

November 2018

**Volume 34
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Crossport Schedule of Events

The Monthly Schedule of Events for Crossport for November and December are as follows:

First Friday Karaoke, Fri. Nov 2, 9:00PM Tostados

November Board meeting, Tue Nov 6, 7PM, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church

Second Saturday, Sat. Nov 10, 7:00 PM Boswell's

Transgender Peer Support, Mon. Nov 12, 7:30PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church

Thursday Dinner, Thur. Nov 15, 7:00, Mokka in Newport then Social at The Crazy Fox

Trans Day Of Remembrance, Tue Nov 20, 7PM, Woodward Theater

Saturday Night Out, Sat. Nov 24, 7-11PM, TBD (see Facebook or website)

Transgender Peer Support, Mon. Nov 26, 7:30PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church

December Board meeting, Tue Dec 4, 7PM, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church

First Friday Karaoke, Fri. Dec 7, 7PM Dinner 9PM Music, Tostados

Second Saturday, Sat. Dec 8, Boswell's

Transgender Peer Support, Mon. Dec 10, 7:30PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church

HOLIDAY PARTY, Thur. Dec 20, 7:00, DeSha's in Montgomery

Saturday Night Out, Sat. Dec 22, 7-11PM, TBD (see Facebook or website)

Transgender Peer Support, Mon. Dec 24 7:30PM, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church

NOTE: The Dec 24 support meeting canceled due to holiday observances

Other TG Support meetings may also involve a theme or speaker. Stay in touch with our website and Facebook for the latest changes. Suggestions for themes, venues and events are always welcome.

ALSO NOTE: Crossport.org is posting additional meetings by other Trans- related groups. Please check out the website for more information

If you have questions or comments on meeting locations or times, contact Crossport at 513-344-0116 or at CrossportCincy@yahoo.com or post them on the CrossportCincy Facebook group

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**Veracity**

November is here. It's hard to believe that the whole year is almost over. The weather is cooling down, Autumn leaves, while late this year, are turning and falling. Frost needs to be scraped off of windshields before driving to work. My morning run is now in the dark and more dangerous again, but the coolness of the air is welcome by the end of three miles. Winter is just a few weeks away.

I've always found November to be a bit of a strange month. For most of the month, work or school is in full swing, demanding our attention. Like the ancestor farmers harvesting, the month always seems to be the busiest, with a constant eye on the end of the year. By the time that Thanksgiving arrives, most of us can use a small break. For my wife and I, that holiday has become more cherished each year. For us, it is an easy holiday, without the stress of going all out like Christmas or Halloween. We don't brave the sales, instead we enjoy the day of with family or friends and share a meal and maybe a game. The next day, a lazy wakening, some coffee and a cold slice of pumpkin pie. Maybe kick around and pull some Christmas decorations out.

I tend to see November as a bit of a metaphor for completing the hard portion of a phase of life. All the seeds were sown, grown and now gathered and stored. But at the end of harvest, the crops are cleared from the field, their yield already counted. The chaff is turned into something else, either feed or compost, or just burnt. The life cycle is complete till a new crop is started. It is important to remember that in just a few months, the cycle will start anew. Keeping this in mind can temper the wistfulness of the end of the season, and provide hope for the future.

I suppose that may be one of the reasons we need a holiday like Thanksgiving. It is all too easy to focus on the

challenges of the work to get here, or view the ending of the cycle with heavy eyes. By taking a moment to catch our breaths, recognize our success, and be thankful for what we do have, (even when it is small), we can be energized to carry on to the next cycle.

So what does this have to do with Crossport? First off, not everything we say or do has to focus on one aspect of our being. Whatever portion of the spectrum we are on, there is a common thread of humanity that connects us. That humanity can not be erased by anyone, no matter how much oppression, derision, malfeasance or harm is directed our way. Our humanity is still there, even when others don't recognize it. If survivors of the worst genocides the world has ever seen can turn around and live glorious lives and contribute incredible gifts to the world, Trans people can weather the current storms we are facing with hope and courage.

