

# CROSSPORT *InnerView*

June 2019

Volume 35  
Issue 6

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## Crossport Schedule of Events

The Monthly Schedule of Events for Crossport for June and July are as follows:

June Board meeting, Tue. Jun 4, 7:00 pm, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church

First Friday Karaoke, Fri. Jun 7, 7:00 pm, Tostados

Second Saturday, Sat. Jun 8, 7:00 pm, Boswell's

**Northern Kentucky Pride Sun. Jun 9**

Transgender Peer Support, Mon. Jun 10, 7:30 pm, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church

**Veterans Admin. Pride, Wed. Jun 19**

Thursday Dinner, Thur. Jun 20, 7:00 pm, Mokka in Newport then Social at

The Crazy Fox

**Cincinnati Pride, Sat. Jun 22, 12:00 pm, Sawyer Point, Cincinnati**

Saturday Night Out, Sat. Jun 22, 7:00 pm, TBD (see Facebook or website)

**LBTQ+ Breast Health Tue. Jun 23, 7:00 pm, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church**

**See Event in FB link for more information**

Transgender Peer Support, Mon. Jun 24, 7:30 pm, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church

July Board meeting, Tue. Jul 2, 7:00 pm, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church

First Friday Karaoke, Fri. Jul 5, 7:00 pm, Tostados

Transgender Peer Support, Mon. Jul 8, 7:30 pm, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church

Second Saturday, Sat. Jul 13, 7:00 pm, Boswell's

Thursday Dinner, Thur. Jul 18 7:00 pm, Mokka in Newport then Social at

The Crazy Fox

Transgender Peer Support, Mon. Jul 22, 7:30 pm, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church

**Summer Picnic, Sat. Jul 27, 10 am, Drake Park 5800 Red Bank Road, Cincinnati**

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.

**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****Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am?**

Recently, out of curiosity, I googled a teacher from highschool. I don't remember why, but I did. I found a few things about him. He moved down to the Miami Florida area. He continued to teach religious studies. He left the priesthood. He had a course syllabus on line.

Now before you get your panties in a bunch, let me tell you that my entire life, I have been blessed with really good experience within the church. Not once did I have the horrible experience of a priest that overstepped their bounds. I know it happens, but I have not been that unfortunate. On the contrary, most priests and other religious brothers and sisters have been compassionate, thoughtful, intelligent and spiritual. I did have one nun in First and Second grade that believed in sadistic corporal punishment, and many years latter one priest that subscribed to the conservative, guilt laden, side of lecturing. Other than that, my experience was that of growth and encouragement. And the priest I remembered certainly exemplified this spirit. He was, in fact, an important person in helping me stay grounded and sane during my turbulent teenage years.

Anyway, I read the syllabus to see what he was teaching. What impressed me was the focus on the importance of being your authentic self, and how that affects your roles in society and personal relationships. The book Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am by John Powell was listed as required reading. I found the title of this book intriguing, so I did a little research. I have not yet procured a copy, but I have been able to read a few reviews. In short, the book identifies that the reason we do not reveal ourselves is from the fear of rejection. While this is not an earth shattering revelation, it is an important reminder of how important being authentic is to ourselves as well as the relationships we have.

In the book, the author discusses five levels of communication that we share. These levels range from very superficial, where risking openness is avoided, to very intimate where openness and honesty are at their maximum. Most of us hover between these levels, and even within an intimate relationship, do not engage in the "peak" openness constantly or consistently. The author provides examples and characteristics of each level, and notes that these levels involve revealing and discussing more factual information at the lower levels, and more feelings and emotional content at the peak level.

Of course the fear of rejection is not entirely unreasonable, and we have all experienced this. Additionally, communication rooted in emotion has other traps. Being dismissive of facts, being overly defensive, or not considering alternative viewpoints can arise. To mitigate these risks, the author has suggestions for recognizing and managing emotions during deeper conversations. It is also important to realize that communication with both facts and emotions are required. Also discussed are games people play and roles they assume that sometimes mask the emotional content, or are used as coping mechanisms. Sometimes these are important tools, but can often be used as crutches to avoid risk altogether.

As I said, I have not read this book yet, but the premise and reviews that I read put my mind in motion. Within our community, the willingness to divulge ourselves can be problematic. We share an unconventional view of ourselves, be it CD, TG or TS, that certainly carries a larger risk of external rejection, and often internal struggle. This is a shame, as it can limit our experience and opportunities for deeper and meaningful relationships. Understanding ourselves better is likely to allow us to be more open, more natural, more accepting, and more at peace. If anyone needed to answer the title question, it would be us.

Your Editor,  
Meghan Fournoit

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**Happy Birthday!**

Shiela W.	Debi M.	Richell A. B.
Emily C.	Vickie D.	Joan E.
Ken U.	Antonia H.	Bridgette M.
Brenda R.	Tina S.	

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](mailto:Crossportcincy@yahoo.com).

## CrossPort Board Meeting Minutes

Crossport Board Meeting Minutes May 7, 2019

Cathy was the meeting Facilitator.

Board members present: Cathy, Stacy, Jill, Wendy, Jean, Laura Ann by phone

Board members absent: Callie

Guests present: Brittney, Gina

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

### Old Business:

Callie submitted the Minutes from the April 2nd meeting. They were accepted.

Transgender Day of Visibility (follow-up): HRC still owes us \$20.00. Heartland still owes us \$150.00.

Cathy spoke with both groups about the money and will follow up again.

A survey was sent out after the event. Two major problems were identified: No control over the weather and a weak program.

