

Renaissance

Greater Philadelphia Chapter

July 2011

About Us:



Renaissance is a non-profit organization devoted to support, education, and social integration for transgendered individuals, their friends, families, allies and supporters

Greetings from Chapter Leader Rebecca

Welcome to the July 2011 Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting.

Tonight we have a Mary Kay representative who will have product for sale and demonstrate makeup application. Learn how to make those smoky eyes for that nighttime look! Also learn techniques of shadowing and contouring to make yourself your feminine best.

We really appreciate any help you can offer. We need help in outreach, planning of events with speakers and community supporters. We need help setting up and cleaning up the meetings. All help is appreciated.

Please save these dates for future Renaissance Meetings

August 20th, September 17th and October 15th



Other Chapters

Delaware Renaissance, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808; 302-376-1990; email: del@ren.org. Meets the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 pm.

Lehigh Valley Renaissance, PO Box 157, Trexlertown, PA 18087-0157. Meets the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 pm.

Renaissance National is in the process of reorganizing, and may be contacted at 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087

Upcoming Events!

- **Sparkle Manchester, England** July 8-10 <http://www.sparkle.org.uk/>
- **SPICE St. Louis, MO** July 14-18 <http://www.tri-ess.org/spice/>
- **TransForm Concord, New Hampshire** July 23-25 transform.transmentors.org/nh/
- **TransOhio Transgender & Ally Symposium Columbus, Ohio** August www.transohio.org
- **Southern Comfort Atlanta, Georgia** September 20-25 www.sccatl.org
- **World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)** September 24-28, 2011 at the Emory Conference Center Hotel Atlanta, GA www.wpath.org/events_symposium.cfm
- **Fantasia Fair Provincetown, MA** Oct 16-23, 2010 <http://www.fantasiafair.org/>
- **Eureka Enfemme Getaway (in conjunction with Dignity Cruise) Eureka, AR** Oct 29-Nov 3, 2011 <http://www.femmegetaway.com/>
- **Beauty at the Beach Rehoboth Beach, DE** November 2-6, 2011 <http://www.cdspub.com/batb.html>
- **Transcending Boundaries Springfield, Massachusetts** November 11-13 www.transcendingboundaries.org

Recurring Events!

- **EVERY MONDAY Night T-Girls at Tavern on Camac** www.transvamp.com/events
- **THE FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY NIGHT OF EACH MONTH** Angela's Laptop Lounge www.tgat2.tv

Health Equality: Portland Embraces Transgender Rights

Connecticut Governor signs transgender protections bill into law

[LGBTQ Nation](#) • Friday, July 8, 2011



Dannel Malloy

Connecticut's Democratic Gov. Dannel Malloy this week signed legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression.

The new law adds the phrase "gender identity or expression" to all existing state sex discrimination laws, making Connecticut the 15th state to specifically protect transgender people.

Anything under authority of the state's Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities is subject to the new rules, including employment, housing, public accommodations and credit.

"This bill is another step forward in the fight for equal rights for all of Connecticut's citizens, and it's the right thing to do," the Governor said in a statement following the June 5 passage of the bill in the state Senate.

<http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2011/07/connecticut-governor-signs-transgender-protections-bill-into-law/>

University of South Florida has new dorm options for transgender students

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. -- The University of South Florida is offering transgender students the opportunity to live alone or with a friend of a different gender in campus housing.

Beginning Thursday, students can identify themselves as male, female or transitioning on their housing applications. Anyone who checks transitioning can live alone, with a friend or with a randomly assigned roommate. A student's choice of transitioning won't be disclosed to any randomly selected roommate without permission.

Then, in the spring, the Tampa school will begin a pilot program with several "gender-neutral" dorm rooms for any student who wants to live with another student of a different gender. Rooming with romantic partners will be discouraged.

The changes were made after a transgender student complained about being harassed by other students in a residence hall.

Information from: *St. Petersburg Times*, <http://tampabay.com>

Read more: <http://miamiherald.typepad.com/gaysouthflorida/2011/07/university-of-south-florida-has-new-dorm-options-for-transgender-students.html#ixzz1RpKhwb4>

Judge: Transgendered widow's marriage not valid

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

[Erik Barajas](#)

WHARTON, TX (KTRK) -- There are new developments in the case of Nikki Araguz, the wife of a firefighter who died in the line of fire. Since the death, she's been fighting to prove she's female.

She was fighting to prove she is a woman to lay claim to about \$600,000 in death benefits that the fallen firefighter's ex-wife says should go to his two small children.

But late Tuesday, a judge ruled their marriage was not valid.

A massive fire at an egg farm in 2010 killed a firefighter in the line of duty and set into motion a controversial battle over \$600,000 in death benefits.

But Tuesday Wharton County Judge Randy Clapp ruled the marriage between transgender Nikki Araguz and firefighter Thomas Araguz was void.

Attorneys for Araguz's ex-wife, Heather Delgado, and his two small boys argued that Nikki was born a male, did not undergo reassignment surgery until months after the marriage and, furthermore, only changed the gender on her California birth certificate two weeks after Araguz's death.

"So at the time of Thomas' death, the court's ruling would reflect that Thomas and Nikki were of the same gender, male, at the time of his death. That effectively eliminates for an argument of common-law marriage between the two," Delgado's attorney, Ed Burwell, said.

Nikki has said all along Araguz was fully aware of her past as a man and that their marriage was valid.

Attorney John Nechman, who tries many gay, lesbian and transgender cases, says the ruling is disappointing, but the fact that Nikki's reassignment surgery after the marriage left the judge little choice.

"That was just more impetus for the court to utilize case rulings that have already come forth in Texas, to in essence establish and find that Nikki Araguz was male at the time of marriage, though anybody viewing her would be of the belief that she was female," attorney John Nechman said.

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<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8150010>

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