As you may know, the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) is November 20th. We recall those we've tragically lost, either from direct or indirect causes. From Rita Hester to Leelah Alcorn and beyond, our memory and recognition serves as effort to make a difference, and from death to carry forth to the next season to ensure new life. Bitterness and despair over the animosity and hostility we face are easy responses, but in the long run do little to make improvement. Courage, education, steadfastness and composure are far better tools to effect a change in attitudes of those around us. It is the attitude of those around us that matters the most to improving our place in the world. Love can be as contagious as hate, and in the long run will outlast hate. Love is invigorating, hate is exhausting.

Your Editor,
Meghan Fournoit
mhb2ist@yahoo.com

CORRECTION

It has come to the attention of the editorial staff the incorrect mailing address has been provided in the newsletter contact area section from January to October of 2018, and on the return address for the By-laws ballot. The membership application section has been correct during this period.

I personally apologize for this oversight and any confusion it may have caused. I have made corrections in this edition, and moving forward.

-Meghan Fournoit

HOLIDAY PARTY RESERVATIONS

Advanced reservations helps us get an accurate count for planning. You can order tickets for the Holiday Party ahead at the following link:

http://crossport.org/?ailec_event=holiday-party-at-deshas-restaurant

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Update to Proposed By Law Changes

On October 25, 2018, the Crossport board counted the ballots in response to the proposal to change the By Laws as published in the October 2018 issue of the Innerview. Crossport sent out the following e-mail to Crossport members, informing them of the results:

"Hello Voting Members,

A very big "Thank you!" to everyone who sent in their ballot. If you were one of those who did not, we would certainly like to hear why.

This evening, Vicky, Stacy and Cathy met to total the results of the balloting.

At the time of this ballot, we had 29 voting members so quorum was 15 ballots returned.

17 were actually returned, therefore quorum was met and the votes cast could be counted.

The results are as follows:

Issue 1: Remove section 1.1 changing differentiation of voting and non-voting members. This issue passed.17 for, zero against.

Issue 2: Define and clarify Voting Membership requirements. This issue passed, 16 for, one against.

Issue 3: Change Membership term based on dues payment date. This issue passed.17 for, zero against

Issue 4: Change 'Board Positions' to 'Board Members'. This issue passed.17 for, zero against

Issue 5: Change the Board Member Term of Office.

This issue passed.15 for, two against

Issue 6: Allow Board to waive the minimum length of general membership before allowing a member to become part of the Board. This issue passed.15 for, two against

Issue 7: Allow Board functions and Voting to use additional means beyond the newsletter as a means of official communication. This issue passed.17 for, zero against.

Issue 8: Restore mechanism for Members to propose changes to the Bylaws. This issue passed.17 for, zero against.

Issue 9: Restore statement on setting goals. This issue passed.17 for, zero against.

Issue 11: Update Library access statement in conjunction with Issue 1. This issue passed.17 for, zero against.

Our next balloting will take place near the end of November and will be for Board members starting January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020.

We have two board members retiring, Vicky and Tina. If you became a Voting Member prior to July 1, 2017, please consider running for Board. 25 of you are eligible. Please inform us of your desire to run no later than November 20.

Thank you all for supporting Crossport!
Your Crossport board members"

Outreach – The 2018 Proctor & Gamble GABLE Conference.

- Cathy Allison

This year Crossport received their first invitation to attend P&G's 10th annual GABLE Conference which was held at Jack Casino in Cincinnati on October 18.

What is the GABLE Conference? GABLE is the short name for P&G's Gay, Ally, Bisexual, Lesbian and Transgender Employee resource group. The conference, which is open to any GABLE member in the Americas, celebrates its members efforts to grow and increase acceptance of LGBTQ individuals in the workplace.

This being our first year attending, we weren't sure how great the opportunity for outreach would be, so we decided to partner with Heartland Trans Wellness and share a booth with them. P&G invited a lot of outside groups to attend their afternoon sessions, and the outside group networking was supposed to run from 5-9. Originally I had simply intended to show up about 4:30 for just the networking portion, but after seeing that one of the presenters was Ryan Sallans, who is nationally known for his presentations on trans inclusion and diversity as well as being the author of *Second Son: Transitioning Toward My Destiny, Love and Life*, I decided to go earlier and attend the afternoon sessions.

I arrived about 20 minutes before noon in order to set up the booth. As it turned out, the booths and food for the luncheon were all in the same area, so no booths could be set up until after the luncheon. While waiting, I did meet a nice young man named Tony who was attending as the representative of Tri-Health's LGBTQ employee group.