Clothing Swap with Heartland (follow-up): We had 7 volunteers. Amount of items was about half of what was at previous swap. 10 people showed up and left with items. Swap was shut down early at 9 p.m.

### June Pride Events:

NKY Pride, June 9 – One volunteer, Booth only

VA Pride, June 19 – 3 volunteers, not sure of location

Cincy Pride, June 22 – 4 volunteers

Lawrenceburg Pride, June 30 – 2 volunteers, Cathy will check on fees.

Crossport Picnic: July 27, Drake Park. We plan to invite other Transgender groups. There will not be a fee to attend. Crossport will print t-shirts for Pride and offer them for a \$20 donation to help defray the cost of the picnic. Crossport will provide ingredients for a Taco Bar plus water, lemonade and ice-tea. We encourage people to bring their own drinks (no liquor) and a side dish or dessert.

### New Business:

Transgender Advocacy Council Update: Additional progress has been made on the 501(c)(3). The corporation filing with Ohio has been approved. A tax ID number has been assigned. The IRS form has been filed and we are awaiting results. Bylaws have been approved by Crossport and are under review by Heartland. Once approved by Heartland, they will choose two Directors for TAC. The board selected Gene and Cathy to represent Crossport on the TAC board.

Crossport T-shirts: Wendy will work up specs. We plan on giving out T-shirts for each \$20.00 donation.

Children's Home of Northern Kentucky: We plan to extend an invitation to Rick Wurth to address the board at our July meeting.

### Monthly Reports:

PO Box: Stacy submitted a report to the board. There was one membership payment this month.

Hotline Phone: Stacy submitted a report to the board. She had a couple of inquiries about Crossport.

Membership: Cathy submitted a report to the board. We currently have 37 members, 7 of who are carryovers from 2018.

Finances: Cathy submitted a report to the board. CrossPort currently has \$1862.36, with money still owed us from HRC and Heartland.

CrossPort Website and Social Media: Cathy reports Total Page Followers at 260, Total Page Likes at 246, CrossportCincy FB Group members at 205, Active members at 160.

Email Correspondence: Cathy submitted a report to the board.

There were three queries on support group and social times and dates.

There were two queries on trans-friendly health care providers.

Apr 8 – Notification from PayPal that Central Clinic had paid for their TDoV rentals and also donated \$150 toward TDoV.

Apr 10 – First contact with therapist Michelle Minette who was looking for a trans-friendly substance abuse support group for a client. Cathy pointed her to GLAST and added her as a subscriber to the InnerView.

Apr 11 – Email from Jami McLenore, program coordinator with KY Dept for Public Health, HIV/AIDS section wanting to know if they could attend our functions with goal to form a partnership. Cathy told them they could attend.

Apr 14 – Email from Cincinnati Pride confirming Crossport's vendor registration.

Apr 15 – Third email from Debbie Peterson asking if we would like a booth at the VA Military Sexual Trauma event.

Apr 19 – Email from Chicago Gender Society with a reminder about their April Social.

Apr 25 – Email from Ryan Allen asking if we would participate in Lawrenceburg Pride. Cathy forwarded it to the rest of the board for input.

Apr 29 – Received the May issue of the CGS newsletter Primrose. Cathy forwarded it to Meghan and the rest of the board.

Apr 30 – Email confirming registration for N KY Pridefest on June 9.

Apr 30 – Email from Wayne Herriford reminding everyone of the May Building Bridges meeting. Cathy forwarded to the board.

May 1 – Second email from Wayne Herriford with corrected info about the May Building Bridges meeting.

May 1 – Email from Jane L. saying she was thrilled to

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get the newsletter because she never gotten one before (she actually had opened two previously) and asking how to become a supporting member. Cathy told her she could mail it in or donate through crossport.org.

May 2 – Email from Katie T. to Meghan for her ‘Blendy Girl’ poem. Cathy forwarded it to Meghan.

May 6 – Cathy sent an email to the two people whose membership expired in May, letting them know it was time to rejoin for 2019

CD/TS Peer Support Group: Stacy submitted a report to the board.

The next meeting is May 13 and will be the only meeting in May due to the following meeting being on Memorial Day.

First Friday Social: Stacy submitted a report to the board. She reported that Tostados attracted 12 individuals.

Second Saturday Social: Stacy submitted a report to the board. We went to Boswell’s. Carla, Cathy and Nancy joined us for dinner and then went to the HRC Fashion Show. We plan to go back to Boswell’s in May and then to the ‘Listing Loon’.

Thursday Night Social: Stacy submitted a report to the board. 13 people were at Mokka.

Saturday Night Out. Stacy submitted a report to the board. They tried a new venue at Agrave & Rye in Covington. 6 people showed up.

Library: Jill submitted a report. There was no new activity this month.

Outreach:

Equitas Health Meeting: Cathy met with 4 reps from Equitas on April 11. Other groups represented were UC Students, Safe & Supported, Heartland, CATS, Central Clinic. Equitas will be opening their 4th full service clinic at the

end of summer on Glibert Avenue. The building has been picked out but address not yet published. On June 25, Crossport and Heartland will be co-hosting an Equitas Lesbian/Bi/Trans Breast/Chest Health event on at Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Public Library Strategic Vision Workshop: Cathy attended on April 30. There were over 50 people involved. After 3 strategy sessions, the group identified diversity within the library directors, staff and clients as the most important item.

Newsletter Report: Cathy submitted a report to the board.

