

CROSSPORT *InnerView*

July 2019

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Crossport Schedule of Events

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

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

First Friday Karaoke, Fri. Aug 2, 7:00 pm, Tostados
 August Board meeting, Tue. Aug 6, 7:00 pm, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
 Second Saturday, Sat. Aug 10, 7:00 pm, Boswell's
 Transgender Peer Support, Mon. Aug 12, 7:30 pm, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church
 Thursday Dinner, Thur. Aug 15, 7:00 pm, Mokka in Newport then Social at
 The Crazy Fox
 Saturday Night Out, Sat. Aug 24, 7:00 pm, TBD (see Facebook or website)
 Transgender Peer Support, Mon. Aug 26, 7:30 pm, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church

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

Case of the Doldrums.

I like words. Which is a good thing since I use them a lot! This month I am suffering from writers block. It's not that I don't have anything to write about. I usually have about four or five thoughts that I could turn into an article or letter from the editor. Sometimes I will play those thoughts out in my mind before I write them down. For various reasons, I often never get around to writing them, and they get lost in memory, burning out like a piece of news paper in a campfire. They burn bright for a moment, all too soon consumed with nothing left but some colorless ash, and a few embers floating away, carried by the heat of the flames below.

But why do these thoughts evade capture? There are several reasons. Sometimes they occur when it is not convenient to move the thought to ink. Other times they are incomplete musings. Sometimes they just don't feel fresh, and I don't want to bore our readers with the same insights, thoughts or complaints. Occasionally they lead to paths that I may not want to go down. Thoughts can be positive or negative, and if you dwell too long in an area, you can get stuck. Which brings me to the word Doldrums.

The Online Merriam Webster dictionary (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/doldrums>) has an excellent description of the term:

Everyone gets the doldrums - a feeling of low spirits and lack of energy - every once in a while. The doldrums experienced by sailors, however, are usually of a different variety. In the mid-19th century, the word once reserved for a feeling of despondency came to be applied to certain tropical regions of the ocean marked by the absence of strong winds. Sailing vessels, reliant on wind propulsion, struggled to make headway in these regions, leading to long, arduous journeys. The exact etymology of doldrums is not certain, though it is believed to be related to the Old English dol, meaning "foolish" - a history it shares with our adjective "dull."

I first encountered this word used in the context of sailing in Laura Hillenbrand's, Unbroken: A

World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption. In the book, Laura describes Louis Zamperini's being shot down by Japanese forces, and struggle on a raft in the Pacific Ocean the crash. In the middle of a harrowing 47 days floating on the ocean, Louie runs into a calm. But this calm could prove deadly, moving nowhere, his chances of survival dwindle along with his supplies and strength.

While everyone is susceptible to the occasional case of the doldrums, many people within the trans community seem to run into them perhaps disproportionately. It can manifest its self in the lack of desire to do the things that often make us happy. There is a listlessness, a heavy malaise that seems very hard to shake. Because of the demotivating nature of the Doldrums, they become an unregulated feedback loop that eventually throws us from one rail to the next (EE's will get that one).

One of the reasons the doldrums takes hold is isolation. When we can not, on an ongoing and natural basis, share our thoughts, dreams, fears, and hopes, our thoughts can often hit a resonant dissonance. Recognizing this as it is happening may help you avoid getting into this trap. Find someone to talk to, whether it is a friend, support group or therapist. It is amazing what an open ear will do to keep you moving.

Burnout is another route to the doldrums. This can be caused by getting into a rut, doing the same things, the same way over and over again. Sometimes just taking a break from the normal routine is good therapy. Burnout is also often caused by doing too much. This can be especially challenging when someone is essentially leading a double life, whether they are fully in the closet, or even living in a DADT situation. Stress from this situation can be wearing, and may eventually lead to conflict at worst, and resolution at best. As difficult as it might be (short term), living as authentically and openly as you can may help keep you out of a depressive state. Also I need to give Lorie a nod here, and point out that never being satisfied can lead you to burnout and anticipation.

Your Editor,
Meghan Fournoit

P.S. A huge thank you to all that either sent in letters, or consented to republishing posts. It sure helps with the writer's block, but more importantly put's the community's voice out there. After all, this is not **my** newsletter; it is **ours**.

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CrossPort Board Meeting Minutes

Cathy was the meeting Facilitator.

Board members present: Cathy, Stacy, Jill, Wendy, Gene

Board members absent: Callie, Laura Ann

Guests present: Brittney, Gina

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm, June 4, 2019

Old Business:

Jill submitted the Minutes from the May 7th meeting. They were accepted.

June Pride Events:

NKY Pride, June 9 – Gina and a few others are helping. Everything is in place, ready to go

VA Pride, June 19 – To be held in the VA Hospital auditorium. All volunteer slots filled.

Cincy Pride, June 22 – Gene will be the lead person. We have enough volunteers for the set-up and tear down, but need afternoon volunteers. Wendy will be there in the pm hours.