I asked Tony if he would like to share a table for lunch, so we found a place on the balcony overlooking Eggleston Avenue. We were soon joined by two P&G employees from GABLE's Latin America group. We had an interesting conversation on being transgender in Central America. If you think it can be tough being a trans person in the US, imagine being

trans in Guatemala where there is zero infrastructure for trans support.

After lunch, I set up the booth and then found a place to sit in the presentation hall. The first presenter was Chely Wright, country music singer and songwriter, gay rights activist and author of *Like Me: Confessions Of A Heartland Country Singer*. Chely told the audience her story about being closeted as she rose to fame in country music, what being closeted cost her in her personal life and how she finally came to terms with being gay and coming out to her family and her audience.

The second presenter was Ryan Sallans, and he did not disappoint. On his first slide he covered biological sex, gender identity, gender expression and sexual identity as well as the full transgender spectrum from crossdresser to gender fluid to transsexual to non-binary. After making sure everyone was on the same page as to terminology, he then went through his transition story, cautioning the audience against dead naming someone or making assumptions that other trans people want to discuss their own transition. There were several times when his story caused me to tear up and I ended up purchasing a copy of Ryan's book which will be donated to the Crossport library after I finish reading it.

Sampson McCormick, comedian, was next up. I found his routine a bit hit and miss, but he was playing primarily to the gay and lesbian members of the audience. He was also MC for the GABLE Luminary Awards. Five of them were handed out but the one that stood out for me was to the manager who had diversified his division to the point where 55% of the managers were female. Another takeaway was the statement "Trans inclusion goes beyond our employees to our customers."



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Maureen Howard, P&G's Associate Director of HR in North American then introduced everyone to the 19 minute film The Words Matter, the story of how Michael Chanak, local Cincinnati gay activist (as well as a longtime friend and ally of Crossport) and how he was the driving force behind getting P&G to change their EEO anti-discrimination policy to include "sexual orientation" in 1992. P&G also announced a new annual Michael Chanak award. I had first met Mike back in 1988 or 1989 but had not seen him for over 25 years. He was quite surprised to find someone from Crossport at GABLE.

I had taken 40 buttons along with me and had set them out at the booth, but when the networking started at 5, half of them were already gone! I ended up just bringing back two.

Jonah at Heartland had a work conflict so Heartland was not able to attend and I ended up sharing the booth with volunteers from Women Help-

ing Women.

During the course of the evening, I met with eight transmen, (at least) two transwomen and parents of four transkids, including the parents of the boy who are suing Warren County Judge Joseph Kirby in federal court for denying their child's name change. I also had a long conversation with a P&G employee who wants to start a trans support group in northern Louisiana. Not an easy task. I have since reached out to her through LinkedIn to give her contacts in that area of Louisiana who can help.

Living in Cincinnati most of my life, I have grown up seeing that P&G has always been an influence in this area. I did not realize before the GABLE Conference how diverse and inclusive the company had become where their LGBT employees were concerned. I hope Crossport continues to be invited to these conferences.

Crossport Board Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2018

Cathy was the meeting Facilitator.

Board members present: Cathy, Stacy, Jill, Vicky, Jeanne via phone

Board members absent: Tina, Laura Ann

Guests present: Sheila Y., Brittney A.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Old Business:

Minutes. Cathy submitted the Minutes from the September 4th meeting. They were accepted.

Holiday Party Planning: Vicky submitted debit card number to hold the date. Flyers out, announcements posted on FaceBook and the Crossport calendar. Three payments so far. Discussion on setting up a silent auction of at least eight items in addition to a raffle.

Checking Account/PayPal Transfer: Vicky reported that the new EIN has been put on the checking ac-

count. Paypal not done yet. Stacy will be added as a second name on the checking account so that there will be a smooth transfer when Vicky retires. May need to file form 8822-B to take Vicky's address off the EIN.

Bringing Crossport into Legal Compliance: Cathy will set up an account on the Ohio Business gateway so that Vicky can file Name Registration Form 534A. The topic of spelling the group name 'Crossport' vs. 'CrossPort' came up. The board voted 5-0 to drop the capital 'P' and officially change it to 'Crossport'.