**April 2019 Issue:** On March 29, 2019, a link was emailed to 339 email addresses. Mailchimp reported that as of May 6, 2019: 325 emails were delivered. There were 14 bounces and 3 unsubscribes. 128 unique emails had been opened (39.4%) an increase of 17 from the previous report, and 82 had clicked through to access the InnerView (25.5%), an increase of 13 from the previous report. 1 had clicked through to the CrossPort Cincinnati FB page, 1 had clicked through to crossport.org.

**May 2019 Issue:** On March 29, 2019, a link was emailed to 331 email addresses. Mailchimp reported that as of May 6, 2019: 326 emails were delivered. There were 5 bounces and 0 unsubscribes. All 5 bounces were hard bounces and all were yahoo.com email addresses that had not been accessed in over a year. 110 unique emails had been opened (33.7%), and 74 had clicked through to access the InnerView (22.7%). 0 had clicked through to the CrossPort Cincinnati FB page, 0 had clicked through to crossport.org.

Between April 1 and May 1, eight more emails were added to the list bringing the current number of subscribers to 327. Six subscribed themselves through the CrossPort Cincinnati FB page, two were added through an email request. All were subsequently sent a link to the latest issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m. The board agreed that Cathy would facilitate the June meeting.

## Cathy's Corner

-Cathy Allison

Last month I mentioned being invited to take part in the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County's (PLCH) Community Advisory Council regarding their Next Generation Library initiative.

What is this “Next Generation Initiative”?

In September of 2018, Hamilton County voters agreed to more than double what they pay for libraries from their property taxes. This means the Library will receive approximately \$19 million in additional funding for the next ten years beginning in April 2019, for a total of \$190 million. They are creating a Facilities Master Plan which will be a road map the Library can follow when re-envisioning how best to serve the county through its 41 locations.

The Community Advisory Council is made up of representatives from public and private groups that serve different communities in the Greater Cincinnati area. I was thrilled to learn that PLCH wished to include the transgender community in this group. It was not that long ago (September 2016) when library employee Rachel Dovel sued the library in federal court after the library's health insurance refused to pay for her gender confirmation surgery - and the library's board of trustees voted unanimously to exclude gender confirmation surgery from insurance coverage for library employees. The case was settled out of court in Dovel's favor in May of 2017.

In late February, I had approached the Main Library downtown about hosting the Transgender Day of Visibility in 2019. Unfortunately there was not

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enough lead time (we only has four weeks to pull it together), but I had proposed an event similar to the education and health resource fair they had done in December 2018 for World AIDS day and tying it in with their collection of trans related books geared to children and teens, as well as their Makerspace area (where we make our buttons for outreach events). Even though they could not schedule it in so short a time frame, they did like the idea and thus issued our community an invitation.

On April 30, I attended the first of four Community Advisory Council meetings. As I was representing not only Crossport, but Heartland and other local groups, I went under the umbrella of the "Transgender Advocacy Council" (see article "Transgender Advocacy Council Formed", page 10). This was the first public roll out of TAC and it was well received. It was also the first time I had ever stood in front of a room of cis people and say "My pronouns are she/her/hers."

There were about fifty people attending this meeting. Everyone was broken up into groups of 5-6. Each group participated in a brainstorming session the covered one of following four themes:

Equity: how can the Library best respond to the community's changing demographics and how might the Library provide the most value to each and every one of the county's residents, especially those with the most need?

Place: what kind of Library spaces will the community need in the future, and what is the Library's place in the community?

Service: how the Library might be reinvented to meet the evolving needs of today's community members, and how might new and emerging technologies create opportunities for enhanced services?

Sustainability: what issues must be considered and what potential strategies pursued to ensure that the Library will be able to meet community needs well into the future?

After each session, the existing groups were broken up and new groups created. After three brainstorming sessions, each group presented what they viewed the top ten priorities of the Library should be. Then everyone voted on all the priorities presented.

After all the votes were totaled, it was decided that the number one priority of the PLCH should be diversity among the directors, staff and patrons. I think that was a win.

As a bonus to our community, after the meeting was over, I was approached by David Siders, Civic Engagement Coordinator at the main library downtown. He wants to work with our community to put on a trans related event at the main library this fall in conjunction with the 50 year anniversary of Stonewall. Even though the anniversary is actually in June, he does not want it in June so it doesn't get swallowed up by Pride events. We will be meeting again in June to follow up on that event.

All-in-all, I thought this went quite well for our community. I have three more Community Advisory Council meetings to go to this summer and am looking forward to them.

## Ethnic Group or Race

*Like many of you, I use the internet to learn about cross-dressing and transgender subjects, as well as a form of entertainment. One of my biggest steps forward was to register for an on-line forum where members could post threads, and responses, as well as pictures. The first forum I joined is what would be considered pretty old-school now, and has a wide variety of content, some of it inane, some of it helpful, some of it infuriating, and occasionally very thought provoking. A recent thread piqued my attention. While the initial post was not far from a fairly asked question (THE question, really, What Causes TG), the question had an interesting focus on the nature vs nurture debate. Even more fascinating to me was the reply by another member. I have asked both of their permission to reprint the original post and the reply. I have dispensed with several other replies by other members, and performed a minimum amount of editing, mostly to adjust format and a minimal amount of grammatical correction. I left most of the writing intact, however, in order to not change the feel and style of the original authors. The thread in it's entirety can*

*be found at the link below. This thread is in a public area of the forum, and should be readable to guests as well as forum members.*

*-Meghan Fournoit*

<https://www.crossdressers.com/forums/showthread.php?264630-Is-Transgender-an-Ethnic-Group-or-Race&highlight=Race>

**Kelly Dewinter wrote:**

### **Is Transgender an Ethnic Group or Race?**

Ethnic group:

A social group or category of the population that, in a larger society, is set apart and bound together by common ties of race, language, nationality, or culture.