Trans Family Picnic: July 27, Drake Park. Set-up at 9 a.m. Picnic runs 10 a.m. till dusk. Callie provided a Picnic budget, which included calculations for 25 to 100 people. Gina volunteered to check the possibility of getting food at a discount price.

Crossport will provide ingredients for a Taco Bar plus water, lemonade and ice-tea. Wendy has jugs for the above. Wendy also plans on bring games, such as Frisbees, Badminton, La Cross and possibly Corn Hole.

Cathy created a Facebook event for the picnic, set up tickets through Eventbrite and updated the Crossport calendar. As of June 3rd, 18 people indicated they will attend, 110 indicated that they are interested. In Eventbrite, 22 people have reserved 64 tickets.

TAC Update – Cathy stated that she has not seen the approved confirmation letter which was mailed to Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church. Cathy also stated that she will fill out the additional IRS forms that are needed.

Library Trans Event – On June 7th, Cathy and Gene are meeting with David Siders, Civic Engagement Coordinator of the PLHC to discuss holding a trans oriented event in September to go along with the 50th anniversary of Stonewall.

New Business:

Equitas Health Meeting: On June 25 at 7 p.m., Crossport and Heartland will be co-hosting an Equitas/Bi/Trans Breast/Chest Health event at Mt. Auburn

Presbyterian Church. Equitas created the Facebook event and Cathy shared it to Crossport. Crossportcincy, Heartland CTCG Trans Talk and TAC and updated the Crossport Calendar.

Legal Name Change Clinic: Equitas is hosting a Legal Name Change Clinic on June 29.

Birdcage Party for Crossport, June 14: IgniteEntertainmentCincy invited Crossport to partner with them at the Birdcage on June 14 as a fund raising event. They propose to donate \$1 back to Crossport for every specialty drink sold. Motion approved. Cathy will lead on this.

Christmas Party on December 19. Stacy will check on venues.

Monthly Reports:

PO Box: Stacy submitted a report to the board. There was nothing of importance this month.

Hotline Phone: Stacy submitted a report to the board. She had a couple of inquiries about Crossport. She also had a call from Channel 12 stating they were doing a story on the transgender Gillette ad.

Membership: Cathy submitted a report to the board. We currently have 36 members, 5 of whom are carryovers from 2018. Two members with renewals in May have not yet paid.

Finances: Cathy submitted a report to the board. Crossport currently has \$1825.49, with money still owed us from HRC and Heartland.

Crossport Website and Social Media: Cathy reports Total Page Followers at 275, Total Page Likes at 260, CrossportCincy FB Group members at 206, Active members at 154.

Email Correspondence: Cathy submitted a report to the board. Email Correspondence, May, June 2019 – Submitted by Cathy

- 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 co-

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ordinator 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 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. 14 people attended the May 13 support group meeting. The meeting on June 24 will be hosted by Gene and Wendy. Stacy will be out of town.

First Friday Social: Stacy submitted a report to the board. She reported that Tostado's attracted 12 friends in May. Most of them were gone by 11 p.m.

Second Saturday Social: Stacy submitted a report to the board. We went to Boswell's. 10 friends joined us and we stayed at Boswell's since the music was awesome.

Thursday Night Social: Stacy submitted a report to the board. 13 people were at Mokka. Mokka continues to close early and there is talk about moving to another venue. Suggestions are appreciated.

Saturday Night Out: Jill submitted a report to the board. Stacy stated that she would be unable to schedule an event or attend. Jill stepped in at the last minute and arranged a table at Bravo in Rookwood. Four people attended. Every month we plan to go to a different restaurant for dinner and then a venue which offers some sort of activity afterwards.

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

Outreach: All Outreach items were previously covered above.

Newsletter Report: Cathy submitted a report to the board.

May 2019 Issue: On May 1, 2019, a link was emailed to 331 email addresses. Mailchimp reported that as of June 2, 2019: 326 emails were delivered. There were 5 bounces and 0 unsubscribes. 124 unique emails had been opened (38.0%) an increase of 14 from the previous report, and 86 had clicked through to access the InnerView (26.4%), an increase of 12 from the previous report. 0 had clicked through to the Crossport Cincinnati FB page, 0 had clicked through to crossport.org.

June 2019 Issue: On June 1, 2019, a link was emailed to 331 email addresses. Mailchimp reported that as of June 3, 2019: 330 emails were delivered. There was 1 bounce and 1 unsubscribe (Below Zero Lounge). 78 unique emails had been opened (23.6%), and 48 had clicked through to access the InnerView (14.5%). 5 had clicked through to the Equitas Health event, 3 had clicked through to the picnic event, 1 had clicked through to the Pride Signup. 0 had clicked through to the Crossport Cincinnati FB page, 0 had clicked through to crossport.org.

Between May 2 and June 2, six more emails were added to the list bringing the current number of subscribers to 331. Four 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 8:38 p.m. The board agreed that Cathy would facilitate the July meeting.

Happy Birthday!

Erica C.	Sarah K.	Billie J.
Wendy L.	Cynthia J.	Barbara E.
Rachel A.	Kathern M.	