Bylaw Changes: Counting of the ballots will occur after 7pm on Thursday, October 25. Vicky and Stacy volunteered to count them.

Volunteer Policy: As Laura Ann was not present, this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business:

Board Elections for 2019: Ballots to be printed in the November InnerView, to be counted before the Holiday Party on December 20.

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Monthly Reports:

PO Box. Vicky reported that the P.O. Box contained payment for two tickets to the Holiday Party.

Hotline Phone. Stacy submitted a report to the board. The Crossport phone was broken when she was in an accident. Jeanne donated a T-Mobile phone but it needs to be unlocked. If that can't happen this weekend then Vicky and Stacy will purchase a new phone from Cricket.

She has also been discussing TDoR with Brice Mickey from Living with Change.

Membership. Vicky submitted a report to the board. As of this Board Meeting, Crossport currently has 29 voting members for 2018.

Finances. Vicky submitted a report to the board. Crossport currently has \$1350.43.

Crossport Website and Social Media. Jeanne was unable to report on this topic due to accepting a new position and being sent out of town for training.

Email Correspondence. Cathy submitted a report to the board.

There was one request for information about the peer group events or socials. Cathy resolved it.

There was one request to be added to the newsletter list and CrossportCincy. Cathy resolved it.

There was one email from HR at Jack Casino looking for help setting up an official company policy concerning employees who begin transitioning on the job. Jonah at Heartland volunteered to help.

There was one email about Building Bridges. This was forwarded to the board.

Two TG newsletters were received, from IXE and from Chicago Gender Society.

Email from Living with Change offering a table at their MRTS event. Forwarded to the board which declined the offer.

Email from Proctor and Gamble offering a table at their GABLE event on Oct 18. Forwarded to the board

which accepted the invitation. Jeanne arranged for Crossport to share a table with Heartland.

CD/TS Peer Support Group. Stacy submitted a report to the board. She reported that attendance has been about 15. It is a different group than go to the socials.

First Friday Social. Stacy submitted a report to the board. She reported that Tostados attracts more people than the Third Thursday Social, 14 in September.

Second Saturday Social. Stacy submitted a report to the board. She reported there was no Second Saturday because it was the next day after First Friday.

Thursday Night Social. Stacy submitted a report to the board. She reported that 14 showed up for dinner. Afterwards, some went to Crazy Fox then a few went to Rosie's to meet others.

Saturday Night Out. Stacy submitted a report to the board. She reported that Cathy, Erica and Wendy went to Indianapolis for the last IXE meeting.

In October, the Saturday Night Out will be at the Crazy Fox Halloween party.

Library. Jill reported the movie that was checked out was returned. Laura Ann donated a DVD to the library.

Outreach. Cathy submitted a report to the board. She will be attending a 501(c)(3) organization meeting with Heartland on October 3, a previous meeting on September 22 was cancelled.

Crossport will be sharing a booth with Heartland at the P&G GABLE Conference on October 18. Cathy will staff the booth for Crossport.

Vicky reported that for the fifth year, she, Jill, Georgia and Danielle were at Mt. St. Joseph for a panel discussion on trans people and for the first time it was open to the entire university. 110 attended. They are invited back in November for a Q&A session and individual interactions.

Newsletter. Cathy submitted a report to the board. The September newsletter was emailed to 304 email

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addresses on August 30. Three bounced and none unsubscribed.

As of October 2, 99 unique emails had been opened (32.9%) and 69 had clicked through to the InnerView (22.9%).

The October newsletter was emailed to 308 email addresses on September 30. One bounced and two unsubscribed.

As of October 2, 76 unique emails had been opened (24.8%) and 55 had clicked through to the InnerView (17.9%).

Between September 4 and October 1, eight more email addresses were added.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm. The board agreed that Cathy should facilitate the November meeting.

Cathy's Corner

-Cathy Allison

What's in a name?

At the October 2018 board meeting, the board voted 5-0 to change the name of our group to 'Crossport'. This is the second time the name has been changed since the group was formed in 1985.

Now you are probably reading this and thinking "Hasn't the name always been Crossport?"