Race:

[rās] a class or breed of animals; a group of individuals having certain characteristics in common, owing to a common inheritance.

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## Movie Review:

### "On the Basis of Sex" (2018)

-Meghan Fournoit

Based on the screenplay by Daniel Stieplemann, *On the Basis of Sex* is a film about Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) and the landmark case of *Charles E. Mortiz v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue*. This 1972 case was groundbreaking in setting precedent for numerous challenges to laws which institutionalized gender bias and unequal treatment. While tax law and jurisprudence may not sound nearly as exciting as overcoming a villain with unlimited magical powers, the film was captivating. Stieplemann, Ginsburg's nephew, provided an accurate portrayal of RBG, her family and the case. Through this intimate lens, the film is able to bring the audience into the Ginsburgs' world with a refreshing and positive outlook.

The movie follows Ruth Bader Ginsburg, played by Felicity Jones, from her study of law at Harvard through the conclusion of the *Mortiz* case. Important to the development of her character, the film recounts her experiences with a world resistant to her aspirations. But just as impactful as her challenges were, the dichotomy of the support that her husband Marty, played by Armie Hammer, gave her strength to rise to the challenges. One of the more enjoyable facets of this film is how well this couple complimented each other and worked as a team. When Marty was stricken with a 5% chance of surviving cancer, Ruth was there to support him, helping him with his law study, all the while doing her own study and caring for a toddler. For his part, Marty was a good partner, providing family care,

encouraging Ruth, and acting as an excellent legal colleague. The embodiment of this couple's collaboration can be seen in their daughter, who represents not only the combination of the parents but also the future they envision.

Beside providing an interesting biopic of the Ginsburgs' lives, this film is very poignant to the current struggles for equal treatment under the law, including gender, race and sexual orientation. Facing an uphill battle, and recounting previous unsuccessful cases trying to demonstrate the patent unfairness of legalized gender bias, the Ginsburgs found a case where a male, Charles Mortiz, was the victim. Essentially "reverse" discrimination was unheard of and could provide a sympathetic advantage in court. The opposing counsel easily recognized that by admitting bias as discriminatory in one case would set precedent for many other cases and laws. They felt that by highlighting the enormity (109 different laws) of the precedent, the court would rule in their favor to avoid opening a can of worms.

Interestingly enough, many of the arguments they used are still being voiced today; the destruction of the family, loss of jobs to lower paid individuals, forcing the acceptance of unqualified individuals into positions they are physically, mentally or emotionally unfit for, the violation of "natural" laws, the violation of "the creator's" intent, the disregard for tradition and history. In the end, however, the Ginsburgs provide a compelling argument about the reality of how the law developed and the fact that the law needs constant evolution to match the changing circumstances and understanding of society.

## Summer Picnic

-Meghan Fournoit

Crossport is sponsoring a picnic on July 27 at Drake Park, 5800 Red Bank Road. Other Transgender groups are invited. There will not be a fee to attend. Crossport will print t-shirts for Pride and offer them for a \$20 donation to help defray the cost of the picnic. Crossport will provide ingredients for a Taco Bar plus water, lemonade and ice-tea. We encourage people to bring their own drinks (no liquor) and a side dish or dessert.

There is an Event sign-up on Facebook

for this. Currently there are about 20 people who have indicated they are going, and many may bring friends and family. There are about 80 people who have indicated that they are interested.

If you are bringing a side dish, consider about 12-24 person serving side, serving utensils, and plastic wrap to cover your dish to avoid varmint, especially of the flying variety.

Consider bringing a lawn chair, and maybe a frisbee or corn hole set, or some other form of entertainment. And also think about the weather. Be prepared for Sun or Rain with sunscreen, hats and umbrellas. Dress appropriately to your intended activity.

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race

(rās) n. 1. A group of people identified as distinct from other groups because of supposed physical or genetic traits shared by the group.

Biology by Degrees - we all (everyone in the world) have a genetic makeup that is different by degrees than everyone else.

I'm an armchair biologist; I read a lot about biology and have no formal education in it.

I hear and read a lot about CD/TG "Identifying" as the opposite sex, but I can't help thinking it's more than that. As human our biological makeup includes not only organs, but a chemical soup that is different from person to person, group to group, ethnic group to ethnic group.

I read an article about a female athlete who was told she could not compete as a woman unless she reduced her naturally occurring level of testosterone and a male swimmer who was praised because of his extremely low levels of estrogen in his system. Just two examples of average people with unexpected chemistry for their sex.

Even within a race of people there are shared chemical levels with the body that act differently. Natives of polar regions have trace levels of naturally occurring antifreeze protein from *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*, the antifreeze mechanism of the type-I AFP molecule. Tropical races have Molecular photoprotection of human keratinocytes as infants to protect against the sun. It seems as if nature evolves humans for different niches to fulfill a purpose.

One of the most comprehensive studies [which] provides Evidence on the BIOLOGICAL nature of Gender Identity:

“The researchers conducted a literature search and reviewed articles that showed positive biologic bases for gender identity.

These included disorders of sexual development, such as

penile agenesis,  
neuroanatomical differences, such as grey and white matter studies, and  
steroid hormone genetics, such as genes associated with sex hormone receptors.

They conclude that current data suggests a biological etiology for transgender identity.”

