

March 2019

A Couple's Journey - Job Hunting Transgender Style



Persistence is Key

By: Hazel Grace Roses

One of the hardest things a transgender person will go through is finding employment. Trust me, I would know. It's taken me over a year to find a job that would even consider hiring a trans person or one to even call you back after your interview. I used to think that going in and presenting as Chris would be the way to go. Then after my 90 day probationary period, I would come out as Hazel Grace. I felt like this would be safer financially, because then I could collect unemployment if things went sour. Unfortunately, I learned the hard way that that was not the best choice. In fact, it only made this whole process worse for me. In July, I was offered a job as Chris and like I said, I was planning to come out as Hazel Grace after a few months. However, I learned in those months how much hate my supervisor had towards the LGBT community and I actually NEVER came out. With that said, a new job search began. This time, I would interview for each job as Hazel Grace; no more keeping secrets! I knew it wouldn't be the easiest thing, but I felt like I would know how accepting an possible employer would be right from the start. The good news is that I was recently offered a job that I will start next week! I am very excited to finally be able to wear makeup full time, keep my nail polish on, and be called by the correct name all the time! With that said, no matter how you come out at work, do it in a way that is at your comfort level. Good luck and best wishes!

Being Supportive and Patient

By: Bethany Roses

Over the past year, Hazel has been on the search for the perfect job that would accept her throughout her transition; she wanted a fresh start. However, we've learned throughout this process that many promising employers will, unfortunately, turn up their nose to a transgender candidate. As a spouse, this is difficult to watch, especially when I knew how qualified she was for the jobs she was applying for. Even when she'd have interviews and be verbally offered the job, my heart would break just as hard as hers when the offer would be retracted. I've learned through this process to continue to remain her biggest cheerleader. I continued to help her prep for interviews and review her resume with a fine tooth comb. Though the timeline of when that perfect job would be offered to her, I had to be the strong one as we played the waiting game. In the end, Hazel was offered a job that she will start on March 2nd. As her wife, I am ECSTATIC for her to begin this new opportunity and officially be full time as Hazel Grace Roses!

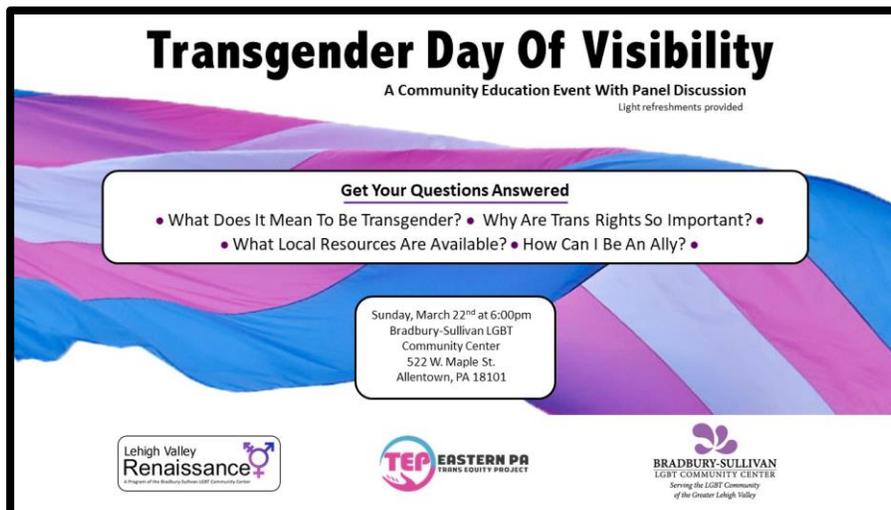
Next Renaissance Meeting - Saturday, March 14

Doors open at 6:30pm.

Meeting starts at 7:30pm

Social Time 8:30-9:30pm

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley. 1401 Greenview Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18018



Transgender Day of Visibility - March 22nd, 6-8pm

Join us for a moderated panel discussion and open house where we will help to educate the general public about trans folk, the issues that impact us and how they can become better allies.

