

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



TRANSGENDER HEROES

Sylvia Rivera (1951-2002)



Sylvia Rivera (1951-2002) was a Puerto Rican American transgender activist. Most commonly known as one of the inciters of the monumental Stonewall Riots in New York City, she was also a founding member of both the Gay Liberation Front and later the Gay Activists Alliance also in New York City. Along with her friend, Marsha Johnson, an African American trans woman activist, she also helped found STAR, a group dedicated to helping homeless trans youth. In addition to being one of the first trans youth shelters STAR was also one of the first political organizations for transgender rights in the world. Today the Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) is named in her honor. SRLP is a non-profit organization that engages in policy work and provides trainings and free legal services for transgender, intersex, and gender non-conforming low-income people of color.

Amanda Simpson



In January 2010 President Obama appointed **Amanda Simpson** to serve in the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security. Amanda made history as the first openly transgender woman to be appointed to a government office by a president. She is highly qualified for her position, holding degrees in physics, engineering and business administration. She has also served the LGBT communities on the boards of the National Center for Transgender Equality and Out & Equal as well as volunteering in local work in her home state of Arizona.

Kye Allums



Kye Allums is the first publicly transgender person to play NCAA Division I college basketball. Kye, a student at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., announced in November 2010 that while he identifies as male, he will continue playing on the women's basketball team. Kye recognizes that the media attention around his coming out can provide visibility for the trans community. "I am trying to help myself and others to be who they are." And Kye's school supports him. Although the team is certain they'll face difficulty from other communities when they travel, they're committed to supporting Kye, says teammate Ivy Abonia, "As long as we're united...we're a team and we're a family, we'll be okay" (AP).

" GENDER IS THE POETRY EACH OF US MAKES OUT OF THE LANGUAGE WE ARE TAUGHT."

– Leslie Feinberg, *Trans Liberation*

Leslie Feinberg



Leslie Feinberg is a Jewish transgender activist, speaker, and author. Leslie's acclaimed writing has galvanized hir place as a transgender icon. Ze wrote several books about the transgender experience: novels *Stone Butch Blues* and *Drag King Dreams* and non-fiction books *Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman* and *Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink or Blue*. Ze is known as first coining the term gender warriors. Feinberg continues to write, speak, and dedicate hir time to activism along with hir life partner, poet and activist Minnie Bruce Pratt. Feinberg is a high ranking member of the Workers World Party (WWP), an organization that supports the struggles of all oppressed people and is a managing editor of the Workers World Newspaper.

Dr. Marisa Richmond



Dr. Marisa Richmond is the first African American, transgender person to be an elected delegate to the Democratic National Convention from any state. Dr. Richmond is President of the Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition (TTPC), serves on the Board of the National Center for Transgender Equality, and on the Sexual Violence Prevention Planning Committee of the Tennessee Department of Health. TTPC is an organization designed to educate and advocate on behalf of transgender related legislation at the federal, state and local levels.

Max Wolf Valerio



Max Wolf Valerio is a transman and an American Indian (Blackfoot)/Latino Sephardic Jewish poet, performer, and writer. Max's work has been recognized by poets such as Adrienne Rich and Allen Ginsberg, and has appeared in acclaimed collections such as *This Bridge Called My Back*. He is influenced by diverse spiritualities, from Afro-Caribbean to American Indian philosophies and has an ongoing interest in feminism. Max's book, *The Testosterone Files: My Hormonal and Social Transformation from Female to Male* has been instrumental in informing readers about one person's FTM transitioning process. The book highlights Valerio's honesty regarding gender, identity, and self-perception, which comprise the core of this personal and absorbing narrative.

“ I AM PROUD OF MYSELF AS BEING THERE [AT THE STONEWALL RIOTS]. IF I HAD LOST THAT MOMENT, I WOULD HAVE BEEN KIND OF HURT BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN I SAW THE WORLD CHANGE FOR ME AND MY PEOPLE. OF COURSE, WE STILL GOT A LONG WAY AHEAD OF US.”

– Sylvia Rivera to Leslie Feinberg, www.workers.org

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