#### -Evidence Supporting the Biologic Nature of Gender Identity

Aruna Saraswat, Jamie Weinand and Joshua Safer  
Endocrine Practice Feb 2015, Vol. 21, No. 2  
(February 2015) pp. 199-204

Abstract [PDF (443 KB)] Track Citations (RSS)

The research suggests as many as 1 in 100 people have Gender Identity.

I submit that the evidence that so many people identify as transgender is evidence to entertain [the] probability that as a group they can be considered an ethnic group if not a race.

Any thoughts ?

#### **GretchenM Responded:**

OK, I am a biologist and an ecologist and therefore well versed in classification and evolutionary theory. The short answer is that transgender is not a race or an ethnic group.

There is even a good deal of question about whether humans have biological races. That seems to fall under the category of "forma" which is a lower classification category than race. One of the interesting things about humans is that genetically they show an amazingly small amount of genetic variability for a species that lives most everywhere and in most every climate. This, if it is actually true (the full range of variability has yet to be determined), leads to a conclusion that humans arose in a very small group of people which leads one to what is called the founders effect. Some religious groups are derived from the founders effect. In the Amish (my relatives, but I am not Amish - one of my grandmothers was born Amish but left in her teens) communities were established by a single family and everybody in that resulting group are related to each other and the founder. It raises hell with the genetics producing all kinds of strange genetic disorders as a result of inbreeding.

What we call human races do not fit the definition of a biological race very well. They are far more small variations as adaptation to very specific differences in certain environments we inhabit - more like ecotypes than races. To be a race there needs to be more genetic difference which we generally do not find in humans. Our races are cultural, a consequence of our cherry picking differences between us that satisfy our strong tendency to grasp on to divisive Us-Them views of each other.

The Us-Them reaction is a major part of our behavior pattern and is basically founded in a knee jerk reaction to anything that is not like us - fundamental instinctive behavior. In most people the Us-Them reaction leads to a more rational consideration that turns off the highly protective Us-Them reaction. Protective? Yes. Like most animals, our initial reaction to something that is different is to turn on defenses. But humans (and some other species) have an ability to reason and ponder and ultimately decide that the different person is probably harmless. Some people never get that far - they include racists. Purely psychological, but very useful when living in the wilds. Not so handy in modern cities. It is a more "primitive" mode of reaction that has yet to be removed, but probably never will be as it is deeply set and a basic behavior life has - self preservation.

Thus, I think transgender is just a minor collection of people whose genetic-environmental configuration produces an

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unusual behavior pattern where two prominent and usually fairly distinct behavior patterns that appear to be sex linked are somehow blended into a single individual. Perhaps even community is a bit of a stretch as we don't even form groups; most are solitary and rather secretive because of some fear of the Us-Them reaction doing them harm. So, biologically, it is more a behavioral variant that is widespread, but uncommon, in a world wide species.

So that is the view of an evolutionary and ecological biologist who is also somewhat trans. In short, it is no big deal unless people make it a big deal.

#### **Later GretchenM elaborated:**

Tracii, first of all, the Amish is actually one of the best example of the founders effect anywhere in the world. The point was about the founders effect in creating genetic shifts within a larger population and the theory that all the humans today arose from a small group of people that were hit hard by the founders effect and some of our unusual characteristics today may be due to genetic variations originating in the founders effect that turned out to be highly beneficial. The religious aspect of the Amish has nothing to do with the argument because the argument is not about the Amish but the consequences of having a population that is derived from a single couple or a very tiny group of people.

Kelly, behavior is a blend of both genetic influences and environmental influences. Genetic factors form a framework, a basic pattern based on biochemistry. Keep in mind, genes do not create traits; they create the molecules that, when they react with each other or are utilized in the body, produce certain consequences that have various degrees of influence and importance. Genetics is all about chemistry. That is called the genotype.

What is really important is the phenotype. The phenotype is the expression of the genotype. For example, blue eyes result from a lack of pigment in the iris; there is no blue pigment. That is just the color that results from light reflected back through the iris. The genotype for eye color pigments is such that it turns off all pigment production for the iris. All other iris colors are the result of the blend of reflected light coming from within the eye passing through the iris which contains certain pigments. Like mixing paint, the amount and type of pigment, when combined with reflected light, produces various colors. Thus, the iris can have many different colors through the interaction of the Effects of a blend of genetics (pigments) and environment (reflected light). So, what does this have to do with cultural influences?

Basically, in most of life there is the genetics and there is the environment. The genetics are more or less fixed (genotype), the environment is whatever happens independently of genetics, and the two form the phenotype which is what evolution and natural selection works with. But in humans (as well as apes, some monkeys, as well as Cetaceans (porpoise and whale) and a few birds (crows, ravens, jays, certain starlings, and others), the genotype has

created a characteristic in the phenotype to be innovative, experimental, exploitative, rational, and conscious (aware of its own awareness). When this is combined with a highly social animal, the result is culture. Chimps have culture (information that is exchanged and is passed on to future generations); orangutans are not very social, and they have very evidence of culture, even though they are quite smart.

Thus, culture acts as an environmental factor that, with selection pressure, can show a preference for certain genotypic effects by either selecting certain genotypically derived behaviors and eliminating non-compliant behaviors or, much more commonly, using the rational abilities of humans to teach them "proper" social behaviors. Those are the behaviors that society decides are most important to maintain the social fabric. Sorry, but that is the source of politics. Enough on that; you can make of that whatever you want.

Thus, in conscious and rational creatures, environment (culture) can be a very powerful influence on the phenotype. It is a form of natural selection that tends to support the cultural element and keep it as the most important and influential factor in the future variations in humanity and influencing the ultimate consequences of that selection. In most creatures, there is no culture and behavior is largely based on the phenotype produced by the genotype - genes reign supreme for them. But in us, because we can choose in a presumably rational way AND are extremely social the phenotype tends to overpower the genotype in some ways and therefore culture can set the path for genetic evolution through a kind of directed natural selection.

