



**TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST
HISTORY
FROM WORLD WAR II TO THE PRESENT**

**OUT TO LUNCH
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015**

**Presented by:
Diana Lombardi, MSW**

© 2015



Rep Barney Frank (D-MA) (August 2008)

We'd make even more progress if the transgender community was willing to do the hard political work. And not, frankly, think they can just talk a few leaders into handing this to them."

The Stonewall Inn



Christine Jorgensen

(1926 - 1989)



Arrives at New York's Idlewild airport
February 2, 1953 to waiting
reporters...

- “EX-GI BECOMES BLONDE
BEAUTY: OPERATIONS
TRANSFORM BRONX YOUTH”
New York Daily News headline
- “Blonde Bombshell”

Lucy Hicks Anderson

(1886 – 1954)



- In 1946 - was tried and convicted in court for impersonating a woman.
- The Ventura County district attorney discovered her actual identity, voided the marriage and arrested her for perjury.

1950s

- 1950 Mattachine Society, founded
 - Accommodationist - encouraged gay people to "act normal" and fit in to society
 - That we are "just like you,"
- 1952 The Society for Equality in Dress
- 1955 Lesbian Daughters of Bilitis

1950s

- 1959 Cooper's Donuts Uprising
 - A group of drag queens and hustlers fought cops in a donut shop in downtown Los Angeles
 - A large group of transgendered women and others pelted the officers with donuts, coffee, and paper plates until they were forced to retreat and return with larger numbers.
 - When the police returned a insurrection ensued that shut down Main Street for an entire day.

Out.com: “10 Years Before Stonewall, There Was the Cooper's Donuts Riot”

1960s



- Transgender organizations are beginning to form.
 - 1962 Hose & Heel Club
 - 1967 Conversion Our Goal (COG)
- Activists are beginning to network
 - 1964 Erickson Educational Foundation (EEF)

1960s

- In the early '60s a number of states begin to pass laws allowing the gender marker on birth certificates to be changed
 - 1965 Ten states have passed laws to change BC
 - 1966 NY Supreme Court – Anonymous v. Weiner

Virginia Prince

(1912 – 2009)

- She is believed to have been the first to use the word “transgender”
- She coined the word “transgenderist” for someone who lived full time as a woman but did not identify as a woman.
- 1952 – Publishes *Transvestia: The Journal of the American Society for Equality in Dress*
- 1960 – Arrested for “Distributing Obscenities Through The Mail”

Virginia Prince (Con't)

(1912 – 2009)

- 1960 *Transvestia: The Journal of the American Society for Equality in Dress*
- 1962 Foundation for Personality Expression (FPE or Phi Pi Epsilon)
- 1975/1976 FPE becomes “The Society for the Second Self” (Tri Ess)
- Publishes:
 - “How to be Woman Through Male” 1971
 - “Transsexuals and Pseudotranssexuals” 1978
 - “The ‘Transcendents’ or ‘Trans’ People” 1978

1960s

- Louise Lawrence
 - Developed an extensive correspondence network
 - Was friends with,
 - Virginia Prince
 - Dr Alfred Kinsley
 - Dr Harry Benjamin
 - Pat Brown (Attorney General of CA, later to become governor of CA)

Dewey's Lunch Counter Protest

- April 25 1965, more than 150 patrons in “non-conformist clothing” were turned away by the management.
 - 3 people stage a sit-in
- May 2, activists staged another sit-in
- Janus Society issues a statement supporting the sit-ins

Compton Cafeteria Uprising

August 1966

- The Compton Cafeteria was a hang out for,
 - Vanguard “an organization of, by, and for the kids on the streets” Activist civil rights ministers from Glide Memorial United Methodist Church
 - Street workers
- Police raid Compton Cafeteria for “street queens”
- Coffee is thrown in a police officer’s face
- Not covered by the press

Stonewall Uprising

1969

- “Sylvia Rivera characterized the Stonewall Inn as ‘a white male bar for middle-class males to pick up young boys of different races.’”
- “Only people dressed in clothes of a different gender, people without IDs, and employees of the bar would be arrested. Everyone else would be released.
- “a dyke dressed in men’s clothing” who resisted as the police put her into the paddy wagon.