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

Letters to the Editor

Reflection from NYK Pride

Well where to start? Thanks to Crossport for allowing me to participate in this year's event. It was truly an honor. All through the day I was inspired to see parents, grandparents with their children, also seeing all of the same sex couples. You could just see and feel all of the love that was present. I lost track of all of the interactions I had with people that day.

The one that I will not forget was with a very nice lady. Stacy said we were talking for at least fifteen minutes. We had a very heartfelt conversation. We started with a hug and ended with a hug. [It was] very emotional for myself; WE CONNECTED. It was awesome to give hugs instead of needing one.

After the event a group of us went to Agave and Rye for dinner. [It was] Nice to hang with everyone. [I am] Looking forward to Cincy Pride.

Thank You to all at Crossport
Love, Gina S.

Editors note: The following is a reproduction of a Facebook posting on the Crossport FB page. Providing spouses with a voice is an important part of the support that our organization can provide. As with all letters, only minor changes to punctuation, format and grammar have been made to improve readability.

A Spouse's Letter

-Tiffany, (Vanessa's wife)

To all the sisters and brothers at Crossport Cincinnati. My wife, Tiffany, has a message that she wanted to share with you. She wanted to say thank you for the warm reception she received at our last meeting.

Hi ladies! It was nice meeting you at the last meeting. I am ready to listen. It was an odd experience for me. I am open-minded. I felt and heard some of your stories. I want to say, from my perspective, anyway, as a cis spouse that it's very difficult for me. I love my husband more than anything, but I married a man and I am very much attracted to men. I am not ready to write my husband off, despite the grief I am feeling. I understand and have great empathy for all of you who hide and live in fear and so desperately want to be accepted for who you are. I cannot even imagine. Your stories are very similar. You should never be ashamed of who you are. I think having a group to support each other is great. People

always fear what they don't know or understand. Some people are just jerks.

The one thing that I would encourage you to be honest with the people who love you. While I understand why Vanessa hid from me for 18 years it is still hard to be deceived. I have to learn to forgive, just as she has to learn to forgive herself. As her spouse it is very hard because I have found out that there isn't much support out there for us. We have to transition too and that is so hard, and I can tell you helping my husband become Vanessa is very hard.

I remember the first time I did her make-up, I did not think about it until after. Then this feeling of incredible sadness, and happiness for her, hit and I cried. I stood there thinking "where did my husband go?" She looked in the mirror and saw what she had dreamed of. I can't imagine 38 years of pain alone fear and shame. How I missed that and never knew is beyond me. I carry guilt for not knowing or paying attention enough. I knew something wasn't right for long before I found out and just ignored it. You have to be true to yourself and at the same time try to help the people who love you understand. I can see how hard that is for Vanessa.

It has been hard for me to be judged myself and I worry about our kids and I want to protect Vanessa. I worry about an uncertain future. I love and support my husband and want her to be happy. I find myself not knowing what the future holds. I hope we will make it and that I can do this transition of my own, but I am not sure. It is not easy to give up a life you always dreamed of and change. Changing your gender should not be so complicated, but it is. For you, it's about making your outside match your inside...be it dressing, make-up or finding your style. I have heard the phrase passing & managing the Dysphoria.

For me, or a person who knows who they are, it's very hard and has brought up all these emotions and things in my life I have never had to deal with. They were never on my radar. I have to learn to stand out in public where I have always liked and been comfortable blending in. I have to find out if I will still be attracted to her once more changes happen. Then as a mother, my children will have to learn to be subjected to dumb and ignorant people. I can handle that as an adult, but I worry for them. I have to transition too and that I am struggling with. I was happy being the old me and happy that I married the man I had always prayed I would meet. I married my best friend. This is a process to work through for me. My life has changed so drastically in 6 months. While Vanessa has her foot on the accelerator, I am at a stand-still. I am still here though. I am not a quitter. This may end

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up being way too much for me. If it is then I will always love and support her.

I just felt the need for my voice to be heard. We are not all bad. We are going through pain as well. And honestly if I could change something it would be to have more positive support for spouses or partners or significant others. Because often-times I feel alone. Everyone deserves to be happy. I am firm believer that being honest and open, no matter what the consequences are, is the right thing in any relationship. I wish you all the best of luck and I pray for all of you to be happy and be the best that you can be. Thank for being there for Vanessa. You ladies are lean on one another and continue to be strong! All my hopes and wishes for your happiness and health!
-Tiffany"

A Reflection on the difficulty and Reality of Transition (in response to Tiffany)

Transition is hard for the family. My kids certainly deal with it. It complicates everything at the school. My previous partner and co-creator of my children struggled with the same things your wife is. She said she knew in her heart that it was over the day I started hormones. The split was rough for a few years. Now that I'm on the other side, I am much happier. We are friends, but no longer together. She is a hetero woman that felt the same way your wife does. Once I switched to full time, the "man" was gone and so was her heart. When I was in between she still saw the "man" coming and going from work. Less than 30 days after the "man" was gone, so was she. My current partner identifies as bi/pan. I've never had a partner I've been as honest with as I have with her. She's amazing and truly is attracted to me, for me. A physical body in transition is not something most heterosexual women are attracted to. My previous partner had to force the attraction after I started hormones. She tried, and I give her lots of credit for hanging in there as long as she did.