Actually, no. The first name of the group was "Cross-Port". The original name came from combining Crossdressers Support into a single word. As our founder Heather stated in the very first InnerView published in July 1985.

One of the questions asked for suggestions for a name for the group. Since none were suggested and Lily and I felt it was important to establish an identity. She suggested Trans-Port. I suggested Cross-Port (the port is for support) and she agreed. If there are no objections that is what we will go with.

So we were almost 'Trans-Port', and looking at the group today, who is in it and what we do, that probably would have been a better long term choice. But in 1985, the original group considered themselves crossdressers. Not even

Heather, who went on to have gender confirmation surgery in 1991, realized at the time where she would end up on the transgender spectrum.

In January 1996, the group's name changed from 'Cross-Port' to "CrossPort". The decision was made by the group's then president, Jennifer Marquette (aka Monica DeMarco) and the editor of the InnerView, Bobbi Carol Robertson. As Bobbi explained in that month's issue of the InnerView under the heading 'Simplify':

Thus, after 10 years of hyphenating (no, Linda that's **not** some sort of perverse sex act) our venerable name will no longer contain the hyphen. As Jenn pointed out, "Nobody spelled it correctly anyway!"

Fast forward to 2018, and how many people have been spelling the group's name with a capital 'P' in the middle? Pretty much no one other than myself, but then how many members in the group were around in the 1980s and 1990s? Again, pretty

much no one other than myself.

Since we are filing paperwork with both the State of Ohio (name registration) and the federal government (tax ID), it was important legally to officially resolve the CrossPort vs Crossport difference. In doing so, the board voted to 'simplify' for exactly the same reason given in 1996 for dropping the hyphen:

Nobody spelled it correctly anyway.

Meghan's Note:

I would typically transcribe the referenced sections of old articles into a modern usable format. When I got this article from Cathy with the cut and paste images, I thought it was quaint. Seeing the old typed font evoked a nostalgic feeling for newsletters that were far less slick and far more tedious to construct. It serves as a good reminder of how far we have travelled since this groups founding. Although the other original suggestion certainly sounded Sci-Fi, I am not sure we would all want to be known as "Trans-Porters"

Join us at the
**CrossPort
Holiday
Party**

December 20, 7 p.m.

DeSha's Restaurant

11320 Montgomery Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Cost: \$40 per person

Includes a buffet dinner with salad, non-alcoholic drinks, cake and a chance to win a door prize.

Cash Bar

Bring a gift (value \$10 or less) if you would like to participate in the gift exchange.

There will also be a 'Split the Pot' fundraiser.



Medieval Cross Dressing.. Oh My!

In retrospective honor of October being LGBT history month, and in the recognition that the Renaissance Faire is pretty popular with Trans and Crossdressing folks, I thought I would reprint an article on the subject. While I can not attest to the reliability of the information presented and certainly do not take responsibility for the writing style, I at least found the following article interesting. As an addition to the following discussion, I would like to point out that there are several historical accounts and literature about crossdressing throughout western culture from the middle ages, the Renaissance to modern history.

More is known of Female to Male crossdressing or Transgender expression than Male to Female. This is largely due to the social status that males enjoyed over females. In these cases, they are often viewed as having special religious or political importance. Joan of Arc is a prime example.



This is not to say that Male to Female was totally ignored or consistently viewed with disdain, but it was less accepted. Interestingly, literature, theater and other arts has always had some association with Trans expression. From the use of male only actors in DRAB (Dressed As Boy) or DRAG (Dressed As Girl) in Shakespearian time, or multiple characters in Cervantes' Don Quixote, the appearance of crossdressing was well known.

Becoming Trans: Transgender Identity In The Middle Ages

Written by

Zac Clifton

Posted on March 7, 2018

<https://theestablishment.co/becoming-trans-transgender-identity-in-the-middle-ages-223e01b5c0dc/>

Non-binary identities don't belong to the modern age—we've had them for centuries.

Queer identity and expression is often seen as a very au courant issue in today's society. I often hear statements that queer identity "didn't exist in my time" and that queerness is a "problem of the millennial generation," specifically when dealing with trans individuals.

This is simply not true.

Questions surrounding sexual orientation and gender expression have existed since long before modern times, even before the 20th century. As David Halperin, author of *How to Do the History of Homosexuality*, states, "We have preserved and retained different definitions of sex and gender from our pre-modern past."

