

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

<http://www.tgender.net/cc>

Vol. 14 No. 8- August 2002

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The Crystal Chronicle is the official newsletter of the Crystal Club. The Chronicle is published and mailed a week prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

Complementary copies of the Chronicle may be obtained by contacting a club officer or any club member.

News items for the Chronicle should be mailed to the Club before the end of each month. The e-mail address is:
ccnl@tgender.net

Please specify in the subject field that this is an article for the newsletter.

President's Corner

- Nikki

Congratulations:

To the Columbus Municipal Court – Last month, Katheryn and Dawn were married – since their birth certificates state “F” and “M” respectively, the state permits the union – despite the fact the “M’s equipment” no longer matches the certificate. The court issued the marriage certificate and the judge completed the union, with professionalism and sensitivity.

To the Ohio Supreme Court – Last month, the court ruled that a lesbian couple in Ohio could legally change their last names to a common name. Despite heavy pressure from various groups purporting to support issues of relating to marriage or religion, the court noted that an Ohio citizen might change their legal name unless it is being done to commit fraud or avoid debt. The relationship in question was not an issue to the court

Susan B. Anthony was arrested in the 1870’s for attempting to vote – and led us towards rights for women.

In the sixties there was Rosa Park, whose simple courage initiated our movement away from racial discrimination.

In the 1970’s there was the Stonewall Riots that has led to the national discourse on gay rights. Today we have many who risk much to live their lives, to be themselves, and, perhaps unwillingly, challenge our society to reconsider a viewpoint. Peter Oiler (Shame on Winn-Dixie), our own Gwen (newsletter editor), and countless others in this country are willingly, or perhaps unwillingly, becoming the visible point of change.

So much of our community is silent – understandably concerned with the risks of becoming one of these “points of change”. But those who have been placed in this position deserve our support. I’m not saying we all need to march on the Statehouse Lawn, or visit our Congressmen/women in cross-gendered mode. But how about sending an e-mail to that senator or congressman? Or a donation (time, money) to one of the many support groups fighting (ultimately) for all of our rights? I don’t mean to single out any particular group – Stonewall, Shame On Winn-Dixie come to mind – but there are many others. And let’s not just focus on the negative – maybe we need to start with a “Thank You” to those listed above.

Same Sex Marriage

Two women, one transgender, joined in legal matrimony

Gay People's Chronicle, Aug 9, 2002, Page 1

by Anthony Glassman

Columbus - In a completely legal, state-sanctioned same-sex marriage, Dawn Kereluik and Katheryn Neudecker were married in a civil ceremony in the Franklin County probate court on July 31.

The couple took advantage of the fact that Kereluik, as a transgendered woman, will always be viewed as a man under Ohio law. The state does not allow the sex on birth certificates to be changed, even after gender reassignment surgery.

'I had to bring additional documentation, like my birth certificate, but it was worth it,' Dawn Kereluik enthused.

Her spouse, Katheryn, has adopted the last name Kereluik as well. She has already received her new driver's license and, according to Dawn, Katheryn's new social security card should arrive in the next few weeks.

The two were wed at about 2:45 pm, and had their reception at the Grapevine Café at 6 pm, joined by roughly 30 friends.

The Franklin County probate court web site lists their marriage, with Dawn Kereluik as groom and Katheryn Neudecker as bride, although Judge Lawrence A. Belskis was more gender-neutral when the ceremony finished.

'I now pronounce you married,' he intoned.

Compared to the preparations involved, which included gathering

documentation and checking with the court that it would allow the marriage to take place, the event itself was rather quiet, according to Dawn.

'As Mary Ann [Horton, a friend of the couple] put it, the activist in me would have liked it to have attracted more attention, but I'm glad it went off like it did,' she said.

The Kereluiks' is not Ohio's first same-sex marriage. A number of couples with a transgendered member have been married around Ohio, and a Texas Supreme Court ruling that gender at birth is gender for life opened the door for two lesbian couples to contravene that state's ban on same-sex marriage.

'This isn't the first one in the state,' said Horton, 'but previous ones have been done quietly. I'm delighted that Dawn and Katheryn have chosen to make their marriage more visible.'

'Ohio bases the right to marry on the sex on your birth certificate,' she continued. 'Since Ohio doesn't change birth certificates when a transsexual changes their sex, we're in an interesting situation for transsexuals: Gay and lesbian marriages are legal in Ohio but heterosexual ones aren't.'

'It really highlights the absurdity of our marriage laws,' she concluded. 'They should either change the laws to permit all same-sex marriages or to change Ohio birth certificates.'

According to Horton, only Ohio, Idaho, Tennessee and Florida bar transsexuals from altering their birth certificates after gender reassignment surgery.

The women have, however, gained myriad benefits enjoyed by heterosexual couples across the world.