(Gan, J. p131)

Sylvia Rivera

(1951 – 2002)

- Left home at 10 years old
- Befriended by Marsha P. Johnson – “drag queen,” sex worker and activist
- One of the leaders of the Stonewall Uprising
- A founding member of the GLF & the GAA
- Founded S.T.A.R. with Ms. Johnson
- Late 1970s – Worked on a gender inclusive NYC Anti-D bill

1973 Pride Rally NYC



1970s

- 1973 Sexual Orientation is removed from the DSM
 - Gender identity disorders first appeared in the class of Psychosexual Disorders in the DSM-III
- Lou Sullivan
 - 1973 “*A Transvestite Answers a Feminist*”
 - 1974 “*Looking Towards Transvestite Liberation*”

Minneapolis, Minnesota

- 1974 Minneapolis passed a non-discrimination ordinance covering sexual orientation
- 1975 The law was revised by the City Council to include a more expansive, trans-inclusive definition of “affectional preference,” as part of a general overhaul of the local human rights ordinance.
 - Gays oppose the bill
 - Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights (MCGR)
 - Minnesota Senator Allan Spear
 - Democratic Legislators, Steve Endean

1970s

- 1976 Tennis Ace Reneé Richards is 'outed' and barred from competition when she attempts to enter a women's' tennis tournament
- 1979 -- National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights – once again the trans-community was told that we were not welcome

1980s

- Assimilation Decade
- AIDS/HIV
- 1980 GID added to the DSM III
- Lou Sullivan
 - 1986 FtM support and educational organization “FTM”
 - After his death the organization is renamed Lou Sullivan Society
 - Fought to have the definition of GID revised to change from a homosexual disorder

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

- Excludes Transgender
 - The ADA contains an explicit section stating that transsexualism and gender identity disorders are not, without a physical causation, considered disabilities.
 - This section was put in at the request of Senator Jesse Helms.

1990s

- Dallas Denny, Jameson Green, Gwen Smith & JoAnn Roberts
 - 1990 American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc. (AEGIS) a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- Phyllis Frye
 - 1992 The International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Inc.
 - 1994 Phyllis Frye and Karen Kerin went to Washington, D.C., to attempt to speak before the Senate Hearings on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).
Transgender had been omitted from the ENDA language

1990s



- **1993 – “The Transsexual Menace”**
 - Riki Anne Wilchins, Denise Norris, and Jessica Xavier
 - 1994, "**Camp Trans-** the Educational Event Across the Road from the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival"
 - 1994 Helped organize the protest for the 25th Stonewall anniversary march
 - 1995 The Brandon Teena Murder Trial Vigil

1990s

- 1993 – Trans Activists working for many years with Gay and Lesbian activists, successfully pass an anti-discrimination law in the State of Minnesota protecting transsexual and transgender people along with Gays and Lesbians.
- In early 1990s America Online chat rooms TV Chat the Gazebo is formed by Phyllis Frye

1990s

- June 1994 – 25th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, and the Gay Games. Both were scheduled to occur in New York City
 - Both events were going to exclude transgender.
 - Transsexual Menace (Jessica Xavier, Denise Norris, Riki Wilchins, Sharon Stuart, Phyllis Frye and others plan to protest the events)

1990s



- 1993 – Jessica Xavier founded It’s Time, America!
- 1993 - Leslie Feinberg *“Stone Butch Blues”*
- 1994 – Kate Bornstein *“Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us”*
- 1995 – Riki Wilchins founded the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition GenderPAC
- 1995 – Action Alert: EDNA to lobby for a gender inclusive bill
 - The first organized transgender lobbying event in our nation’s capital.

1990s

- 1995, the HRC had pushed their non-transgender-inclusive version of ENDA
 - Elizabeth Birch, the HRC's president and executive director from 1995 until January 2004
 - Elizabeth Birch was quoted at a Chicago LGBT event as stating that trans-inclusion in ENDA (the Employment and Non Discrimination Act) a top legislative priority of transgender leaders would happen '*over her dead body*'.

1990s



- November of 1996, the next large transgender community meeting with HRC
 - Allison Lange, Phyllis Dickason, Yosenio Lewis, Gary Bowen, Jon Banks, Stephanie Young, Jamison Green, Janice Galeckas, Shannon Minter, Melissa Dixon and Phyllis Fry
- 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999. Trans-Activists lobby congress for the Hate Crime bill and ENDA

1990s



- 1999 National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) founded
 - Vanessa Edward Foster, Monica Roberts and other activists
- 1999 Gwen Smith starts the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20
 - 1998 Rita Hester murdered

2000s

- 2001 HRC Press Release...
 - The House is also expected to pass the bill, which would make Maryland the twelfth state to become a discrimination-free zone, according to HRC.
 - “This is an enormous victory that sends the message that discrimination is not acceptable in Maryland or in society,” said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch.