It is through this variety of definitions of sex and gender passed down through the ages that pre-modern people also struggled to define what it meant to be a "man" and what it meant to be a "woman"; they also wrestled with the nature of their sexuality.

In fact, during the Middle Ages, there are several key figures who expressed a queer identity analogous to a modern trans identity. These figures—both fictional and historical—challenged and complicated the prevailing definitions of gender identity, much like trans individuals do in our society today.

As Heather Love writes in her book on lost queer history, *Feeling Backward*:

"Paying attention to what was difficult in the past may tell us how far we have come, but that is not all it will tell us; it also makes visible the damage we live with in the present."

Because queer history has been obscured



Of course, historical accuracy doesn't really matter to everyone. Which is why you sometimes see Star Trek characters at the Faire. For most Faire goers, getting dressed up, role playing and shopping for pretty corsets is just fun. Just ask my friend, Violet Gray.

Anyway, on to the article!

-Meghan

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and erased throughout time, non-binary identities are readily framed as “problems of a modern age,” when in fact, they are questions and identities we’ve had for centuries.

By surfacing the trans identities of the Middle Ages we can reclaim some of our lost history, as well as challenge homophobic and transphobic claims surrounding them.

In the 13th-century French romance, *Le Roman de Silence*, or *Silence*, the titular character is born a woman, but lives as a man in order to inherit their father’s land. As they grow, they are raised as a knight and constantly praised as the “best man in England.”

Pretty soon, though, Nature (personified) feels she has been cheated as she has made Silence more beautiful than “a thousand of the most beautiful girls,” yet no one recognizes them as female. A whole comical debate breaks out between Nature and Nurture about Silence’s gender, prompting Reason to step in and, ultimately, she sides with Nurture—Silence was raised a man and should continue to be a man.

As Silence concludes, “I have a mouth too hard for kisses/and arms too rough for embraces. One could easily make a fool of me in any game played under the covers.”

As the romance makes clear, gender is not a clear cut issue—even in the Middle Ages.

Trans people are often thought to be going “against” nature for expressing their identities, and Silence is presented in much the same way. Silence often feels conflicted over their biological sex and their gender identity, echoing the body dysphoria felt by many trans individuals.

Even though Silence “deviates” from Nature’s intended role, they are only able to catch Merlin—a vital piece of Silence’s prophecy is “Merlin will only be fooled by a ‘woman’s trick’”—because of their queerness.

Within the romance, Merlin is depicted as more animal than man, a mad hermit living in the woods. In order for Silence to fully become a retainer of the king, they must capture this elusive man-beast. Their biological sex technically fulfills the prophecy, but their gender expression—which determines their position as a knight—is what allows for the quest to occur and succeed.

Gender is not a clear cut issue—even in the Middle Ages.

To read Silence’s character as a trans man vastly expands the possibilities of trans history and reveals it’s far more than a modern phenomenon. As this medieval romance reveals, gender and sexuality are presented as ever and always in flux; there is no clear resolution between Nature and Nurture’s argument on Silence’s gender, and there doesn’t need to be.

Even at the end of the romance, when Silence’s “true” gender has been revealed and they are married to the king, we still have the king bedding the most beautiful and skilled knight in all of England.

Silence is not the only trans figure in the medieval period. The historically real case of Eleanor (John) Rykener, a medieval sex worker who lived as a woman, but was born a man, again suggests gender and sex have been fluid for far longer than our current dialogue accounts for.

On a Sunday in December of 1394, Eleanor Rykener and John Britby are arrested by London authorities for presumed prostitution.

The authorities—and the court—were shocked to discover that Eleanor Rykener was actually John Rykener and that they had been “posing” as a woman. In their testimony, Rykener admits to working as an embroideress under the name of Eleanor, and having sex with at least three other men. (As well as several women, too.)

Their continued confession recounts various religious and secular men that they had slept with either for money or pleasure. As Carolyn Dinshaw argues in her book *Getting Medieval*: “It is impossible to discern what Rykener’s various customers wanted,” but it is also too limited to assume their desires were strictly heterosexual in nature.

Even the legal documents had a hard time defining Eleanor/John’s gender identity as the author continually slips between referring to them as male and female in the same brief.