'If one of Katheryn's girls gets injured, I can just take her to the hospital instead of searching around for the power of

attorney document,' Dawn noted. 'It's very major. Being married gives you a lot of rights and we think everyone should have them, which is why we're making a lot of noise about it.'

Editors Note

Congrats to Dawn & Katheryn on your Marriage.
May the Good Lord Bless your Union.

Gwen

Valley Gems Meeting

This is a reminder to let you know that the Valley Gems meet on the first Saturday of each month. For more information on the club please call Holly at 937-236-0477.

Stonewall Supports TG Community

Stonewall has made a room available to members of the TG Community that need a safe, free place to change. For more Information please contact Angie Wellman at 614-299-7764.

Stonewall is also hosting a Free Support Group, the normal meetings are at 7:00pm on the First Wednesday of the month.

This is an opportunity for members of the TG Community to come together in a Safe & Secure atmosphere to air their concerns, make new friends, as well as, have a place where they can feel free to be themselves.

Meral Crane is the facilitator of the group, she welcomes all interested people to attend.

Examining Female to Male Transsexually

Female to male (FTM) transsexuality has long been a marginalised issue, meaning that there is limited medical information available on the long-term effects of testosterone usage. Anecdotal evidence can chart the short-term physical changes but very little data exists for transmen about the risks of heart diseases, increased blood pressure, osteoporosis or the

dangers of double dosing.

The Gender Centre and FTM Australia will each be holding information sessions this month for lesbians interested in the use of testosterone. The physical and emotional impact of transitioning will be examined, as well as a number of the health issues surrounding testosterone administration.

Elizabeth Riley, coordinator of the Gender Centre, says that despite the lack of definitive research, more FTMs are transitioning now than ever before. Riley said that information sessions, like the one being held at the Gender Centre, are a good way of generating an awareness of the hormone regime and providing a support network for transgender men and boys.

"In the last five years we have seen a significant increase in the number of female-to-males coming through the centre to use the services. But the transition itself is just one area we are focussing on at the centre because the impact of the hormone treatments tends to involve much more than just what happens to one physically," Riley said.

"There is often a lot of counselling needed around the impact of that transition on an individual. There are many factors that come into it, like the changes in lifestyle and how one is perceived in the world."

The bottom line is that nobody knows what the long-term health risks associated with testosterone are. However, due to the emerging numbers of transmen using the hormone for prolonged periods, the short-term physical effects can now be charted.

"The impact that an individual experiences tends to be what they are seeking. The hormone regimes that FTMs go onto in order to create that transition have a very similar effect to standard male puberty," Riley said.

"With the doses of testosterone, the impact would be like that of any boy that grows into manhood. That includes muscle development, deepening of the voice, as well as the growth of body and facial hair."

According to Riley, these are just a few of the complex issues that will be raised at the Gender Centre's information evening.

Unlike the Gender Centre, which is partly funded by government health bodies, FTM Australia is a voluntary peer support network. Both organisations have the same basic aim though, which is to provide

education, support and affirmation for transmen.

FTM Australia publishes a bi-monthly magazine called Torque, to identify friendly service providers and medical practitioners and to help transmen come to terms with their masculine identities.

The object of the group is to help transmen lead healthy and fulfilling lives and the board of nine people regularly meets to organise workshops and events.

This month FTM Australia have invited Leo Turner to give a talk about testosterone in relation to FTMs, transmen and others affirming their masculinity. Turner is a clinical nurse consultant in andrology at the Andrology Unit at Concord Hospital, so there will be a number of informative topics discussed, such as the options of shots or pellets for hormone delivery and the types of medical follow-ups necessary for the treatments.

It is becoming quite clear that the numbers of transgender men and boys requiring emotional and medical support are significantly increasing. Both FTM Australia and the Gender Centre are providing a much-needed service for transmen and they also assist the partners, family and friends of transitioning FTMs in what can sometimes be a difficult but rewarding process.

Editors Note

I would like to extend an invitation to all Trans-Men to contact us at the Crystal Club, you to are an important part of our Transgendered Family.

We of the C/C are presently endeavoring to build bridges between the various diversified groups that make up the Transgendered Community.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to become a part of the Crystal Club.

I would be more than happy to put you in contact with our Public Relations Officer, which is always the first step for any potential new members to join our club.

August Cook Out Planned

We will be having a Cook Out at Blendon Woods Metro Park on August 24th, 2002.

If you would like to attend please R.S.V.P.

Us at either (614) 322-2904 or (614) 481-3373.

If you are planning on bringing any food with you we would like to know this as well.

Please note that we have placed a map to the Cookout Location on the back of this newsletter.

Florida Birth Records

Birth records in Florida can now be changed!

We have been working for years on this and it seems that education was the key component to the success in this.

Intersexed individuals without complete documentation as well as transsexuals will both now receive corrected documents.