If I could give a piece of advice it would be to take everything slowly and make sure it's what you really want. Sometimes support groups can become cheerleaders for transition. I went very fast and transitioned to full time within 3 years. It was very freeing at the time. I was also surrounded by cheerleaders and may have had rose tinted glasses on. Now many more years into living full time, I'm jealous of people

who can live in between genders. Being a trans person with child responsibilities and family obligations is tough. Navigating bathrooms at school and public family events is hard. Constantly explaining my identity to a bank or phone account operators wears you down. There are many other day to day tasks that are complicated by transition. Complication is not necessarily a bad thing. It's not something that starts to wear on you till a couple of years into living full time. I think a lot of the pitfalls of transition have to do with the stage you're at in life when you transition. How many other people are you responsible for and how does it change their lives too. My kids certainly deal with my transition as much as I do. They are 13 and 8. I transitioned to full-time 5 years go.

I know it's exciting and freeing to be yourself and finally feel free. I'm not saying I regret transition. I wish I felt comfortable living in both genders. Transitioning to a woman has cost me a lot personally and professionally. I have also gained a lot and found a new version of myself that I never thought I would find. There is no choice to going back for me now, but it sure would make life easier. Being treated like a woman by society, sucks.

Overall, I am happy with where I am today. Lots has changed over the last few years. My identity has changed. My behaviors have changed. My relationships with my friends have changed drastically. My relationship with family has changed drastically. My day to day self awareness has changed. I never thought I would leave the house without makeup. Now I rarely wear makeup unless I'm traveling to a customer site. I wear the same clothes I did pre transition now, jeans and a tee shirt. The fun of getting all dolled up wore off after a couple of years. You also don't consider how much you have to worry about your personal safety until the shininess of transition has worn off and you're worried about going to piss in a bathroom in a red town.

My opinion may not be well received, but heed caution with transition and cheerleaders of transition. Don't get lost in the excitement and lose sight of the reality of transition. The first couple of years are great, but if you don't blend in ("pass", but I absolutely hate that word) well enough you will have to deal with that. If you do blend in well enough, you will be treated like a woman. You don't know how bad society treats women until you're treated like a woman.

-Sarah Kabakoff

The First Annual Living with Change Gala

-Cathy Allison



Now, I have been to fundraisers before. You know, the kind they hold for your local school, church or neighborhood. Living with Change's "Every Journey Matters 2019 Gala" was *nothing* like those.

It took Laurie and myself several weeks to decide whether to attend. Held at Waypoint Aviation at Lunken Airport, the entry price was incredibly steep – tickets were \$175 each, or \$250 each for the VIP version. Ultimately, curiosity overcame us so we picked up two of the lower priced tickets.

The weather was terrible the evening of the Gala with heavy rains coming down in waves. The freeways were a mess and it took us twice as long as normal to get there, so we arrived at 7:45 rather than our planned time of 7:15. The band, 3 Piece Revival (though I counted five of them) were already performing a variety of hits songs from the 80s through present day. The MC of the evening was former Bengal Dhani Jones.

There were over 50 people in line for check-in when we got there, but they had several stations based on the first letter of your last name, so we were through that line in just under five minutes. The wait was made easier by servers bringing drinks to those standing in line.

Food was small plates by a variety of caterers which included Lucius Q BBQ, Karrikin, Daveed's Bakersfield, Sartre and a dozen or so others scattered throughout the venue. Wine and cocktails were served at two large bars. With at least three bartenders at each, you did not have to wait long to get a drink.

The fashions were exquisite. The dress code was "evening cocktail party" and this was a pretty high-rolling crowd. I do not believe I have ever seen so many Louis Vuitton shoes in one place in my life. The men looked good in their suits, but the dresses and gowns were just amazing. (Yes the faces were intentionally blurred since I did not get permission to publish them.)

There was a silent auction of over 100 items that went on all night and a live auction of nine items. Chris Collinworth was there and pitched his auction offering –

you and a friend could sit in the broadcast booth with him during one Sunday Night Football game. That one ultimately went for a \$7000 bid. Then there were two tickets to the Broadway play "Dear Evan Hansen" in New York City (producer's seats), plus airfare for two, 2 nights at a hotel, dinner at Joe Allen plus two tickets to a second play that auctioned for \$4500.

After the auction, there were video presentations by Living with Change, Equitas Health, Jessica and Chris Cicchinelli (I learned they pronounce their name 'Chickenelli', I had thought based on the spelling it was 'Kitchenelli'). Then there was a request for donations not tied to any product, that raised over \$23K in about 15 minutes. There was one donation for \$10K and a second for \$5K. Did I mention this was a high-rolling crowd?