Last year we had over 120 trans and cis gender people in attendance who heard the stories of 5 people. This year we will be doing the same. So join Emma, Shirlene, Vikki, Evan, and Shawn as they tell their stories and help us to inform our allies.

Upcoming Speakers - LV Renaissance

We look forward to having the following speakers at our monthly LV Renaissance meetings:

- April: Carley Bergey, Voice Therapist

Quotes to Inspire you!

“Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it.” - Dennis P. Kimbro

“Be not afraid of life. Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact.” - William James

Upcoming Pride Festivals - Mark Your Calendars!

- New Hope Pridefest - May 16, 2020
- Pocono Pride (Stroudsburg) - June 7, 2020
- Philly Pride - June 14, 2020
- Doylestown Pride - June 20, 2020
- Pittsburgh Pride - July 18-19, 2020
- Reading Pride - July 19, 2020
- Pride Festival of Central PA (Harrisburg) - July 25, 2020
- Lehigh Valley Pride - August 16, 2020

Trans*Archives with Jack Halberstam

On March 5, Jack Halberstam, professor of English and Gender Studies from Columbia University, will be presenting his studies of transgender history. This includes everything from photo albums, film, paintings, and performances. If you are interested, this presentation will be held at the Linderman Library, Scheler Humanities Forum, Room 200 at 4:30 pm.

‘Lady Valor’ Screening at Bradbury Sullivan Center

The Reel Queer Film Series at Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center presents a free screening of Lady Valor on March 19th at 6:00pm. A talkback and dessert reception will follow.

This eloquent CNN documentary explores the courageous and very public transition of Kristin Beck, a decorated US Navy Seal who has challenged many peoples’ assumptions of how elite military commandos should be. We meet supportive advocates from her family and military community, as well as voices of opposition to her transition. With unflagging courage and compassion, Kristin Beck redefines social notions of heroism and devotes true service to her country in entirely new, surprising, and transcendent terms.

Watch the trailer here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TB6Lbsz_Ejg

Keystone Conference - March 25-29

It is still not too late to register for the conference! The Keystone Conference will be taking place on March 25-29, 2020. Register and find out more about the Conference at <http://www.keystone-conference.org/>. Renaissance members Corinne Goodwin, Christine Penn and Adrian Shanker will be giving presentations, so make sure you pop-in to say “Hi!”

Thanks to our Friends at The Perfect Fit!

Our shopping event for trans women was a huge success! We served over a dozen trans feminine folks who were able to enjoy great shopping at killer prices. As always, we thank the Perfect Fit team for treating us like royalty!

Transgender Services Fair & Open House - April 30th, 6-8pm

We are pleased to announce the EPTEP and the Bradbury-Sullivan Center are co-hosting a new program just for trans and gender-diverse people. You will have an opportunity to meet with multiple service providers that support the trans community and while you are at it you can meet and mingle with others from the gender-diverse community. Watch this space for more details but save the date now!



Trans Community
Open House & Services Fair

Meet • Mingle • Learn

Thursday, April 30th 6-8pm
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center
522 W. Maple St.
Allentown, PA 18101

EASTERN PA
TRANS EQUITY PROJECT

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

And please join us for "Health, Safety, and Gender Expression: A Community Conversation" 8-8:30pm with Patrick Kelly, MPH candidate at Temple University
Patrick will be discussing the relationship between non-surgical injectables and the wellbeing of the trans community, presented by Patrick Kelly, MPH candidate at Temple University.

New on the LV Renaissance and EPTEP Websites

We have updated and refreshed our listings of trans affirming healthcare providers and therapists. They are available at www.RenaissanceLV.org and if you are seeking assistance and information about changing your name, make sure you visit www.PATransEquity.org !!

Do You Know an LGBTQ Teen Who Needs a Prom Dress

Renaissance and EPTEP members are volunteering at the YWCA Bethlehem's "Pop-Up Prom Shop" where high School Juniors and Seniors can choose from a selection of over 2,000 dresses and pay only \$15!!! The event is Saturday, March 7th from 9am-1:30pm and Renaissance members will be on-hand. Please spread the word!