Again, like Silence, Rykener’s gender identity is similar to modern trans identity in that their identity resists categories. Even the crime itself—either of sodomy (primarily a male crime) or prostitution (of which only female cases are recorded)—is left open to interpretation in the legal document.

While Rykener’s identity does not fully account for the varied trans identities we have today, their life is, according to Ruth Karras, “transgender-like.”

Like Silence’s and Rykener’s bodies and gen-

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der expressions suggest, sexuality and gender identity were complicated and nuanced in the Middle Ages. Both literary and real figures openly questioned traditional gender norms, and even then those definitions were not solidified.

Is Silence a good knight because they are born that way or because of their social upbringing?

Is Rykener's crime prostitution or sodomy?

These questions are subjective at best and suggest that medieval people did not have clear answers for them.

Fast forwarding to the present, we find ourselves still struggling with these questions. As trans people become more visible, dialogues abound in both social and legal settings on how to define trans bodies. With current travel laws and the ever-infamous bathroom laws, trans bodies are always forced to be put into categories—categories that even premodern people recognized as unstable.

As author Carolyn Dinshaw says, "Laws based on clear and apparent sex differences" are made inadequate when dealing with "queer desires or queer truths."

Dinshaw's point is correct because laws that

rely on rigid definitions of gender and sex cannot fully account for queer bodies or queer desires. Queer people resist tidy categorization by their very nature. As trans identity and other queer sexualities and identities become more visible, laws based on basic definitions of heterosexuality and biological gender become increasingly inadequate.

Queer identities—specifically trans identities—are not a part of modern culture, but rather have existed and evolved through time. While a queer future is important, we should also not forget about the past.

We as queer people deserve a history just as rich and varied in order to combat homophobic and transphobic ideas. Sex and gender have evolved—and will continue to do so. It is through revisiting what was considered "normal" in the past to see that these definitions have changed.

By turning to older literature and willingly reading characters or works as queer, we can reclaim some of our lost history; this is one of the only ways we can continue to have access to queer people in the premodern world and honor the voices of the past who have paved.

Crossport Halloween Bash

Keeping with tradition, Crossport's Saturday Night Out for October was held at the Crazy Fox Saloon in Newport. As in years past, The Crazy Fox hosted a Masquerade party, and provided hors d'oeuvres and fun. While not quite as big of a crowd as some years, this years turn out was still well attended. One thing that I've noticed is that there are always plenty of Crossdressers. It seems that the "Real" crossdressers always come in a costume, not just crossdressed. There are always a few individuals that also come dressed specifically as crossdresser, but usually sporting beards. They are also a lot of fun too!

Another observation that I've made is that I seem to meet several cross dressers that are not active members of Crossport. Some of them are former members or at least aware of Crossport, and some of them are not. I always like to invite them to join the group if they are so inclined. What fascinates me, though, is that we really have a poor understanding of how many of us exist!

Anyway, just like the day after Halloween at my house, I like to enjoy the left over candy. Here is some eye candy for you to enjoy!

-Meghan







The Crazy Fox Saloon
"A Friendly Mix of Humanity"
 Est. 1999

Darts, Pinball, Big Screen TV,
 Free Parking & a Cool Patio!
 Drink Specials & Free Pool
 till 8pm daily (Happy Hour)
 We have **Absinthe**
 as it was meant to be enjoyed!
 Open 3pm till 2:30am daily
 The Corner of 9th & Washington
 Newport, Kentucky
 (859) 261-2143

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment." –
 Ralph Waldo Emerson

Scott E. Knox Attorney at Law

13 E. Court St., Ste. 300, Cincinnati, OH 45202
 (513)241-3800; scottknox.com; scott@scottknox.com

2011/12 "Best Lawyer", CityBeat

Social Security Disability/SSI; Wills, POA's,
 estate planning; GLBT legal issues

Becca's

3700 Hair Studio, Inc.

3704 Wilmington Pike, Kettering, Ohio 45429
 (937) 298-9222 Email: Beccas3700@yahoo.com
<http://www.beccas3700.com/>

Happy Birthday!

Kathy S.
 Rikki R.
 Cindy D.
 Bobbi A.
 Katie W.