My best count was that there were over 400 hundred there that evening, but there were people still arriving for the VIP After Party when we were leaving about 10:45pm, so probably close to 500 in all. Living with Change announced that the Gala had raised just over \$310K (after expenses) for the Transgender Clinic at Children's Hospital, and Children's matched it dollar for dollar, so over \$620K raised on this night.

I did see a few trans people at the Gala. Very few, less than twenty. BUT- this was not an event aimed at trans people. This was an event aimed at rich people who were willing to drop close to \$1000 per person (on average) for the cause of helping trans kids not end up committing suicide. So if 400 of Cincinnati's most privileged citizens are willing to do that, I am more than willing to let them.

Acceptance for all of us is about winning over one heart at a time. And the youngest among us, in many ways, are leading the way.



A BIG THANK YOU TO
ROBIN ANN
For Becoming a
GOLD Level Voting Member!!!

Can I ever be Enough?

- Lorie W.

As I was driving home from an event yesterday, I had this pull on me to stop and get some food. I was in drab mode, so it wasn't a CD issue or concern. It was just an urge that I felt, almost driven, to satisfy my random desire. At the same time, I realized that I had plenty of food at home, and I wasn't really *that* hungry. I didn't really need the food to stave off hunger, nor was there any lack of food at home. I found myself craving something more. MORE. I needed MORE to fill a gaping hole in my ego. It was inexplicable. I surprised myself with the realization that I was fooled by my mind into believing I'm not enough. I needed more to be enough.

The problem with this idea that I need more to be enough (much less HAVE enough) is that even when I get the "more" that I think will satiate me, it's still not enough. As I was driving along, I was able to recognize this fact about myself. Even before I stopped to get something to eat, I knew that I would not be satisfied with what I tried to fill myself with. The hole wasn't in my belly. It was in my mind.

This morning I was journaling on being Lorie, which is a constant path of exploration and wonder, and I thought about what it might mean to be enough as Lorie. Or rather, what it feels like to be not enough. Oh. That's been a theme in my life. Not enough. Anyone feel that one resonate in their bones?

As I thought about it, the different areas of exploration that we experience in crossdressing began to pop into my head faster than I could write them down. All the things that I feel inadequate about as I go about my transformation seem to chip away at my confidence.

We keep hearing about that confidence factor, but when I start to put on my makeup, pick out my clothes, comb out my wig, it all seems stacked against me. It feels like there is a huge magnifying glass hovering over every aspect of my gender expression. And "fake it till you make it" is the only option to turn to.

So I wrote down a list of the parts of presenting as a woman where I realized I judge myself so harshly and keep striving for MORE. Next to that I wrote down the reason that I need more. The list ended up looking like this:

I need to be/have:

More passable
More makeup
More often dress
More people who know
More sexy
More sensibly dressed
More fashionable
More tucking
More boobs
More of "the walk"
More voice feminization
More clothes/shoes/jewelry/scarves...

Because I am:

Not enough
Not enough
Not enough
Not enough
Not enough
Not enough
Not enough
Not enough
Not enough
Not enough
Not enough
Not enough

When will I let go of the Not Enough syndrome? Can I say that I am enough right here, right now? I am whole and complete? That's a place to start.

I get the sense that I've been telling myself that I'm not enough for quite a long time. I can't say I remember anyone telling me that, specifically. I think that I was the one who told myself this untruth.

And now, I get the sense that I have used it as a back door to shame when it comes to my gender identity. As if I didn't have enough shame about crossdressing in the past.

How much of this syndrome of Not Enough is a matter of comparison? There are always people who are ahead of me and there are always people of whom I'm ahead. It doesn't matter.

I am whole and complete. I am expressing my best from where I am and from what I know. The most important thing is that I am happy. The feeling that is inside me and shining through my face is the thing that people will notice long before (and after) my clothes/hair/makeup/walk.

I am whole and complete just the way I am. Even though I haven't had decades of practice, this is natural for me. When Lorie is dressed, I feel a huge sigh of relief and contentment. I feel alive. I stand taller. I smile a LOT.

I am whole and complete just the way I am. I am enough.

Lorie

Cathy's Corner

-Cathy Allison

June is always our busiest month for events. This year Crossport had booths at Northern Kentucky Pridefest on June 9, VA Pride on June 19 and Cincinnati Pride on June 22. Laura Ann Weaver also attended Lawrenceburg Pride on June 30 to hand out literature, even though we did not have a booth there this year.

With this year being the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, acknowledging the role that was played by those who became the first transgender activists, several of the Pride events concentrated on the 'T' part of LGBT. Witness Ariel Mary Ann and Ar-ykah Carter, both trans women of color, being the Grand Marshalls of the Cincinnati Pride Parade this year.

this year. Last year it was in May and about 100-120 people came though. Only about 50 or so attended this year. This year the attention was on transgender veterans which may have accounted for the lower turnout. The VA had a panel of seven providers (therapists, doctors, nurses) who spoke on and answered questions about a variety of services available to transgender veterans, from support groups to hormones to voice to surgery.

