



ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2009

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. Alameda County has participated for the last four years. We joined more than 200 TDOR events around the world in 21 countries, 60 International locations, 43 States and well over 200 locations.

Produced by TransVision and held at Preservation Park in Oakland, CA. 2009's event will be remembered by the overwhelming number of deaths reported, 143 reported to date, with 130 deaths internationally, the highest death total for a single year reported to date. This year's event was also the most attended TDOR to date with 173 people and standing room only.

This year we also partnered with the Universal Unitarian Church of Oakland, who provided a small candlelight vigil after the ceremony, escorting those who wanted to continue the evening in a safe space with plenty of refreshments and support for such an emotional evening. A special to thank you to Kristen Montan, who reached out to us.

It was also very personal to TransVision as we remembered of our own, HIV care clients, Camille Burleson, who passed in June. Camille was a client of ours for a couple of year's until she moved back to Texas early in year. We will miss her.

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 years names were read by Dave Kears, former Alameda County Health Care Services Director, now Special Assistant to the County Administrator, Yvonne Escarsega, Medical Social Worker at Alameda County Medical Center, Highland Hospital, Adult Immunology Clinic, Luis Frias, Case Manager at Tri-City Health Center, Fredericka Robinson, HIV Planning Council and Rianna Turner. Each read their names with dignity, clarity, and love.



Dave Kears



Rianna



Luis Frias

Our Keynote Speakers were Oakland City Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan and Miss Major, Community Organizing Director for the Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project. Both gave inspirational and trans affirming speeches and imploring those in attendance to do more to end violence against our community.



Miss Major



Emcee Tiffany Woods

Musical healing and entertainment was once again provided by the renowned Transcendence Gospel Choir, **under the guidance of choir director, Minister Yvonne Evans**, whose voices provided much needed healing from the emotional journey of the ceremony and overall event. Thank you to Minister Bobbie Jean Baker for helping to arrange the choir's appearance.

Our spiritual inspiration came from **Pastor Vicky Kowlakowski**, who serves on the staff of New Spirit Community Church in Berkeley and is the first openly transgender administrative law judge; and the Rev. Kathy Huff, Universal Unitarian Church of Oakland.



Transcendence Gospel Choir

Although none of the elected officials who officially endorsed the Day of Remembrance could attend, Adrienne Ursino Brown from Congressman George Miller's office sent over a statement from the Congressman that I was proud to read. Katie Tague from state Senator Ellen Corbett's office represented the senator and read from the Joint Member Resolution from the State Legislature from Senator Ellen Corbett and Assembly member Sandre 'Swanson recognizing November 16 as Transgender Day of Remembrance in Alameda County. This is the resolution she presented TransVision last year. Katie has attended all four Transgender Day of Remembrance representing the senator.



Tiffany and Katie Tague



Katie representing Resolution

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.

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

<http://www.ebar.com/news/article.php?sec=news&article=4353>

To view the post press coverage, the Editorial page: Click on this link:

<http://ebar.com/openforum/opforum.php?sec=editorial>

Partnerships

Again we worked to partner with as many community organizations, agencies, and elected officials as possible in support of transgender people living in Alameda County and the Bay Area.

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 sponsors were

- Alameda County Office of AIDS Administration
- Alameda County Leather Corps
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation

Elected officials that endorsed the event were:

- Congressman George Miller, CA-7
- State Senator Ellen Corbett, D-10

Local trans and LGB organizations that endorsed the event were:

- National Center of Excellence for Transgender Health, UCSF
Transgender Law Center
- Harm Reduction Coalition
- Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Disease (WORLD)
- U.S. Positive Women's Network (PWN)
- Reverend Kathy Huff

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

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, **Representatives**
- Alameda County Office of AIDS Administration
- All of our Sponsors
- All off our Endorsers
- • Congressman George Miller (D-7),
- Senator Ellen Corbett (D-10),
- Andrew Navarro: Program
- Lisa Carver, Program Manager: Too much to list
- Katie Tague
- Adrienne Ursino Brown
- **Our Guest Speakers**
- David Friedel, sound
- The Transcendence Gospel Choir
- Mario Madrid, Power Point
- Kristen Montan, First Unitarian Church of Oakland
- Reverend Kathy Huff, First Unitarian Church of Oakland

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

