury-Sullivan Center
- Jan. 22nd 6-7pm - Parents of Trans Kids - @ Bradbury-Sullivan Center
- Jan. 22nd 6:30-8:00pm - Transfeminine Group - @ Bradbury-Sullivan Center
- Jan. 28, 6:30pm – 8:00pm – Trans Masculine Group @ Bradbury-Sullivan Center
- Jan. 29 6:00-8:00pm - Pride Guides Exhibit @ Bradbury Sullivan Center (RSVP Required)

Ongoing LGBTQ Services

- Free HIV & STI Testing - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 4-6pm @ Bradbury-Sullivan Center
- LGBT Legal Clinic - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 4-6pm @ Bradbury Sullivan Center
- LGBT+ Cancer Support Group 2nd Tuesday @ Bradbury Sullivan Center
- LGBT Mental Health Group 3rd Wednesdays - 6-7pm @ Bradbury Sullivan Center
- Bereavement Group - 4th Tuesday, 5:30-7pm @ Bradbury-Sullivan Center

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.