With the low attendance, the event closed down an hour early, but I did like this image which was part of their slide show:

On July 14, The Birdcage at 927 Race St, Cincinnati hosted a fundraiser for Crossport. At least a dozen people from Crossport, their friends and family showed up. We have not yet heard from them how much was raised, but every dollar helps.

My daughter and son-in-law came as well. It



So a quick "Thank you shout out" to all the folks who helped load in, set up, staff the booths, tear down and load out. We cannot do all these events without volunteers who come in and help. We were short staffed at the Cincinnati Pride, but several people put in extra time and two that had not originally signed up did show up to help at the last minute and so it all worked out. Hopefully we will not have that same issue next year.

Richelle and Jessie helped me at the VA Pride

was the first time he had met Cathy face to face, and he had never met any of the other Crossport people either so it was kind of like learning to swim in the deep end of the pool. He survived the experience unscathed and said he was happy to have been included.

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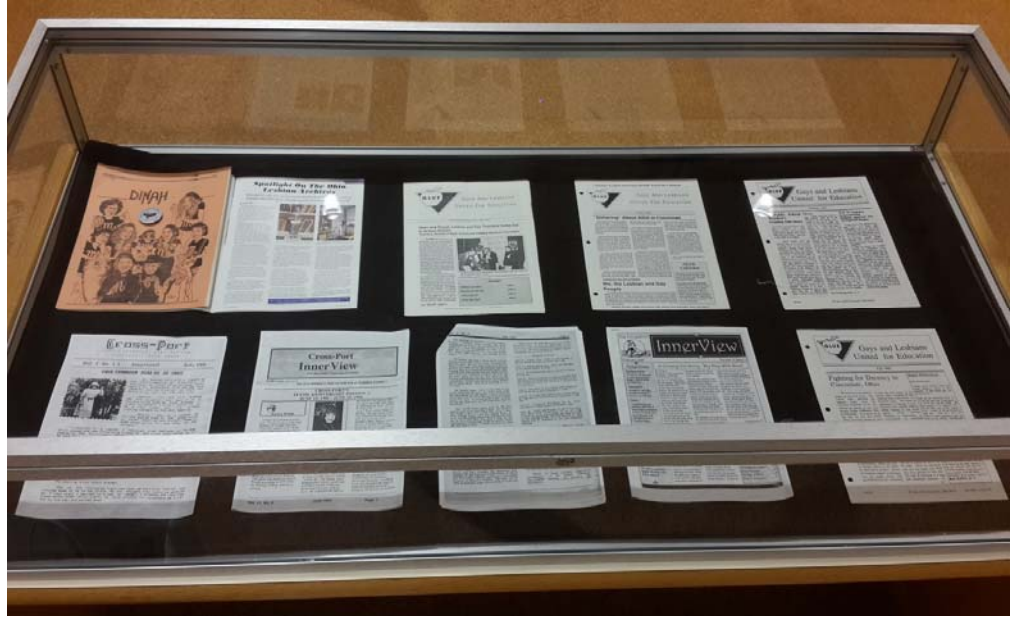
From June 17 through July 31, the Main Public Library in downtown Cincinnati has an LGBTQ exhibit which features publications by many local LGBTQ groups (most of whom no longer exist). They got in touch with Crossport because they were unable to locate any printed material from the local transgender community.

Fortunately for them, we have been publishing the InnerView from our very beginning, so we provided them with copies of the InnerView from 1985, 1989, 1995 and 1999 which are now part of the exhibit. Take the time to visit it if you are able.

If you can't get down there, you can still search though and read over 150 issues from 1985-1996 that

are hosted at the Digital Transgender Archive here:

<https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/col/1r66j125t>



Trans Family Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 27 10am-9pm

Join us for an enjoyable picnic in in Drake Park, 5800 Red Bank Road. All trans people, friends, family and allies are welcome.

This is a FREE family friendly event.

Crossport will provide a "make your own" taco bar, lemonade, unsweetened ice tea and ice water, outdoor lawn games and music.

If you wish, you may bring your own drinks (alcohol is not allowed in the park), and a side or dessert to share.

Please click the link below to register for the picnic so we can make sure we have enough

for everyone who comes:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trans-family-summer-picnic-tickets-62086899588>



110 tickets of 200 have been reserved so far so don't wait too long.

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 varmints, 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.

Stonewall and the Myth of Self-Deliverance

We're drawn to tales of fierce resistance by oppressed minorities. But those stories can blind us to how social progress happens.

By Kwame Anthony Appiah

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/22/opinion/sunday/stonewall-myth.html> June 22, 2019



One month after the 1969 conflict at the Stonewall Inn, the activist Marty Robinson spoke at the first mass rally in support of gay rights, in New York. Credit: Fred W. McDarrah/Getty Images

Here's one story about how a marginalized group won its rights. Early in the morning of June 28, 1969, the police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Manhattan's Greenwich Village, but this time the patrons didn't go quietly. A mutiny against police harassment erupted and spread; street rioters even set the bar on fire. Over the next four nights, there were demonstrations on the block. Sustained political mobilization followed. An act of resistance became a flash point in the struggle for L.G.B.T. dignity and equality. The fire set at Stonewall burns still.

