

The Crystal Chronicle

Columbus, OH

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

Vol. 14 No. 11- November 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

As many of you are aware, Peter Oiler recently lost the initial phase of the "Shame on Winn-Dixie" case. It is now headed for the Appeals court, where hopefully a more enlightened set of judges will overturn the initial decision.

This case is but the latest in what I see as a disturbing trend over the past fifteen to twenty years – our social approach to social issues and concerns. I'm not just talking about GLBT issues, but social issues in general. In theory, our elected officials are supposed to pass legislation regarding social issues, and the legal branch of government is supposed to judge based upon available legislation. Increasingly, politicians are unwilling to pass social legislation – and quite understandably so. Why irritate some interest groups at the expense of others? As long as the bill sits in the limbo of some committee, the status quo remains, and no one has to get upset.

The problem is that the people have, from their perception, an injustice - so they take their problem to the courts. The court has to make a decision, and so one individual (the judge) makes a choice. Social policy is being set – not by vote, or public debate, or legislation – but by one individual attempting to do the best job they can. No matter how conscientious, how dedicated to equality that judge is, at some level, their personal values, biases, and viewpoint will color any social decision they derive. Most people don't realize that judges at ALL federal courts are nominated by the President and ratified by the Senate – FOR LIFE. Most people also don't realize that the municipal and state court judgeships are basically the "farm league" for the Federal system. If you stop to think about the situation, it can be pretty scary.

Obviously we aren't going to be able to make the politicians start doing their job any time soon. But we can make a difference by exercising our most powerful freedoms – the right to vote, and the right to express our opinions.

VOTE – for the politicians you believe represent your interests, values, and opinions. It doesn't matter what party affiliation you have, or if the politician believes everything you believe. Just vote. The only mechanism for change is your power of vote. And typically

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less than twenty percent of the vote decides who runs things for all of us.

VOTE - for judges whose record reflects the decision process you can support. Pick judges carefully, and make ask yourself whether you would feel comfortable bringing one of your concerns to their bench.

SPEAK – to the politicians. They count emails and letters on specific issues. They are starved for data all the time. They pay attention to what their people are telling them. Democracy is not about political correctness. It is about the freedom to engage in debate and establish a non-violent solution.

SPEAK – to your senators about Federal Judge ratifications. Until politicians start doing their job, this small group of ratified judges will be making some pretty important decisions.

By the time this newsletter is mailed, the day of election will have already passed. If you voted, good. If you made an informed vote, great. If you didn't vote, make a commitment to voting in the future. And no matter what – speak. It's the most powerful freedom you have.

nikkim@tgender.net.

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) FLORIDA OKAYS GENDER AMENDMENTS ON BIRTH CERTIFICATES (FL,US)

The Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services needed time to implement internal policy changes following the June 2002 news that intersexed people and post-operative transsexuals born in Florida were to be allowed amended Florida birth certificates reflecting their corrected sex and gender-appropriate names.

The policy clarification, implemented in mid-October 2002, reflects current medical knowledge concerning transsexuals as well as their realistic needs.

Intersexed or transsexual persons requesting an amended Florida birth

certificate must provide the Florida Department of Health with (1) a copy of the court order granting a change of name under either Florida Statute, Section 68.07 regarding legal name change or a substantially similar statute from another state; (2) a notarized affidavit from the physician who performed the sex reassignment surgery; and (3) a fee for birth certificate amendment (currently \$20). Use of Florida Department of Health Form DH 430, Affidavit of Amendment to Certificate of Live Birth, is recommended. The affidavit must include the physician's medical license number and be accompanied by medical records, signed by the physician who performed the surgery, certifying that the individual has completed sex reassignment in accordance with appropriate medical procedures and is now considered to be a member of the new gender for all medical purposes.

The issued birth certificate will be marked "Amended" but without identification of what has been changed. Additional copies may be ordered for a moderate additional cost.

Both Equality Florida [www.eqfl.org] and the National Center for Lesbian Change/Birth Certificate Amendment kit at their respective websites. The kit will include required forms as well as a sample physician's letter. NCLR has supported Equality Florida in its efforts to bring about this policy change.

