



ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2010

Transgender Day of Remembrance is held every year on November 20. An International day of mourning and remembrance for transgender and gender variant individuals killed worldwide due to anti-transgender violence over the previous twelve months. 2010 marks the 12th ***Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance and the fifth to be held in Oakland, CA.*** Alameda County has participated since 2006.

Produced by TransVision and held at Preservation Park in Oakland, CA. The 2010 event was the biggest and most successful TDOR event to date. Despite a very stormy and raining night, people came from SF, Contra Costa County, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, joining those from Alameda County to pay respects to our fallen trans brothers and sisters as well as community members lost to AIDS. This year's event was also the most attended TDOR to date with 236 people and standing room only.

It was also very personal to TransVision as we remembered one of our own, Marisela, who passed in October. She will be missed for her spirit, her laughter, her good nature, and gentle soul. The community also lost Jurutha, who was a mother to many young African American trans women from Oakland.



Oakland joined more than 200 TDOR events around the world in 19 countries and 39 States . Sydney,-Australia, Helsinki- Finland, Athens- Greece, Tel Aviv,-Israel, The Hague,-Netherlands, Warsaw-Poland, Hamilton- New Zealand, Quezon City-Philippines, Pocatello,-Idaho, Missoula,-Montana, Sackville- Nebraska, Nashville,-Tennessee, and Norman- Oklahoma were just a few of the cities having events.

It has been a very busy year for anti-trans hatred. Memorialized were over 100 transgender and gender non-conforming people, with an overwhelming majority in South and Central America; 14 were killed in Guatemala, 40 died violently in Brazil.

At home, we mourned 12 United States citizens taken violently from us, including Mariah Malina Qualls, a 23 year trans woman from San Jose who moved to San Francisco and was volunteering at a trans program when she was killed on December 9, 2009. Her murder is still unsolved.

And we mourned **Justin "Chloe" Lacey from Clovis, who took her own life on September 24, 2010, a few weeks later. Chloe was 19 years old.**

Reading of the Names

The reading of the names is always the most somber and touching part of the ceremony, the reason we hold the event in the first place. This year's names were read by:

- Hazel Weiss, Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department
- Ms. Dominique Rosa Leslie, CEO & Consultant, ReDiscovery Consulting
- Kelly Thiemann, Vice President, Diving for Life Foundation
- Duran Rutledge, Public Health Department, Alameda Country Office of AIDS Administration
- Sharon Grayson: HIV Services Program Manager, Volunteers of America Bay Area
- Lois Bailey Lindsey: Associate Director, Alameda Health Consortium
- Prinya Phairot
- Varsha Chuan, Chief Operating Officer, Tri-City Health Center
- Evelyn Guerrero Valencia, TCHC
- Jose Alberto Barrera
- Lorenzo Hinojosa, Testing Coordinator- Alameda Country Office of AIDS Administration
- Lorena Martinez: Peer Educator for both TransVision, Tri-City Health Center and TRUCHA, La Clinica de la Raza

Each read their names with dignity, clarity, and love.



Sharon Grayson, Lois Bailey Lindsey, Duran Rutledge

Ceremony

Our Keynote Speaker was newly elected Alameda County Superior Court Judge Vicky Kolakowski, the nation's first elected transgender judge. "No, I am not going to be able to get you out of things, But if you come into court and they call you names or the wrong pronoun, then that's something we can take a look at," she told the crowd, brushing a lock of brown hair back from her round face. "I'm not trying to turn this into a political statement or promote an agenda."



Alameda County Superior Court Judge Vicky Kolakowski



Emcee Tiffany Woods

Others speakers included Lee Staub, Tri-City Health Center, Mara Cruz, Community Member, Ever Bolden, Community Member, and Lisa Carver, HIV Program Manager, Tri-City Health Center and longtime transgender activist Jamison Green, who urged the audience to "own the hope we want to see in the world" and encouraged people to reach out to those who are victims of bullying.



Jamison Green



The T Tones

Musical healing and entertainment was provided by The T Tones, a singing group composed of four transmen. Tenors Bobby Cheung and Prado Gomez, along with Basses Thomas Kennard and Yoseñio V. Lewis.

Another Performance was a Spoken Word piece by African American Trans Women, Tanajsha, Brandy, Meoshay, Riana, Teri about the importance of taking care of business or we might be reading your name next year.

Political Representation

Although none of the elected officials who officially endorsed the Day of Remembrance could attend, Adrienne Ursino from Congressman George Miller's read a statement from the Congressman. Collin Foard represented Congresswoman Barbara Lee and presented a Congressional Certificate to TransVision. Katie Tague from state Senator Ellen Corbett's office represented the senator with inspiring remarks. Katie has attended all five Transgender Day of Remembrance representing the senator. Oakland City Council member Nancy Nadel sent over a City Council Proclamation Honoring and Recognizing the Transgender Day of Remembrance and signaling out TransVision has an ***"extraordinary force throughout Alameda County and in particular the city of Oakland"***



Collin Foard



Adrienne Ursino



Katie Tague



Jurutha



Marisela

Media

Transgender Day of Remembrance also serves as the biggest public and media event for the TransVision program. The Bay Area Reporter covered the event both before and after. A special thank you to Cynthia Laird and the Bay Area Reporter. Andrea Woodull from the Oakland Tribune also did a piece before the event.

To view the pre press coverage: Click on this link:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/oakland/ci_16652966

To view the after press coverage: Click on this link:

<http://www.ebar.com/news/article.php?sec=news&article=5274>

Partnerships

An endorsement said that "our office/agency/org supports your event, what it stands for".

We could not have done this event without the help and support of our financial sponsors who really came through. We are very grateful for them.

This year's financial sponsor was the Alameda County Office of AIDS Administration

Elected officials that endorsed the event were:

- Congressman George Miller, CA-7
- Congresswoman Barbara Lee, CA-9,
- State Senator Ellen Corbett, D-10

TransVision is truly grateful for the endorsements and we look forward to future collaborations.

Filming

The Oakland Transgender Day of Remembrance Event was filmed by the Filmmakers of

SexSmartFilms: SexSmartFilms.com, for inclusion in a new documentary currently in production, "Finding New Hope", an accurate and moving picture of the transgender experience".

The Filmmakers are Chris Arnold & Mark Schoen, Producers / "Finding New Hope" --

Please visit their web page that shows the demo for the film "Finding New Hope at: www.findingnewhopethemovie.com/

As always, it is the people who attend that deserve so much for giving of their time and emotions to remember those who were taken from us. Your support and attendance is always appreciated and never taken for granted and we hope to see you next year.



Acknowledgements

Tri-City Health Center and TransVision would like to thank the following for helping make this event possible. Without all of your help, the event would not be possible:

- Barbra Ackerman, Preservation Park,
- Alameda County Office of AIDS Administration
- All of our Sponsors
- All off our Endorsers
- Congressman George Miller (D-7),

Congresswoman Barbara Lee, (D-9),

- Senator Ellen Corbett (D-10),
- Lee Staub: Program
- Lisa Carver, Program Manager: Too much to list

Representatives

- Katie Tague
- Adrienne Ursino
- Colin Foard

Our Guest Speakers

- David Friedel, Mario Madrid: Sound

**All who helped set-up and clean up
All of you that attended**



To view the Joint Member Resolution from the State Legislature from Senator Ellen Corbett and Assembly member Sandre 'Swanson,
Click the Image below:

