



Johna Talks: Trans in the USA

Before we know it, November will be upon us. We will be deciding who to vote for, what we are doing for Thanksgiving, and what to get that special someone on Black Friday. But for the Trans community, November is a time for raising awareness about Trans issues and remembering those we've lost. This year Transgender Awareness Week will be observed November 13 – 19, 2024, followed by Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20.

In 43 states across the country, we have 658 anti-trans bills filed; 45 have passed, 125 are active, and 488 have failed. Nationally, anti-trans bills are numbered at 80. At the federal level, 53 were introduced across categories like healthcare, student sports, military, incarceration, and education. Five bills were introduced and failed in NYS.

According to US SR53, a recently introduced US Senate resolution:

1. Sex is defined as biological.
2. Binary terms are used to refer to sex (either male or female) – assigned at birth.
3. Parenting terms match biological sex.
4. Distinctions are made between the sexes with respect to athletics, prisons, domestic violence shelters, restrooms, and other areas.
5. Policies and laws distinguish between the sexes and are subject to intermediate constitutional scrutiny.
6. All local and state agencies are required to base data collected on biological sex not gender.

I believe this bill alone will greatly diminish the safety of the Trans community. It could also threaten LGBTQ marriage rights. This is why our voice matters, our vote matters, and awareness of the situation matters. You have the chance now to research the people you are voting for in November, and see where they stand.

We as a community do not want to lose any more of our nonbinary or trans family to violence, which is whom we honor on Trans Day of Remembrance. Last year, 57 trans individuals lost their lives to violence.

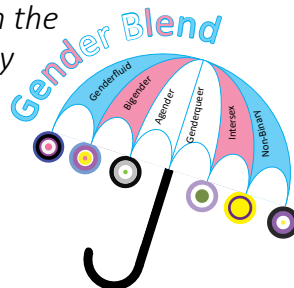
When we stand as a community in Pride, with one voice, one song of love, we will not be denied our rights, our pronouns, and our lives. We will rejoice in our safety, in love, and in companionship. The choice is yours; the vote is yours, let your voice be heard.



Johna speaks at last year's Transgender Day of Remembrance event.

This year, SAGE Upstate will participate in the local TDOR remembrance event, organized by the Q Center at ACR Health, which will include a resource fair and a vigil. Watch our website and social media posts for more info. Complete details will be featured in the November newsletter.

GenderBlend, a social/support group for people in trans communities, on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 7 pm.



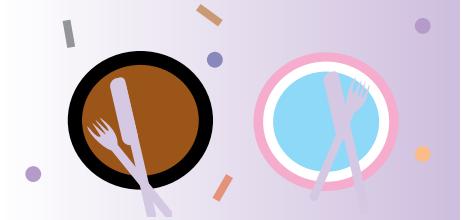
Calling all businesses!

(and people who frequent them)

Businesses, Organizations, and Professionals working together make our community strong. Those who advertise in the Community Dinner Program can make their services known to the community members who need their services. Ads can be reserved for \$55 to \$300.



We also need donations for our Silent Auction. Those who donate baskets, gift cards, art, tech items or some other treasure will be recognized in the event program.



SAGERS: Is there a business you frequent that might be interested in reaching our community? You can reach out to them yourselves (we will provide materials), or just let us know and we will contact them.

**For more info,
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