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## September 18, 2008

### [Bala Cynwyd — New Center for SRS?](#)

Filed under: [Community News](#) — Angela Gardner @ 5:23 pm [Edit This](#)



In the past decade or two those seeking gender reassignment surgery most often had to travel to strange, remote, or exotic places for their procedures. Tales of trips to Montreal, Vancouver, Trinidad (Colorado, not the island nation that brought us the steel drum and Calypso) and Thailand abound. Now there is a new exotic sounding spot where those in need of gender reassignment surgery can turn — the sleepy village of **Bala Cynwyd**.

Just reading the name your first thought is most probably “Bayla Sinwyd?” It’s pronounced Bal (like pal) ah kinwid (or wood) and it sounds as if it should be located in the mountains of Wales, since its name was put together from the names of two Welsh villages. It’s partly a sleepy little village and partly gateway to Philadelphia’s Mainline.

Bala Cynwyd is located right across the street from the City of Philadelphia and is the home of many of Philadelphia’s radio and television stations. City Avenue, the street separating the city from its suburban neighbor, is a bustling — often hazardous highway also known as U. S. Route 1. If you are driving on City Avenue keep your eyes open and your hands on the wheel. Philadelphia drivers can be murderous.

When you turn off of the main street and on to Bryn Mawr Avenue the hustle and bustle diminishes to sleepy village level within a half a block. At the end of Bryn Mawr Avenue you will find Montgomery Avenue and at that point you’re within a stones throw of the office of **Dr. Sherman Leis**, the founder of **The Philadelphia Center For Transgender Surgery**.

Why a transgender surgery center in Philadelphia? Dr. Leis has seven reasons.

- 1) Safety. Any surgery, including transgender surgery has its risks. The United States has consistently rated at or near the top in surgical safety in an overwhelming number of categories, and specialties.
- 2) Accountability. Doctors in the U.S. subscribe to a consistent and high standard of quality and ethics. Also, thanks to actual, potential, or perceived oversight by numerous medical and legal organizations and others, doctors and hospitals in the United States have greater incentive to continually deliver the highest quality medical care.
- 3) High-quality back-up is nearby. Should a follow-up correction or consultation be required, it is much more convenient to visit a U.S. doctor — especially being able to go back to your original doctor — instead of requiring another expensive trip to another country. Should an issue occur with surgery, a greater number of high quality back-up medical services are located more conveniently to you, in the United States. In fact, one can dissipate much of the perceived low costs for surgery other countries should even one or two additional trips be needed back.
- 4) A more accepting environment. For all the media attention devoted to bigotry and close-mindedness in the U.S., the U.S. environment beats that of most other countries in degree of acceptability, especially those countries that have oppressive regimes with no tolerance for transgender issues.
- 5) Superior Experience. There are a number of doctors in the United States who specialize in transgender surgery and who have done so for decades with track records of exceptional surgical success.
- 6) Support. Do you really want to have medical procedures like this so far from home, friends, and family?
- 7) Comfort. Having a familiar language, money, transportation, culture, and more help reduce stress.

A patient from California or overseas would still have to travel to visit the Center but Dr. Leis reminds us that The Philadelphia



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Center For Transgender Surgery is not only easy to get to but provides all the needed services under one roof.

"The reassignment journey can be a rather dangerous and traumatic experience. My vision is to provide an oasis, where people who until now have been experiencing challenges at every point, can find compassion, support, simplicity, knowledge, and guidance, all at a single source."

What kind of credentials does the man have? Dr. Leis is Board Certified in General Surgery and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He is Professor and Chairman of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Director of Residency Training in Plastic Surgery at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. As part of his aesthetic surgery practice, Dr. Leis has performed many feminization and masculinization procedures of the face and body and he brings more than 30 years of experience to provide the highest quality care available for the Trans community.

The Philadelphia Center For Transgender Surgery is recognized as one of the premier facilities in the world for sexual reassignment because of its extensive experience and comprehensive link to Dr. Leis' team of dedicated specialists — surgeons, psychologists, endocrinologists, aestheticians, speech therapists, legal experts, and others. The Center offers a variety of surgical and non-surgical procedures for GLBTI individuals. Its discreet, serene headquarters offers an oasis, as Dr. Leis envisioned, in suburban Philadelphia.

*Dr. Sherman Leis*  
**The Philadelphia Center For Transgender Surgery**  
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