2000s

- 2002 NY passes a Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act
 - Last minute backroom deal removes “gender identity and expression” from the bill
- 2003 – National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) founded
 - Mara Keisling

2000s

2004 Transsexual Menace & NTAC protest the HRC for backing a non-inclusive ENDA



2000s

- 2007 The year of betrayal
 - In April Rep. Barney Franks introduces a gender inclusive EDA
 - In May HRC promises to only support a gender inclusive ENDA at NTCE Lobby Days training.

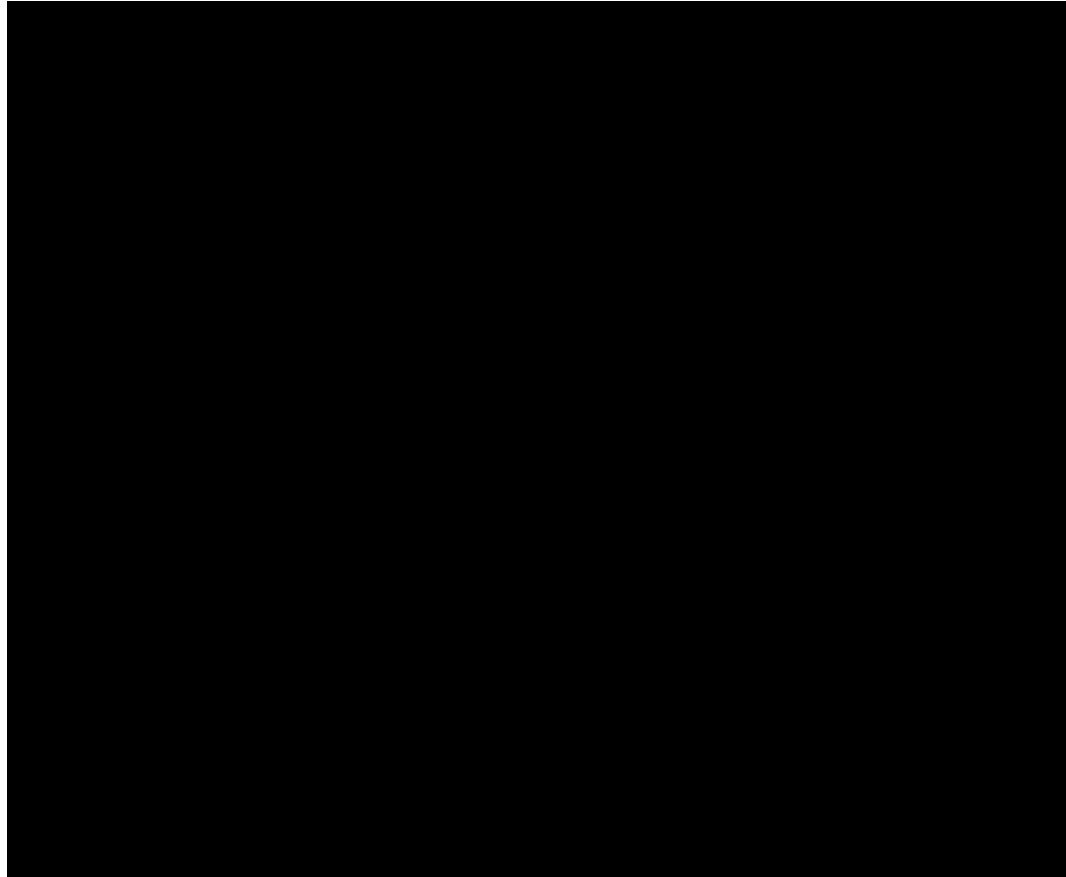


2000s



- 2007 The year of betrayal
 - In early September once again HRC President Joe Solmones promises to only support a gender inclusive ENDA before 800 trans-people at the Southern Comfort conference

2000s



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-6ZoNJj-bU>

2000s

- 2007 The year of betrayal
 - In late September Rep. Barney Frank pulls the inclusive ENDA bill and substitutes a non-inclusive ENDA bill and Joe Solmones says that the HRC will would not oppose or endorse the non-inclusive bill
 - In late October HRC says that they will support non-inclusive bill, but will not penalize any congressperson who votes against the non-inclusive bill.

