More Than a Woman: Transcending Gender and HIV

February 17, 2015 By Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.

The March 2015 issue of POZ magazine is online.

Here's an excerpt from my editor's letter:

The virus disproportionately affects trans women, especially trans women of color. Sadly, this isn't news to folks in the know.

One of those folks is Octavia Lewis, our cover gal. As an HIV-positive trans woman, she knows all too well the common struggles of other trans folks living with the virus. She also can relate to trans folks like her partner, Shawn Lopez, who are trying to stay free of the virus. Click here to read about their love story as a serodiscordant couple.

All women--cisgender and transgender alike--are

welcome at the Positive Women's Network United States of America (PWN-USA), a national membership group of women with HIV/AIDS. The group builds leadership skills and advocates for social justice and human rights.

Barb Cardell is currently the chair of PWN-USA. Based in Colorado, she has been HIV positive since 1991. Click here to read our Q&A with Cardell. She shares her personal journey of being diagnosed and living with HIV, her experience with stigma and her belief in self-empowerment.

To read my complete letter from the editor, click here.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.