Transgender Topics in the News

- Brazilian [transgender dancer](#) shatters Carnival parade taboo.
- [Teenager transgender](#) row splits Sweden as dysphoria diagnoses soar by 1,500%
- Bridging Divides: A [transgender lawyer](#) brings her message to Sioux Falls
- [Doctor Who's](#) first transgender companion has plans to be the first transgender Doctor, too

Volunteer Opportunities

Renaissance and EPTEP continue to broaden our services and our reach and that has resulted in opportunities for our members to step-up and spread the word of inclusiveness. We currently are seeking:

- People to assist with tabling events at NCCC (11am-1pm, Mar. 3), the LGBT Business Summit (8am-2pm Mar. 19), the Keystone Conference (Mar 26-28), NEPA Trans Health Conference (April 14).
- People interested in writing a column for this newsletter
- People who can accompany trans folk at their court hearings for legal name changes
- People interested in finding guest speakers for Renaissance meetings
- Bilingual individuals to assist Spanish speakers

If you want to make a difference and enjoy the good feelings you get from doing good work, email us at info@PATransEquity.org

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

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





Corinne's Corner - You Never Know When You Can Make A Difference

I recently had the opportunity to spend an hour with a church group. Their leader had reached out to me asking that I provide information on the trans community and how they can be better allies. They were a highly engaged audience that paid attention, laughed at all of my bad jokes, and asked great questions. One of those questions was “What resources are available for trans kids?”

This is always a hard one for me, because while there is a dearth of resources for trans adults, there are even fewer for trans kids - in this case for a grade school age trans kid. The good news is that we have an amazing local group of parents who can - and no doubt will - surround this family with love and point them in the directions they need to get the support they need. I was so glad that I could make that connection.

Gender-diverse people helping other gender-diverse people is what LV Renaissance and EPTEP are all about. In some cases that is through providing scholarships and grants for legal name changes (see photo above) but most of the time that help comes through ***being available, being present, listening, and giving a helping hand*** when it is needed. So make sure you reach out to someone new at the next Renaissance or Partners meeting and let them know you are there for them.

LV Renaissance and EPTEP are 100% volunteer organizations and we manage to do amazing work with surprisingly few assets. We can do more but we need your help to do so. Please consider giving back to the transgender community by volunteering your time, effort, ideas, and (yes) funding.

Here's to making a difference!

Upcoming Events

- March 11 - Parents of Trans Kids @ Bradbury Sullivan Center from 6-7:30pm
- March 14 - LV Renaissance Meeting @ MCCLV from 7:30-9pm (Doors open at 6:30)
- March 14 - Spouses and Partners Support Group Meeting @ MCCLV from 7:30-9 (Doors open at 6:30)
- March 19 - LGBTQ Business Summit @ Homewood Suites, Center Valley PA from 8:30am-2pm
- March 22 - Trans Day of Visibility Event @ Bradbury Sullivan Center from 6-8pm
- March 24 - Transmasculine Group @ Bradbury Sullivan Center from 6:30-8pm
- March 25 - Parents of Trans Kids @ Bradbury Sullivan Center from 6-7:30pm
- March 25 - Transfeminine Group @ Bradbury Sullivan Center from 6:30-8pm
- April 30 - Trans Services Fair & Open House @ Bradbury Sullivan Center from 6-8pm

Ongoing Local 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

More Gender-Diversity Events Coming Your Way

- **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 will take place on May 9th. This all-day event 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. There is also an opportunity to attend an Atlanta Braves baseball game for an additional fee. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Annual Rainbow Gala:** On June 12, 2020, The LGBTQ Business Council will be hosting its 6th Annual Rainbow Gala from 6-11pm at The Steel Club in Hellertown, PA. Single tickets are \$100 and couples tickets are \$190. At the event there will be cocktails, dinner, dancing and a silent auction. Please RSVP to brittanyw@lehighvalleychamber.org

Privacy Notice: Lehigh Valley Transgender Renaissance, the Eastern PA Trans Equity Project, 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.