In the history of life, this pattern is probably no more than 40 or 50 million years old which makes it still quite "experimental" in the grand scheme of things.

I know, really complicated stuff. But there is no species where culture is more influential on evolutionary processes than in humans; it patterns behavior within a predominantly social environment. That is why it is so very important to get the culture "right." In that sense, the "right" culture is the one that allows the greatest freedom to innovate in technology but also in behavior. Only then can culture grow and behavior become beneficial to the greatest good for those in the cultural environment. It comes down to culture being a tool to direct, within certain resource limits, your own evolution.

The real problem becomes selecting the most favorable cultural characteristics that contributes positively to the future of the cultural environment. That can get really contentious when there are a lot of different views. Those different views are beneficial, until they become more dictatorial. Then different views are restricted and when that happens a dead end is inevitable just as it is when genetics becomes too specialized. From an evolutionary point of view, and that only, thoughts and ideas that tend to move forward rather than backward while taking into account history, so you don't keep making the same mistakes, will

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

produce the best results. Keep in mind, only consciousness allows for a creature to be aware of its history - if there is no consciousness, history is confined to the recent, and learning and innovation is beyond reach. In that case, genetics is 90% of the game; with history, environment and adaptation to a constructive environment becomes dominant.

Hope I have answered your question, but if you want to learn more read Robert Sapolsky's "Behave" It goes extensively into this very subject. Quite an amazing book, but rather large. Great stuff though by a noted scientist in the behavior and culture.

**Further clarifying, Gretchen M added:**

Kelly: In most societies there is some tendency to eliminate undesirable social behaviors through a lack of reproduction with such people. This may have a smaller effect now than it did in the past, but it is undoubtedly still there. When doing the math for genetic shifts in populations (a process a bit like compound interest) one can see that it does not take much of a change in reproduction rates to have a significant effect on the overall genetic diversity of the entire population. Of course, for this to occur the behavior has to be rather heavily weighted toward the genetic side. If it has only a small genetic basis then it takes much longer for the influence of shunning to have a population wide effect. If the first principle of behavioral genetics is correct (that all behavior has some kind of foundation in genetics) then shunning has to have some influence. It is just a matter of how much of the behavior is due to genetics and how much is due to poor socialization in the eyes of the population.

In many societies today, there is a lot more tolerance on the whole than there was in the past. Shunning is still a big factor in a lot of societies. But with more widespread acceptance or at least tolerance of what used to be considered way out of line, populations are tending to become more behaviorally diverse. And this occurs because acceptance and tolerance is a more powerful force than shunning or intolerance. Dictatorships eventually collapse because the people eventually figure out what is going on and push back. The more primitive Us/Them reaction the dictator uses to maintain control is eventually overwhelmed by the counter circuit in people's brains and they don't buy the Us/Them argument anymore. The history of greater acceptance and freedom of gay and lesbian folks is a fine example of how a long standing Us/Them conflict faded away into widespread acceptance. There is still push back from the Us/Them centered folks, but their effect, for the most part is drowned out by the more rational way of viewing gays and lesbians. .... This now seems to be taking hold in the trans world. There is a considerable amount of push back to more historically traditional views of transgender behavior, but so long as acceptance continues to climb in the main population, eventually that push back will be overwhelmed, even though probably not totally eliminated. Nature does tend to keep a reserve of "old ways" just in case they are needed sometime. Not quite a

junk drawer, but almost.

Also, when reading Sapolsky's book, keep Google handy. You will need it. I sure did. It is really very well written by a person who is considered a major genius (and it shows), although at times I think he uses too many examples to illustrate a point. It is a BIG book. On behavioral genetics, Robert Plomin's book "Blueprint - how DNA makes us who we are" is highly recommended. Plomin is a leader in that field. This is probably the first book written for the non-specialist in the new field of behavioral genetics. He has been accused of being too deterministic, but I don't see where that comes from. He includes lots of room for the more traditional view that behavior is just a matter of choices. Choices are important, but like genetics, neither one can be the ring that rules them all. Together they form a process.

Jody: I think one of the problems with the term "ethnic" is its difficulty in defining it. It is such a generalized concept that it is really hard to define in a way that has much precision. It is almost a matter of "I know it when I see it even though I can't concisely define it." Community is also one of those words. We ecologists have a rather precise definition of a biological community. Unfortunately, when the community concept is based mostly on behavioral characteristics the ecological definition really falls way short and ends up sounding like those social communities are constructed machines. I think both concepts are quite useful, but I also think there is a danger that they can play into the tendency to pigeon hole everything into well bounded categories, as you point out. This is present because of the way western civilization and its languages tend to be object oriented. Eastern languages are more concept based and so there is less tendency to pigeon hole and classify everything to satisfy the influence of language on our thinking.

..... Neurologically, I think perhaps our prefrontal cortex needs a bit more development. It is the newest part of the brain and probably needs a bit more enhancement. That is probably occurring and at a pretty high rate. I just hope our behaviors are causing it to develop in a much more favorable direction than one that leads to behavior being self-destructive. Amazingly, self-destructive behavior can drive a species close to extinction and pure biology takes it from there and wipes the whole species out. On the plus side, sometimes a new species moves into that niche and it has a better balance because it may have come from the species that went extinct and, in the process, corrected some of the prior problems. Our common ancestor with a number of other apes is no longer around, but from that ancestor at least 3 species developed: chimpanzee, bonobo, and human. And all three form a sort of behavioral continuum from the very aggressive chimps to humans to the almost pacifist bonobos. Interesting for sure. But did it actually happen that way? We will never know for sure because behavior doesn't fossilize very readily.