2000s

- 2007 The year of betrayal
 - In November HRC says that they penalize any congressperson who votes against the non-inclusive bill
 - Six Representatives vote against the non-inclusive bill and lose their 100% rating on LGBT issues from the HRC

2000s



- 2008 Congressional Hearings on
"Examination of Discrimination Against
Transgender Americans in the Workplace"
Hearings

2000s

- 2008 Diego Sanchez is appointed as an aid to Rep. Frank
 - The first openly trans-person ever appointed as an aid to Congress
- 2008 Diane Schroer wins court case against the Library of Congress (Civil Rights Act of 1964 Title VII)
- 2009 President Obama backs both the gender inclusive Hate Crime bill and the inclusive ENDA
- 2009 Rep. Barney Franks introduces a gender inclusive Hate Crime and ENDA bills
- September 2009 Second Congressional hearings

Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act

- Passed on October 22, 2009
 - It is now a federal crime to commit violence against an individual based on sexual orientation, gender identity and disability
- Was first proposed in the mid 90's – but it did not include gender identity
 - Gender identity was added in 2007
 - Opposition called the bill the “Pedophile Protection Act”

The Obama Era

- Dylan Orr – Special assistant for the Labor Department’s Office of Disability Employment Policy
- Amanda Simpson – Executive Director of the U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI)
- Trans attorney Shannon Minter to the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships
- Raffi Freedman-Gurspan – White House Staff
- First time transgender was mentioned in a State of the Union Address
- Health insurance: ACA & Medicare
- Recognized protections: EEOC, OSHA, DoJ, & DoEd



CONNECTICUT TRANS-ACTIVISM

Trans-Activism in Connecticut

- 1991 Sexual Orientation was added to the Anti-discrimination statutes
- 1993 DMV issues letter clarifying changing the gender marker on driver licenses.

Driver's License Letter

<http://www.twentyclub.net/docs/cdletter.html>



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
60 STATE STREET WETHERSFIELD CONNECTICUT 06161-4005
LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION - (860)566-2404

October 25, 1993

Attorney

Hartford, CT 06105-2922

Dear Attorney

Commissioner Goldberg has asked me to respond to your letter of September 24, 1993, regarding your client's difficulty in changing her gender designation on her motor vehicle operator's license.

I have advised our Branch Operations Division that a letter from a health care provider attesting that the applicant is in active treatment and is living full time according to the requirements mandated by the Standards of Care for Sexual Reassignment is sufficient documentation to effect the license change your client desires. This information will be forwarded to our branch offices via memorandum from this office, thereby eliminating any obstacles your client or any other individuals might have in the future.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact my office directly at 566-3300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Yacovone".

John Yacovone Chief, Legal Services Division

cc: Commissioner Louis S. Goldberg

LEGAL SERVICES OFFICE HOURS
Offices open Monday through Friday, 8:30 - 4:30; Saturday, 8:30-12:30

1 of 1

8/2/2009 2:42 PM

Trans-Activism in Connecticut

- December 31, 2000 The CHRO issues a Declaratory Ruling on behalf of John/Jane Doe
 - Attorney Rachel A. Goldberg submits a petition on behalf of John/Jane Doe (Doe)
 - Doe seeks a ruling from the CHRO that the statutory prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of sex encompass discrimination based upon a person's apparent gender, specifically discrimination against transsexual individuals.

Trans-Activism in Connecticut



- 2003 The first attempt at passing the Hate Crime legislation that would add “gender identity” and “gender expression” failed
- 2004 “Gender identity” and “gender expression” is added to the Hate Crime statutes.
 - The bill is passed with a vote of 139-4 in the House and 33-0 in the Senate

Trans-Activism in Connecticut



- 2006 First attempt to pass a gender inclusive anti-discrimination statute
 - Judiciary Committee 28 – 8
- 2007 Bill passes
 - Judiciary Committee 29 – 4
 - Gov't Administration and Elections 10 – 1
 - Higher Education 15 – 3
 - Education 27 – 1
 - **Senate 30 – 4**
 - Bill is tabled in the House after a three hour debate

Trans-Activism in Connecticut



- 2008 Judiciary committee 37 – 6
- 2009 The bill never made it out of committee
 - Marriage bill took precedent
 - Opposition is getting stronger
 - Family Institute of Connecticut
 - Teachers
 - Bathrooms

Trans-Activism in Connecticut



- Lobby Day 2009 - ~180 people came to lobby for the bill
- FIC holds their Lobby Day in the room next to ours
 - Warns mothers and children to stay away

Trans-Activism in Connecticut



- 2011 – HB6599
Judiciary Committee
- Vote:
 - ✓ Yea = 27
 - ✓ Nay = 14
 - ✓ Absent and Not Voting = 4

Trans-Activism in Connecticut



- House Vote (May 19th)
 - Necessary for Passage 70
 - Those voting Yea 77
 - Those voting Nay 62
 - Those absent and not voting 12
- Senate Vote (June 4th)
 - Necessary for Adoption 19
 - Those voting Yea 20
 - Those voting Nay 16