That's how justice is won, right? A subjugated group, taking its destiny into its hands, valiantly rebels against its oppressors.

But wait: England basically decriminalized homosexuality in 1967, fully 36 years before it was decriminalized in the United States in *Lawrence v. Texas*. And England never had a Stonewall. How did its big stride toward gay liberation take place?

Let's try out a very different story. In 1967, a Welsh member of the House of Commons by the name of Leo Abse submitted a "private member's bill" — a bill without party support — holding that what consenting adults of the same sex did in private wasn't the law's concern. Then he used every trick in the book to get it passed.

Mr. Abse was Jewish by heritage, Labour by party affiliation, Freudian by conviction and heterosexual by orientation — a happily married father of two. He had a weakness for gaudy shirts and curious jackets better suited to the

Beatles in their "Sgt. Pepper" phase than to the House of Commons.

Yet he was remarkably deft at the cajoling, salesmanship and favor-trading that a private member's bill required. The last member of Parliament who had tried to reform the law on sexual offenses lost his seat, and the Labour Party wouldn't risk taking up the cause. (The prime minister, Harold Wilson, privately calculated that it could cost the party millions of votes.) Still, after filibusters and debate that stretched through most of the night of July 4, 1967, the Jewish Welshman finally got the bill through; it survived a fierce gantlet of opposition with a one-vote margin of support. For the first time in its history, as a result of the Sexual Offences Act of 1967, England would officially condone homosexuality.

So how come you've never heard of Leo Abse?

For the sake of a "usable past" — a historical narrative that serves the political needs of the present — some people get the yellow-highlighter treatment; others get the Wite-Out. And the narrative we've come to cherish, when it comes to the rights of historically marginalized groups, is that of self-deliverance, in which the oppressed defy and ultimately defeat their oppressors. Indeed, we've come to distrust anything that looks like a politics of benevolence.



Leo Abse, a member of the British Parliament, was responsible for passage of the Sexual Offences Act of 1967, which decriminalized homosexuality. Credit: Johnson/Mirrorpix, via Getty Images

The narrative of self-deliverance has been immensely valuable, directing attention to overlooked forms of everyday political resistance among the relatively powerless. It's important to know, say, how slave preachers in places like Jamaica and Barbados, as well as the American South, deployed biblical imagery of freedom to help create unrest and outright revolt. But as the archives of the past give way to the anthems of the present, the narrative of self-deliverance, which once enriched our understanding of liberation, has come instead to impoverish it.

Consider how abolition, the great moral crusade of the 19th century, is now taught in schools. The New

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York State Regents curriculum guide, which shapes public high school education in the state, refers to “people who took action to abolish slavery” and names four individuals, all but one of them people of color. A recent prizewinning academic history of abolition assures us that slave resistance “lay at the heart of the abolitionist movement.” And so white abolitionists, however consequential they actually were, have been made to take a few steps back.

The allure of self-deliverance has certainly influenced popular culture: In recent movies like “Django Unchained” and television shows like “Underground,” the slave is an avenger. (You can see something similar in the shift in how Holocaust resistance has been depicted in Hollywood, from “Schindler’s List,” in 1993, which was a drama of rescue — or what’s now reflexively denigrated as a “savior” narrative — to “Defiance,” in 2008, in which Jews pick up guns and save themselves.)

Alas, the yearning for heroism in these circumstances can imply, as its flip side, a sense of shame in “passivity.” But there is nothing shameful about being freed, and the simple truth is that slaves in the American South were in no position to throw off their shackles on their own. That task required the massed forces of an army. It required, too, the likes of James Ashley, a congressman from Ohio who introduced what became the 13th Amendment, devoted himself to its passage and so, in a very immediate way, ended slavery. The great Frederick Douglass, who could afford no delusions about self-deliverance, heralded James Ashley as “among the foremost of that brilliant galaxy of statesmen who reconstructed the Union on a basis of liberty.”

Only those who need no rescuing can pick and choose among their rescuers.

Which brings us back to Stonewall. These days, the episode looms so large that it has been likened to the storming of the Bastille; we furiously debate who threw the first fist, or brick, or bottle. But as the sociologists Elizabeth A. Armstrong and Suzanna M. Cragge note in a study of what they call “the Stonewall myth,” Stonewall was hardly the first “gay riot.” What gives Stonewall its stature, they argue, is that “Stonewall activists were the first to claim to be the first.” Their point is that Stonewall isn’t commemorated because of its impact on the gay movement. Instead, it “made its impact on the gay movement through its commemoration.”

It mattered enormously, then, that the old-guard gay advocacy groups organized an annual Stonewall demonstration. It also mattered enormously that after the 1971 demonstration, the reporter Joseph Lelyveld published an account in *The New York Times* that was long, detailed and, read in its historical context, deeply

sympathetic. Unblinkered journalists in the mainstream media were indispensable to the cause.