# Transgender Advisory Council Formed

-Cathy Allison



A lot has changed in Cincinnati in the last two years where the transgender community is concerned. The catalyst for that change was the creation of the "Living with Change Foundation" by Chris and Jessica Cicchinelli to help fund the Transgender Clinic at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Crossport has been around for 33 years and Heartland Trans\* Wellness has been around for 8 years, but neither has 501(c)(3) status. Witnessing firsthand what a well funded 501(c)(3) can accomplish, caused representatives from both Crossport and Heartland, as well as other local trans activists, to begin a dialogue about forming a 501(c)(3) organization geared toward the needs of the older (over age 24) trans community.

Meetings started in August 2018 and have continued since then. It was decided that the new organization would be called the "Transgender Advocacy Council" or TAC. A board structure was worked out for this new organization to provide equal representation for all associated groups, bylaws were written and approved by both groups. Monies were donated to pay for state corporate filings and IRS 501(c)(3) application.

On April 8, 2019, corporate papers were filed with the State of Ohio and were approved a few days later. Shortly thereafter, TAC received their Tax ID number. On April 22, the application for tax exempt status was filed with the IRS and approved on May 7.

## What is next?

*Crossport's board has selected its representatives. They will be Jean Fine and Cathy Allison. After Heartland selects their representatives, all four will meet and select a fifth board member not associated with either group. Once that person is selected, officers will be determined and the treasurer will open a bank account and TAC will be able to start accepting tax exempt donations and providing support for events such as TDoR and TDoV and*

*groups like Crossport and Heartland.*

## Will the existence of TAC affect how Crossport and/or Heartland have always operated?

*No. Crossport remains a separate group with its own board. Crossport can apply to TAC to fund certain events or expenses. Heartland can do the same. Both groups are associated with, but not a part of TAC.*

## Can you make a tax exempt donation to TAC and specify that it only be used for a Crossport event or expense?

*Yes. You may specify that restriction, but the money will not automatically flow to Crossport. If and when Crossport applies for funding, Crossport specified funds will be allocated before general TAC funds are allocated.*

## Will other groups be able to join TAC?

*Yes. As long as they support the transgender community in the Greater Cincinnati area, they may apply to join and if accepted by the board, may select two representatives to represent them on the board. They could then apply for funds like the other groups.*

## Are there long terms goals for TAC?

*Yes. Two long term specific goals TAC would like to address are a trans specific community center where individuals and groups can meet in a safe space, and helping provide emergency housing for members of the trans community. This second need, emergency housing, is the most requested thing that comes in though Crossport's email.*

## How do I find out more about TAC or what TAC is doing?

*Currently TAC has a Facebook page located at <https://www.facebook.com/transadvocacycouncil>*

*After the TAC bank account is up and running, they will register their own domain name and create a website. TAC events will also be published on Crossport's website and in the InnerView.*

<https://www.123tf.com/>



## U.S. top court rejects challenge to rules accommodating Pennsylvania transgender students

Lawrence Hurley <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/us-top-court-rejects-challenge-to-rules-accommodating-pennsylvania-transgender-students/ar-AAC2htz?ocid=ientp>

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Reuters) - The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday preserved a Pennsylvania school district's policy accommodating transgender students, declining to hear a challenge backed by a conservative Christian group to rules letting them use bathrooms matching their gender identity.

The justices left in place a 2018 lower court ruling that upheld the Boyertown Area School District policy, which was challenged by six former or current high school students, though the action does not set a national legal precedent. The Supreme Court scrapped plans to hear a major transgender rights case involving bathroom access in public schools in 2017 and has never issued a decisive ruling on the matter.

The students challenging the policy argued that it violated their right to privacy under the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment and a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education, known as Title IX. They were backed by the Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian legal group that has been involved in several major Supreme Court cases.

The Boyertown schools policy allows certain transgender students on a case-by-case basis to use locker rooms and restrooms that correspond to their gender identity. There is only one high school in the district, Boyertown Area Senior High School, which is located in the outer suburbs of Philadelphia.

Democratic former President Barack Obama's administration in 2016 issued guidance to American public schools to let transgender students use the bathrooms that correspond to their gender identity, a milestone in the history of transgender rights in the United States. That and other Obama policies supporting transgender rights triggered a backlash from Christian conservatives and some Republican politicians.

Just a month after taking office in 2017, Republi-

can President Donald Trump's administration rescinded the Obama guidance. The administration has taken other steps to limit transgender rights including a Justice Department conclusion that a federal law against workplace discrimination on the basis of sex does not cover transgender or gay employees.

The Supreme Court on Jan. 22 allowed Trump's policy barring many transgender people from the military to go into effect, lifting lower court rulings that had blocked it on constitutional grounds while a legal challenge continues.

The Trump administration last week also proposed rescinding an Obama-era regulation that protects transgender patients under the Affordable Care Act, often known as Obamacare.

Lawyers for the students challenging the policy said the high school did not notify students or parents about it. During the 2016-2017 academic year, the school district applied the policy to three transgender students.

At the time the policy was introduced, the school district removed group showers in the locker rooms and replaced them with individual stalls. The district also added new multi-user bathrooms with individual stalls and built several single-user bathrooms.

The American Civil Liberties Union represents a Pennsylvania gay and transgender rights group that intervened in the case in support of the policy.

