



CoH announces Transgender Awareness Month events

Chicago, IL - November marks Transgender Awareness Month. Since its inception, Center on Halsted has celebrated, supported and continues to welcome members of our Transgender community.

This November the Center is participating in Transgender Awareness Month offering both special events and recurring programs created by and for the transgender community and welcoming to all members of the LGBT and ally community. The Center also values diversity with three special events; An Evening with Trans Activist Diane Schroer and the ACLU (including a review of the recently passed Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act); T-OUT MIC (a monthly open mic night) and the Fifth Annual Night of Fallen Stars will welcome the entire LGBT community.

Transgender Awareness Month programming includes:

TRANcinema Film Festival

Tuesdays (Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24) 7:00 PM screenings

Center on Halsted celebrates Transgender Awareness Month with "TRANcinema Film Festival" at the Hoover-Leppen Theatre. Enjoy a casual movie night for those 18+ who identify as transgender or have an interest in questions of gender identity. Stay afterwards for a discussion of the film and the topics it touched on. A suggested \$5 donation may be offered to support continuing transgender programs.

Partners in Transition

Thursdays (November 5, 12, 19 and December 3, 10, 17th) 6:00 PM - 7:30PM

This 6-week group is open to women whose partners are transitioning and identify along a male spectrum. The group will offer support for those who are coping with the changing identity of their partner and their relationship. Topics will include identity, communication, gender, sexuality, culture and social support systems.

This group is offered in conjunction with Chicago Women's Health Center and Center on Halsted. Registration is through the Center. Contact 773.472.6469, ext. 279 for more information or to register.

An Evening with Diane Schroer (in partnership with ACLU-Illinois)

Sunday, November 15, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

The Center welcomes ACLU-Illinois and Diane Schroer (transgender activist) a woman, who lost a job offer because of her sexual status, and won a groundbreaking federal sex discrimination lawsuit. In 2008 a federal district court judge in Washington, D.C., ruled that the Library of Congress discriminated against Diane Schroer when it offered her a job and then rescinded it after learning she was transgendered. The American Civil Liberties Union, which represented Schroer, said Judge James Robertson's ruling is the first to hold that the federal sex discrimination statute, Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, applies to transgendered people.

Join Ms. Schroer as she shares her personal story of discovering her female gender identity and her decision to transition. She will talk about the challenges of coming out to her friends and family, and discuss the importance of engaging in the political process in a thoughtful and strategic way. ACLU's John Knight will also speak on the recently passed Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

\$5 suggested donation to support transgender programs at Center on Halsted. For reservations (strongly encouraged) visit www.centeronhalsted.org or call 773-472-6469 X 495

Fifth Annual Night of Fallen Stars - (A Day of Remembrance)

Join us for evening of fabulous Transgender performers that will include poets, artists, musicians, comedians, dancers and other theatrical performers of all ages. Special appearance by Jaila Simms, the first Transgendered artist to win a reality series MTV/P. Diddy's "Making His Band" Official member of Bad Boy's "Dirty Money Crew." This evening will not only celebrate Chicago's amazingly talented Transgender community but will also remember the many Transgendered people who lost their lives to gender hate crimes. We remember, celebrate, and unite as a community!

Saturday, November 21, 2009

5:30 PM Reception (with Trans groups and vendors)

7:00 PM Performance

5:30 PM -9:00 PM

\$5 suggested donation at the door

Hosted by Broadway Youth Center, Center on Halsted, Howard Brown Health Center, Illinois Gender Advocates and Equality IL.

Ongoing Transgender Programming Includes:

"T" Talk

2nd Monday of the month, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Be part of a casual, peer-lead conversation group for those 18+ who either identify as transgendered or are dealing with a gender identity issue, moderated by Christina Kahrl (COH Transgender Program Volunteer Liaison).

T- OUT MIC

3rd Thursday of the month, 7:30 PM -9:30 PM

A Trans-focused casual open-mic night welcoming to all members of the LGBT and ally community, co-hosted by Jami Bantry of the Center and Lars Von Keitz (OutMusic) open to musicians, poets, speakers, and artists. Donations are encouraged to support community programs at COH.

3656 Trans Ave

4th Wednesday of the month (beginning on January 2010). 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Attend a free monthly seminar series on important issues for Trans folk 18+ such as transitioning in the workplace, and will address the concerns of both trans men and trans women alike.

For more information about Transgender programs at Center on Halsted, contact Christina Kahrl at transgender@centeronhalsted.org or 773-472-6469 ext. 495

For more information about Center on Halsted, please visit our website, www.centeronhalsted.org.