Inter sexed and post operative transsexuals born in Florida can obtain additional information by contacting the Office of Vital Statistics, Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, P.O. Box 210, Jacksonville, FL 32231-0042. (904) 359-6929 or (904) 359-6931.

Contact Person: Vanessa Edwards Foster; Houston, Texas

Contact Email: ntacmedia@aol.com
media@ntac.org

Contact Phone: 832-483-9901

Website: <http://www.ntac.org>

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) Araujo I: BEREAVEMENT FUND CREATED FOR SLAIN TRANSGENDER TEEN (US)

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), partnering with Remembering Our Dead has re-established the Bereavement Fund to assist the family of Gwen "Lida" Araujo. Proceeds from the fund will be turned over to a Memorial Fund established by the family, in Araujo's male name: Eddie Araujo Jr.

Araujo had been attending an informal party on the night of October 3, when she was set upon by at least three males who discovered her true birth gender. She was beaten to death, taken to the garage and strangled, then with hands and feet bound and wrapped in a sheet, she was buried in a shallow grave in a remote area 150 miles from her home.

As always, 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the family memorial fund. Information for donating by mail, by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or for online contributions via PayPal to the Gwen Araujo Bereavement Fund can be found at <http://www.ntac.org/donation/>

Araujo II: Family, community bid farewell to killed transgender teen (CA,US)

To family members, Eddie "Gwen" Araujo was a struggling but beloved teenager whose killing, allegedly committed in a fit of homophobic rage, is a private sorrow.

To transgender activists, Araujo represents the 25th victim since last November, by their count, of violence against people who don't fit traditional gender molds.

Both groups mourned Araujo at funeral services Friday.

"Angels don't have a gender and he's my angel now. I know that he's safe somewhere where no one can hurt him," said Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, speaking to hundreds of mourners at St. Edward's

Church.

Araujo, 17, was beaten and strangled at a house party on Oct. 3. Police say three men attacked him after discovering the beautiful blonde they knew as Lida was biologically male.

Two weeks later, one of the men led officers to Araujo's body in a shallow grave in the Sierra foothills about 150 miles east of San Francisco. One defendant has pleaded innocent while the other two have not yet entered pleas. All three face charges of murder as a hate crime.

Activists in the often-ignored transgender community are marching and holding vigils, saying they don't want Araujo's death to slip into the shadows.

"We can't let one of our sisters' lives go unnoticed," said Rachael Janelle Light, president of Transgender San Francisco.

But Araujo's family has shown a reluctance to see the name Eddie Araujo added to the list of hate victims such as Matthew Shepard, the gay college student beaten and left to die on a fence outside Laramie, Wyo., or Brandon Teena, whose murder at the hands of men who discovered she was anatomically female was the basis for the Oscar-winning movie "Boys Don't Cry."

Jaron Kanegson of the Youth Gender Project said activists sympathize with the family.

"No one wants to be remembered because they got killed in a horrible way. That's not what you want for your family member.

"I think one reason so many activists in this area are so sad and upset is because they do know people who've been hurt or been killed," Kanegson said. "I don't think that transgender activists are missing that this was a young person who was a person.

For the funeral, there was a service for family and close friends Friday morning, followed by an afternoon service open to the public.

Hundreds of people turned out for the viewing, filing somberly past the open casket where Araujo lay, high-boned features frozen in the serenity of death.

The family said they felt Araujo would want to be buried as a woman and they honored that, choosing a black blouse smoothed over a modest swell of bosom.

On Araujo's hands were fingerless black gloves that showed off a gleaming metallic manicure.

Some sobbed quietly as they walked past the body, some stooped to leave bouquets of flowers, some crossed themselves. At one point Araujo's 64-year-old grandmother fainted with grief, prompting a harsh outburst of sobbing from those nearby, but she later returned to the small auditorium.

Later, more than 700 people packed into St. Edward's for the funeral, many standing outside when there was no more room.

"I believe that our lives are changed now," said Father Jeff Finley. "I believe, I want to believe, that we will be able to say to each other, 'I appreciate who you are.'"