Among the student challengers, two still attend the school while four others do not. One of the students, identified in the case as Joel Doe, was "embarrassed and confused" when he was in the locker room getting undressed with a transgender student present, his lawyers said in court papers.

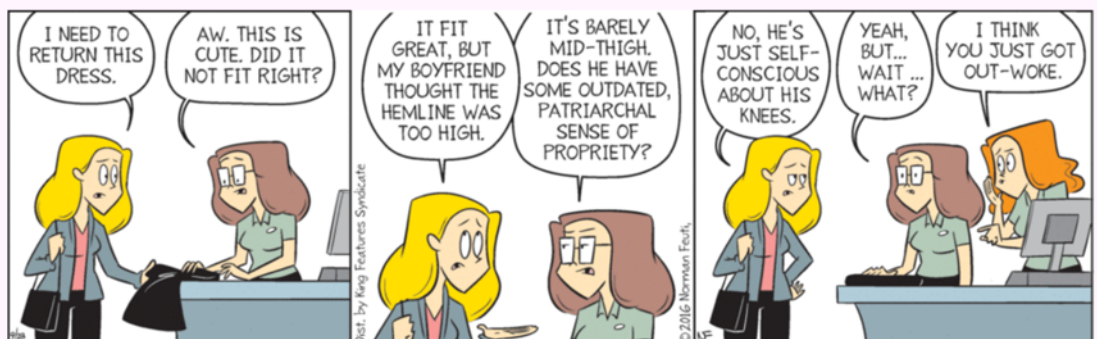
"Joel Doe was marked down in gym class for failing to change his clothes, and he eventually felt forced to leave the school entirely," the lawyers wrote.

Lawyers for the school district said the challenging students "failed to show any infringement of their rights" and defended the district's "sound educational policy" in handling transgender students.

The Philadelphia-based 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the school district in June 2018, prompting the challengers to appeal to the Supreme Court.

## RETAIL Comic Strip

The cartoon to the right is from a strip called RETAIL, written and drawn by Norm Feuti. It is syndicated and distributed by King Features.





## Dressbarn is going out of business, plans to shut all 650 stores

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/20/dressbarn-is-going-out-of-business-to-shut-all-650-stores.html>

Published Mon, May 20 2019 • 6:02 PM EDT | Updated Mon, May 20 2019 • 6:58 PM EDT

Lauren Thomas@laurenthomasx3

Ascena Retail Group said Monday it's winding down its Dressbarn business and plans to shut all 650 or so of the women's clothing stores in order to focus on its more profitable brands.

Ascena, which also owns apparel chains Ann Taylor and Loft, said the decision wasn't an easy one. But the "Dressbarn chain has not been operating at an acceptable level of profitability in today's retail environment," Dressbarn CFO Steven Taylor said in a press release.

The retailer said customers will be able to continue to shop from Dressbarn stores and online, as the closures won't take place immediately. It hasn't outlined an exact timeline for the winding-down process of the business. It said its vendors and suppliers will continue to be paid on "normal terms," and that employees will be updated as decisions are made about when specific locations will close.

The announcement comes amid a wave of store closures across the country this year. More than 6,000

closures have been announced so far in 2019 by companies ranging from Payless ShoeSource to Gymboree to Charlotte Russe, Victoria's Secret and Gap. That's more store closures than in all of 2018, when 5,864 closures were announced over the duration of the entire year, according to a retail real estate tracker by Coresight Research.

Dressbarn, which has been around for more than five decades, has struggled to grow in apparel retailing as more women steer toward fast-fashion retailers such as H&M and Zara, off-price chains such as TJ Maxx and Ross Stores, and even Target. Amazon also continues to take a larger share of the apparel market online.

Ascena shares were up more than 2.5% in after-hours trading Monday, having tanked more than 60%



Photo courtesy: Dwight Burdette under Creative Commons License.



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

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## PRIDE 2019!

-Meghan Fournoit

As a reminder, Crossport will be actively participating in the following Pride Events for June:

**NKY Pride, June 9 –**

**VA Pride, June 19 –**

**Cincy Pride, June 22 –**

We need volunteers to work the booth, especially for the Northern Kentucky Event. You can sign up for a shift on line through Signupgenius at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054BAFAC29A5FD0-allthe?fbclid=IwAR0-4ZPt2EUb-fjzJDRYEDtfXts8VsJvs5ErZAAoUd6IlkSJSkEvAeoCs>

Remember to dress for the weather. Think about sensible shoes, hats or scarves, sun screen and perhaps an umbrella.

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Images should be .JPG or .PNG (32), and should be no wider than 300px for half page width or 620px for full page width. RGB or adaptive pallets are recommended. File size should be kept to under 256Kb for 1/4 page or less, and under 1.2Mb for full page. Other file formats and sizes may be possible.

To place an ad contact:

Mail: Crossport P.O. Box 19936 Cincinnati, OH 45201

Email: [crossportcincy@yahoo.com](mailto:crossportcincy@yahoo.com)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:crossportcincy@yahoo.com)

Phone: 513-344-0116

#### Current Board (Jan 2109-Dec 2020)

Cathy Allison - [Cathyallisonxp@gmail.com](mailto:Cathyallisonxp@gmail.com)

Jill Ambrose

Jeanne Fine

Wendy Le Cross - [Satinwow@yahoo.com](mailto:Satinwow@yahoo.com)

Callie Liskay

Stacy Makin - [2stacylynn@gmail.com](mailto:2stacylynn@gmail.com)

Laura Ann Weaver

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: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

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