Trans-Activism in Connecticut

- 2011 – HB6599 Amendments

- Scarlet Letter

Any person holding a motor vehicle operator's license whose gender-related identity is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth shall notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such identity and the commissioner shall indicate such identity in the electronic record maintained by the commissioner pertaining to such person's operator's license. "

Trans-Activism in Connecticut

- 2011 – HB6599 Amendments
 - Increased penalty of a crime that was committed while crossdressed.
 - Exclusions for dorms rooms, showers, locker rooms, bathrooms
 - Teachers - upon a majority vote of the board, reassign an elementary school teacher for the remainder of the school year if such teacher exhibits a change in gender identity or expression during a school year.
 - Birth gender bathrooms
 - Require a person to be diagnosed with GID to be covered by the law

Trans-Activism in Connecticut



Trans-Activism in Connecticut



Birth Certificate Bill HB7006

- Public Health Committee vote: Yea 23, Nay 2 and absent or not voting 3
- House vote: Yea 126, Nay 18, and absent or not voting 7
- Senate vote: Yea 32, Nay 3, and absent or not voting 1
- Signed by the governor: June 23, 2015

What's Next

- Federal
 - Safe schools
 - Civil Rights Act
- State
 - HB 7006 Birth Certificate ✓
 - Block HB 5193 Insurance Bill ✓
 - Reparative/Conversion Therapy

Special Thanks To:



Ethan St Pierre

Rachel Goldberg, Esq.

Jerimarie Liesegang, PhD

Amy Miller, MSW

For taking the time and telling me the history
of the trans-movement

Questions & Answers



References:

- CHRO,(2000, November 9). *CHRO Declaratory Ruling on behalf of John/Jane Doe* Retrieved April 21, 2007, from <http://www.ct.gov/chro/cwp/view.asp?a=2526&Q=315942>
- Currah P. & Minter S., (2000). *Transgender Equality A HANDBOOK FOR ACTIVISTS AND POLICYMAKERS..* NGLTF Policy Institute, Retrieved September 22, 2009, from <http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/TransgenderEquality.pdf>
- Ekins, R., & King, D. (2005, October). Virginia Prince: Transgender Pioneer. *International Journal of Transgenderism*, 8(4), 5-15. Retrieved July 1, 2009, from LGBT Life with Full Text database
- Fienberg, L. (1993). *Stone Butch Blues*. Los Angeles, CA. Alyson Books

References:

- Fienberg, L. (1994). *Transgender Warrior*. Boston, MA. Beacon Press
- Fienberg, L. (1998). 'I'm glad I was in the Stonewall riot'. *Worker's World*. Retrieved August 1, 2009. From <http://www.workers.org/ww/1998/sylvia0702.php>
- Gan, J. (2007, Spring). Still at the back of the bus: Sylvia Rivera's struggle. *Centro Journal*, 19(1), 124-139. Retrieved July 1, 2009, from LGBT Life with Full Text database.
- Green J. (2004, January). *Becoming a Visible Man*. Nashville, Ky. Vanderbilt University Press

References:

- D'Emilio, J., Turner, W., & Vaid, U. (2000) FACING DISCRIMINATION, ORGANIZING FOR FREEDOM: THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY. *CREATING CHANGE: PUBLIC POLICY, AND CIVIL RIGHTS*, Retrieved Sept. 24, 2009, from <http://www.transgenderlegal.com/chpt22.htm>
- King, D., Ekins, R., (2000), *Pioneers of Transgendering: The Life and Work of Virginia Prince*, GENDYS 2k, The Sixth International Gender Dysphoria Conference, Manchester England.
- MacKenzie, G. (1994). *Transgender Nation*. Bowling Green OH. Popular Press
- Meyerowitz, J. (2002). *How Sex Changed*. Boston, MA. Harvard Press

References:

- Roberts, M., (2007, October 18). The 1965 Dewey's Lunch Counter Sit-In. TransGriot, Retrieved September 22, 2009, from <http://transgriot.blogspot.com/2007/10/1965-deweys-lunch-counter-sit-it.html>
- Roberts, M., (2012, March). A Look at African-American Trans Trailblazers, *Ebony*. Retrieved March 10, 2012, from <http://www.ebony.com/news-views/trans-trailblazers>
- Sontag, D. (2015, August 29). Once a Pariah, Now a Judge: The Early Transgender Journey of Phyllis Frye. *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/30/us/transgender-judge-phyllis-fryes-early-transformative-journey.html>
- Stryker, S. (2008). *Transgender History*. Berkley CA. Seal Press.