Family members spoke touchingly of Araujo's smile and generosity. Aunt Imelda Guerrero, remembered the teen as "a beautiful young person who loved his family, his friends, his music." She drew a rare laugh when she added, "not to mention he was really good at doing make-up."

Turning serious, she fought back tears as she talked about what is lost. "Eddie deserved a shot in life," she said. "Take flight, beautiful butterfly. Take flight."

Meanwhile, a threatened picket by anti-gay preacher Fred Phelps fell flat. Phelps, who regularly pickets events and was at Shepard's funeral, never showed.

Violence against people like Araujo is common, activists said.

Transgender does not mean gay. It is an umbrella term that includes cross-dressers, transvestites, transsexuals and those born with the physical characteristics of both sexes.

The attackers sometimes try to justify their violence by claiming they were tricked. The stereotype is that "this is really a boy dressing up like a girl, not that this is really a girl who happens to be in a body that's not what you'd expect," Kanegson said.

But from the victims' perspective, it's far from tricking anyone, "they're just finally expressing who they are," Kanegson said.

The case has raised many issues for transgender activists, one of which revolves around whether Araujo should be referred to as "he" or "she." Activists have complained that news reports using "he" show a lack of respect for the way Araujo lived.

Family members say Araujo struggled for acceptance from an early age, was taunted at school and later got turned down for jobs because of his

appearance. In recent years, Araujo had taken the name Gwen after his favorite musician, Gwen Stefani of the group No Doubt, and had also gone by Wendy and Lida.

Guerrero said "Gwen" would be on Araujo's tombstone.

"I feel so much love in this room," she said at the funeral Friday. "If only he could have felt that."

Then the family walked out into the sunny parking lot where they released 17 butterflies, one for each year of Araujo's life.

Editorial Note:

On behalf of The Crystal Club, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Families who have lost treasured family members to the senseless violence that our community has been victim too this past year. Please believe that they will always be remembered in our hearts. May God Bless & Keep You in the coming year.

Valley Gems Meeting

The Valley Gems meet on the first Saturday of each month. For more information on the club please call Holly at 937-236-0477.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) PRAISES BOSTON CITY COUNCIL FOR PASSING TRANSGENDER ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW (MA,US)

Mayor Expected to Sign Measure

The Boston City Council has voted nine to one with one abstention to pass a measure adding gender identity and expression to the city's anti-discrimination law. In August, **Mayor Thomas M. Menino indicated that he would support the measure if passed.**

According to National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Executive Director Lorri L. Jean,

"Boston is the eleventh city this year to demonstrate that when we educate legislators about the discrimination that transgender people face, they will support laws that prohibit discrimination."

Boston reaffirms its commitment to diversity and forward-thinking with the passage of this law."

The Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC) led the effort to pass the bill, working closely with lead sponsor Chuck Turner (D-7th District). The bill adds "gender identity or expression" to Boston's anti-discrimination law, which covers employment, housing, public accommodations, and education. No one spoke in opposition to the bill at the committee hearing on September 30. Sexual orientation was added to the law in 1984.

With the Mayor's signature, Boston will become the eleventh jurisdiction in 2002 to pass a law to explicitly add gender identity protections to an existing law, either simultaneously with the addition of sexual orientation or standing alone.

NGLTF lent support to MTPC throughout the effort, providing strategic assistance as well as being co-leaders of an activist training in Boston with MTPC, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Pennsylvania Gender Rights Coalition. NGLTF also mailed an action alert to its members in Boston urging them to contact the mayor and their city councilperson to support the measure. Including the Boston law expected to be signed by the mayor, NGLTF has assisted activists involved in efforts of six of the eleven jurisdictions passing ordinances this year.

Cole Thaler of the MTPC noted, "The City Council has unmistakably shown that it is dedicated to protecting the rights of all who don't conform to rigid sex stereotypes. With the help of NGLTF, along with the dozens of community members who testified for the ordinance at the public hearing, we've helped Boston become safer for all varieties of gender identity and expression."