Requirements: "A statement from any licensed physician (that the change was completed or that the original certificate is in fact in error) and a court order for a name change [if desired] and The Office of Vital Statistics will amend the birth certificate.

Effective immediately."

Office of Vital Statistics
Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services
P.O. Box 210
Jacksonville, FL 32231-0042
(904) 359-6929

Gwendilynne's Editorial

This month's editorial is in reference to the above mentioned article on birth records.

Those of you who know me, know that this is a subject extremely near & dear to my heart!

I dream of the day that I can say that my State of Birth.... OHIO follows Florida's lead on this issue.

That may yet be years away, but, it is a possibility who's time has finally come, thank the Lord, because I'm not getting any younger.

As my good friend Maryann has told me many times in the recent past, so now does the our Sisters in Florida reiterate!

Education is the Key Component, we need in order to get our issue's heard & acted upon in a

positive manner.

And so I find myself getting excited about the possibilities of securing this & many other rights for our community.

So let's get to it Columbus!

You may contact me at Gwen_Farrar @ Hotmail.Com, Or call me at (614) 481-3373.

On Another Note:

First of all I would like to say that I Personally Appreciate all those who have stood up for our Rights in the past.

One of these Brave people contacted me via email this month..... Former Editor of this Newsletter....Sarah Fox.

Sarah I would like to thank you personally, not only for the kind words of introduction to Eric Resnick, Judy Byrd, & Cindy Scott.

But more importantly for all your hard work & dedication to the GLBT Community with your activist activities of the resent past.

This Community needs more people like yourself, people who are willing to come forward, & speak out to the Government Officials & other pertinent people concerning our needs.

To this end, I would consider it an Honor to Speak of & for our Community concerning our Rights or lack there of, if this community would grant me their backing, I can't do it alone, we all need the support of our peers, I am no different.

I would also like to take this opportunity to insert some food for thought here to all the members of our community, are YOU doing all you can to support our communities needs.

I understand that there are a lot of you who considers this outside your comfort levels, there was a time that I remember myself feeling the same way, but, perhaps there is something you can do that is within your comfort levels.

There are many fine organizations that need Good People to Volunteer, so call the Organization of your Choice.... DARE to Make a Difference!

Again Sarah.....Thank You!....I wish all good things for You & Yours.

Sincerely

Gwendilynne N. Farrar Editor, Crystal Chronicle.

Summer Nail Care

Hey, it's summer time! Let's show off those gorgeous finger & toe nails!

Preparations:

1. Use your favorite Bath or Shower Gel to clean nails on your hands and feet.
2. Get an inexpensive nail brush at the discount store to clean under and all around your nails.
3. Use your favorite Body Scrub to exfoliate away dry skin.

Then gather the following:

Several Cotton balls, Cuticle Cream, an Orangewood Stick, an Emery Board, Base Coat, Nail Polish and Top Coat.

Remove old polish and shape nails using an emery board. Tip: Weak or soft, fragile nails appreciate being filed in one direction. "Sawing" using a back and forth motion can make them weaker. Toe nails should be shaped straight across rather than curved.

Apply Cuticle Cream. A good Cuticle Cream contains a moisturizing complex that can be used frequently to keep cuticles flexible and more resistant to splitting. Apply to each cuticle and gently push each cuticle back with a blunt edged orangewood stick wrapped lightly with cotton.

Ready Set Go!

For a natural manicure simply use a nail buffer to smooth the nail leaving a slight shine. When applying polish proceed as follows: Slightly loosen all nail color caps before beginning any polish application.

Apply Base Coat to first hand (or foot,) using a 3 stroke method (side, middle, side). Tip: Start at the pinkie or smallest toe and work your way towards the thumb or big toe to prevent smudged nails when working across your wet nails.

Apply Base Coat to second hand. The Base Coat protects your nails from being stained by red or deeper colored polishes.

Next apply the first coat of your favorite nail color to the first hand. Apply this polish to your second hand and let dry slightly.

Apply second coat of polish to both hands and let dry slightly again.

Now apply a Speed Set or Quick Set Top Coat.

A good quality Speed Set or Quick Set drying Top Coat gives your nails a glossy finish while it reduces chipping and improves the nail color intensity. Tip: Extend the life of your manicure by reapplying this Top Coat every other day.

Pedicure Tips: Give your feet a warm relaxing foot bath and buff away any dry skin found on and around your heels. Place individual cotton balls or use a specially made and inexpensive pedicure sponge to separate each toe for ease in polishing. Start with the smallest toe and work towards the biggest toe. Once nail color is completely dry, (about 30 minutes,) apply your favorite hand cream.

Coordinating nail and lip color with your wardrobe creates a timeless, classic look, however, everyone knows those summer days call for fun and trendy too!

For those of you who have experienced make-up that runs, we would like to come to your rescue, we have the solution to your problem ladies.