The story of gay rights is the story of gay activism — but it is not only that story. It’s the story, too, of black-robed heterosexuals like Margaret Marshall, who as the chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court wrote a 2003 decision declaring that same-sex marriage was entitled to legal recognition. It’s the story of mainstream politicians like Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who decided about a decade ago that he wanted New York to become the first large state to legislate marriage equality. Mr. Cuomo blamed the failure of a previous effort on infighting among the advocacy groups, and he called them to heel. Then — with the assistance of rich Wall Street donors — he engaged in the usual wheeling and dealing and arm-twisting to wrangle the bill through the Legislature. He signed it in 2011.

It’s an unglamorous tale, remote from the sweat and smoke and sirens of Stonewall. And yet a minority group like the L.G.B.T. population (which by most estimates accounts for a percentage of the population in the low single digits) isn’t a colony that can rise up and overthrow the forces of oppression on its own. It needs the help of other people who recognize the struggle for equality as a moral one, universally binding.

This is the reality that the narrative of self-deliverance obscures. Today, a new generation of political and social activists are inclined to speak of “allyship,” by which they typically mean an arrangement where prospective allies submit to the direction of the marginalized group, like deferential guests in someone else’s home. The vision here is remote from true coalition building, from a partnership of mutual respect, from a politics grounded in overlapping moral perceptions.



Young people outside the boarded-up Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village soon after the uprising. Credit Fred W. McDarragh/Getty Images

Leo Abse had a great deal of interest in getting things done; he had zero interest in allyship. “A member of Parliament must never become the marionette of

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any lobby," he insisted. He knew that his sense of political possibility was more finely honed than that of most outside advocates.

When it came to social reform, in fact, Mr. Abse proved to be Britain's most influential backbencher of the past century. Decriminalizing homosexual sex was far from his only cause. He was also a vigorous campaigner for the more humane treatment of prison inmates. He was a consistent opponent of anti-immigrant measures. In 1965, he helped push through a private member's bill abolishing the death penalty. He also helped put together a private member's bill that became the 1967 Family Planning Act, which made contraception and reproduction advice more widely available. When his Divorce Reform Act took effect in 1971, one party to a divorce no longer had to supply evidence of misconduct by the other. That same year, he managed to secure greater protections for married trans women.

Is it possible that he deserves more than the Wite-Out?

Leo Abse hardly acted alone, of course. In the House of Lords, the Earl of Arran, whose gay elder brother had committed suicide, previously sponsored a version of the Sexual Offences Act of 1967. The reforming recommendations of the so-called Wolfenden report, issued a decade earlier by an official committee, helped provide an air of authority. Mr. Abse also

worked with the Homosexual Law Reform Society, whose founders and supporters included such (straight) dignitaries as the Labour party politician Clement Attlee, the sociologist Barbara Wootton and the philosopher Bertrand Russell.

Nor was Mr. Abse especially fastidious in his tactics; he often resorted to ruses and misdirection. He called in favors to get certain parliamentary opponents of his measure to stay away when the votes were taken. To the unenlightened souls who stuck around, he would say whatever he thought would soften their resistance, like a persistent salesman with a foot in your door. The reason he was so effective was precisely that he could be at once high-minded and underhanded.

Above all, Mr. Abse never let the perfect be the enemy of the good. The Sexual Offences Act, in its final form, was the best version he thought he could get passed. It was, he knew, far from ideal. It applied only to England and Wales, and only to people 21 or older. The Armed Services and the Merchant Navy secured exemptions.

Activists grumbled about the bill's compromises. Fair enough. We would do well, however, to recall that at the time, sodomy could, in principle, be punished with life imprisonment. Gaining full legal equality in Britain was a longer process. But it was Mr. Abse's bill that unlocked the closet door.

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The brick, the bottle, the fist, the fire: Fierce resistance by the oppressed makes for a better story than the drudgery and temporizing of lawmaking and coalition building, and it may seem morally purer than being assisted by people whose work is propelled by their own sense of justice or compassion. These days, gratitude grates, and benevolence is viewed with beady eyes.

But self-reliance, whatever its value as a personal goal, is a lousy political ideal. What minorities need is not allyship but alliances — alliances cemented by a shared perception of the moral universe, with no group giving dictation to another. Whether the Stonewall myth ultimately proves enabling or disabling will depend on whether it can accommodate the complex history of social progress. That history, honestly recounted, is filled with complication, defiance, compromise and, yes, even benevolence. We need to make peace with it. The most usable past of all may be the truth.

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To place an ad contact:

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

Email: 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, 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

Current Board (Jan 2109-Dec 2020)

Cathy Allison - Cathyallisonxp@gmail.com

Jill Ambrose

Jeanne Fine

Wendy Le Cross - Satinwow@yahoo.com

Callie Liskay

Stacy Makin - 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!

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

EVENTS ___ OTHER ___

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