If you would like to be added to our list, please send
 the month and date of your birthday along with your
 name to:

Crossportcincy@yahoo.com.

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To place an ad contact:

Mail: Crossport P.O. Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH 45201
 Email: crossportcincy@yahoo.com

Trans Day of Remembrance (TDoR 2018)

🕒 Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 7 PM

📍 [The Woodward Theater](#) in [Cincinnati](#)

Transgender Day of Remembrance XIX

*Today, we remember and honor transgender people around the
 world whose lives have been lost due to anti-transgender violence*

November 20th, 2018

Crossport Social Meeting

The social is held on the *third Thursday of each month at 7:30pm* at a local restaurant (currently Mokka) and its purpose is to provide an opportunity for all transgender individuals to get out and socialize at a safe environment. Following dinner is a gathering at The Crazy Fox, Newport, an LGBT friendly bar that is used to TG patrons.

Combined Peer Support Meeting

Meets 7:30pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church. The meeting, which focuses on female-to-male and male-to-female transition as well as crossdressing issues, and living your authentic gender identity, offers an opportunity to network in a supportive forum.

Crossport Board Meeting

The board typically meets on the *first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm*, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church, to discuss club matters. All members are welcome to attend.

Crossport Saturday Night Out

This is an evening out at a local nightclub. It is tentatively scheduled for the *fourth Saturday* evenings of each month. The time and location of this event will change with each occurrence.

Crossport Second Saturday Social

This is an evening out at a local dining establishment. Similar to Third Thursday, but for those of us who can't get out during the week. It is scheduled for the *second Saturday* evenings of each month. Held at Boswell's in Cincinnati's Northside neighborhood, dinner is at 7:00.

Karaoke Friday Nights

The *first Friday* of the month Crossport meets for a social engagement to share fellowship, music and merriment at a Tostado's, dinner at 7:00pm and music at 9:00pm Spouses, Significant Others (S O's), and family are also welcome and encouraged to attend all meetings and events.

For more information on all meetings please email Crossport: crossportcincy@yahoo.com, visit the Crossportcincy Face Book group, or call the Crossport Phone number listed below.

Contacting Crossport

Mail: PO Box 19936, Cincinnati, OH 45219

Email: crossportcincy@yahoo.com

Phone: 513-344-0116

Our phone line is a digital mobile telephone answered by a designated Crossport Member. Please be assured that you can safely leave a message and your call will be returned in confidence at a time of your choosing.

Crossport Website: <http://www.crossport.org>

Message us through Facebook, either through the Crossport Cincinnati page or the Crossportcincy group.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All membership information will be held in strict confidence.

Our goal is to better serve your needs!

PREFERRED NAME: _____

(+LAST INITIAL) (used at gatherings/newsletter)

MAILING NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

*EMAIL: _____

NEWSLETTER: YES ___ NO ___

PHONE: _____ OK TO TEXT? ___

SPECIAL EDUCATION/CAREER/SKILLS? (TELL US ABOUT YOU!) _____

YOUR INTERESTS: TS ___ TG ___ CD ___ GAY ___ FRIENDSHIP ___

EVENTS ___ OTHER ___

*YOUR DATE OF BIRTH: ___/___/___

MUST BE OVER 18 TO ATTEND, UNLESS PARENT/GUARDIAN IS PRESENT

SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER'S NAME: _____

TODAY'S DATE: ___/___/___

HOW DID YOU FIND CROSSPORT? _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: NEW ___ RENEWAL ___ INFO CHANGE
(\$30/YEAR, JAN-DEC)

TYPE OF PAYMENT: CHECK _____ CASH

PAYPAL accepted via our website: Crossport.org

FULL MEMBERSHIP @ \$30/YEAR (Jan 1-Dec 31)

Voting, hold office

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING AT A HIGHER LEVEL, TO SUPPORT CROSSPORT EVENTS AND SERVICE TO THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN THE GREATER CINCINNATI AREA

BRONZE LEVEL @ \$50/YEAR

SILVER LEVEL @ \$75/YEAR

GOLD LEVEL @ \$100/YEAR

MAIL TO: Crossport, PO Box 19936, Cincinnati, OH 45219

Or pay at any Crossport meeting or event

Or via the website: Crossport.org