Please feel free to contact us. Your comments or questions are welcomed.

[Barb Canter-Frech](#)

bcanterfrech@yahoo.com

[Victoria Pennington](#)

vpennington2000@yahoo.com

[Independent Beauty Consultants](#)

Transgendered Rights In Hawaii

(July 1, Honolulu) The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission has ruled that transsexual and transgender people are protected under the state's employer anti-discrimination laws.

The decision allows it to go ahead with a discrimination suit, filed by five employees of a Honolulu company who were fired for wearing dresses to work.

The company claimed that the workers did not abide by employer-dictated dress codes. State law allows a company to dictate a dress code.

The Civil Rights Commission ruled that despite the law, an employer cannot order an employee to wear the clothing of a particular gender.

A group representing some of Hawaii's biggest companies fought against the ruling, arguing that firms have the right to tell their workers what is and what is not appropriate attire.

In his submission to the commission, John Knorek, the attorney for the group said: "Men who dress and identify with being female are not entitled to protection under sex-discrimination laws and they are expressly excluded from it.

Knorek said the group may appeal in federal court.

Upcoming Meetings

August 2002

09 Business Meeting

24 Club Meeting – Cook Out at B.W.M. Park

September 2002

13 Business Meeting

28 Club Meeting - **PFLAG**

October 2002

11 Business Meeting

26 Club Meeting - Halloween Party

Editors Reminder to Membership at Large

Our esteemed President has asked me to remind Our Membership that we have some very Important Business to conduct at the Cook Out this month.

PFLAG is just a little over one month away, we need to finalize our plans for this Upcoming Event.

This vote was supposed to have taken place at last months meeting, but, had to be rescheduled for this month due to unforeseen circumstances.

We need to have all members whom

wish to vote on this issue attending.

The Crystal Chronicle
Information Page

Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

Our Purpose

The Crystal Club is a non-profit social and support group for transvestites, cross dressers, transsexuals, and other transgendered individuals. Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to participate. Both male-to-female and female-to-male individuals are welcome. Also, members from related organizations, helpful professionals and approved guests are welcome when cleared through a Crystal Club officer.

Screening Officers:

(614) 806-7288 (with voice mail)

Electronic Mail:

cc@tgender.net

World Wide Web Page:

<http://www.tgender.net/cc>

What to Expect at a Meeting

Except for being transgendered, participants in the club are just like other people. We dress pretty much like average people, and meet only to socialize and participate in club functions. We range in age from our 20's to our 60's, and come from a wide range of professions. Most of us are cross dressers, although several of us are transsexuals. Most of us are married and have kids, and often our spouses attend the meetings, too. Nothing of a sexual nature is permitted at any of the meetings.

You will not be criticized for how well you dress or pass. The club isn't a beauty contest. We range from hardly convincing to completely passing. Some of us dress up, some dress down. Come however you are comfortable. Our regular meetings will have a private changing room, so you may bring a change of clothing with you.

We do insist, however, that you dress either completely male or completely female. Gender-blending attire is normally not an option. We also insist that everyone behaves as ladies and gentlemen (which is more polite than simply "women and men"). Overtly sexual or obnoxious behavior is unwelcome; we don't need to exasperate the feelings of people who are already nervous!

You will not be required to reveal your legal name, or any other personal information. You can be as open or anonymous as you wish. We ALL have been newcomers and have had similar feelings. We can (and will) sympathize completely!

Membership Dues

One year membership, includes newsletter	\$42
Newsletter subscription only	\$18
Meeting Fees:	
First Timer	Free
Member (of any T group)	\$10
Member and Partner	\$15
Non-Member	\$20

Your membership renewal date is shown after your name on the mailing label. Membership fees paid on months other than January are prorated to January.

Contact Information

Postal Mail:

The Crystal Club
PO Box 287

Contact Policy

All calls are kept strictly confidential. We do not use caller ID and will return your call only at your request. If you are still concerned about caller ID, you can block this function by pressing *67 (or dialing 1167 for rotary/pulse) before the phone number. All written inquiries are kept confidential. The newsletter is mailed in a plain, white envelope, bearing only the return PO box and no markings pertaining to the Crystal Club. The meeting location is never published, and is only disclosed after a prospective attendee has been interviewed by the screening officer.

Meeting Dates and Times

Regular meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month, except for November and December. The doors open at about 6:30 p.m. (for those wishing to change). The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. Refreshments are normally provided, and activities usually center around a presenter or selected topic. Several members may go to an accepting dance club or restaurant after the meeting (of course, this is optional).

A business meeting is held on the second Friday of the month. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. After the club's business is addressed, this meeting is more of a relaxed and personal discussion time than the regular meeting - a great time to get support for "real world" issues!

During the month of December, and at various other times, we will hold special activities (such as a holiday party). These will be announced in the newsletter.

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