The ten other jurisdictions that have passed anti-discrimination laws that include transgender people this year are: Allentown, PA; Buffalo, NY; Erie County, PA; Dallas, TX; Decatur, IL; New Hope, PA; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Salem, OR; and Tacoma, WA. With the addition of Boston, there will be a total of 50 jurisdictions in the United States that explicitly include transgender people in their anti-discrimination laws, including 41 cities, seven

counties and the two states of Rhode Island and Minnesota.

"2002 has been a landmark year for passing transgender anti-discrimination laws," said Jean. "In terms of the number of laws passed per year, what was an upward trend over the last few years has become a near vertical climb in 2002."

NGLTF's Transgender Civil Rights Project provides legislative and strategy assistance, including evaluation of legislative language, to activists and organizations working to pass trans-inclusive anti-discrimination ordinances or add transgender people to existing laws.

Gwendilynes Editorial

Last month this Newsletter issued a

Call to Action! On the Baltimore Discrimination Bill

Well as you have just read in the previous news article the Boston City Council passed the measure with a wide margin.

I would like to congratulate all our sisters in Boston on a job well done on successfully educating the people of your area.

**Congratulations Boston, Well done,
we are proud of all your hard work &
commitment.**

Now we need to do the same thing here in Ohio.

Oh I know what you are thinking, what with Bob Taft & Company being reelected....that there is little chance while he's in office.

Well my answer to that is we must work that much harder. We must **educate our leaders**, just like Boston did.

We can't allow these Injustices to our Community to continue, therefore, we must use this defeat in the polls to strengthen ourselves... to make us all that much more determined to continue the good fight.

I know there are those of you out there in our community whom don't feel comfortable under the scrutiny of others who seem to live just so they can hurt us any way they can, just because they can.

I know that I am putting myself at risk with every article that I write.

But, that's how **strongly I feel** about our **community** & the good people of it, people who deserve & should be able to expect the same rights as any other American Citizen.

Without worry of suffering tyranny, or oppression at the hands of the very same people who have taken a vow of office to protect **ALL** the people who live in there precincts.

So Come On OHIO, help me, as I try to make a difference for us all . I am only one voice in the wilderness.

I need you.... Our Community needs You.... PLEASE, there are many opportunities in which you can be a part of, in support of our community.

Many fine organizations who need your help. Lets build something we can be proud of together.

Signed

Gwendilyne Farrar
C/C Newsletter Editor

**We are the Heartland of America! Speak Out!
NOW IS THE TIME!**

- Visit the Free State Justice website at
<http://www.freestatejustice.org/Baltobill.html>
Show your support of what they have done,
their success only paves the way for us.

Could advocacy be any easier???

Transgendered Community Supported by Stonewall

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.

Free Changing Room Available

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.

2003 Club Officers Elections

Its hard to believe that it will soon be a year sense you all afforded me the privledge of being your newsletter editor. And with your continued support, I look forward to continue serving as your editor.

Please be ready to Submit Nominations for Next Years Club Officers at the Jan. Club Meeting.

Day Of Remembrance

Please join us in a Day Of Remebrance Of Our Honored Dead.

Wednesday, November 20, 2002:
7:00pm / @ the Gazebo in Gooddale Park.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 2002

Thanksgiving Break / No Meeting
Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

December 2002

Christmas Party @ Lewis Center
Dec.7, 2002 / 7:00PM / \$10.00
per person / **Donations for Choices**
will be taken by a Choices Rep.
13 Business Meeting

January 2003

11 Business Meeting
26 Club Meeting / Speaker:
Francine Melvin Of The
Sullivan Center: Laser /
Electrolysis / Submit
Nominations:2003 Officers

Feb. 2003

07 Business Meeting
22 Club Meeting / Speaker/s:
Dan Adams & Lisa Ensley
Of League / Club Officer Elections

The Crystal Chronicle
Information Page

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.

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
One year membership, email newsletter only	\$30
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
Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

Screening Officers:

(614) 806-7288 (with voice mail)

Electronic Mail:

cc@tgender.net

World Wide Web Page:

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

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.