The Change
TGSF's
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

May 2002 Volume 21, Issue 5

New ExCom Officers Elected!

TGSF TransGender San Francisco is a group for all members of the Transgendered Community. Transgender is used as an umbrella term that includes female and male cross dressers, transvestites, drag queens or kings, female or male impersonators, intersexed individuals, pre-operative, post-operative and non-operative transsexuals, masculine females, feminine males, all persons whose perceived gender or anatomical sex may be incongruent with their gender expression, and all persons exhibiting gender characteristics and identities which are perceived to be androgynous.

The Channel

TGSF (TransGender San Francisco, a California non-profit corporation), is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-gifted people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services. For details about TGSF programs, membership, article submission guidelines and classified ads, please write to TGSF Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

ExCom 2002 - 2003 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President ..... Rachael Janelle
Vice President ..... Karen Andrews
Secretary ..... Susan Laird
Treasurer ..... Stephanie Ann Blythe
Education ..... Ally Grillo and Kara Flynn
Outreach ..... Kalani Makanani and Rachael Hill
Social ..... Aiyana Eveningstar and Gia Luisa

Membership Report

Current 2001-2002 Membership as of:

January 15, 2002 211

TGSF (TransGender San Francisco) is a CA non-profit corporation. *Donations to TGSF are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both Federal and California income tax returns. Talk to your tax advisor for details.*

The Channel, the TGSF Newsletter, is published monthly. Submissions should arrive at TGSF by the 15th day of the month preceding publication. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and are not necessarily those of TGSF. Other organizations may reprint or reproduce uncopyrighted portions of the newsletter for their members, provided TGSF is acknowledged as the source of the material. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission from TGSF.

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Business Card (3-1/2 x 2)	$ 25	$125	$ 250
4x5	$ 60	$300	$ 600
Full Page	$100	$500	$1000

Personal ads from TGSF members: $10 for up to 40 words per issue. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to TGSF, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. **Please support our advertisers, and tell them you saw their ad in *The Channel!***

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Well look who's back. C'mon in. Take off your coat and set a spell. Wet your whistle and tell us what's been a-happenin' with you girl!

My life is Disneyland. I live in a lovely house with someone I care about, high up on a hill, with plate glass views of Mt. Diablo and the wooded valley below. I drive the Whale every morning for five leisurely minutes to the People Mover (with abundant free parking), where I board a chain of silver cars with reasonably comfy seats that rockets me into the City for my daily duty to God, Country and the Almighty Cube Farm. A delightful half hour or so passes while I plunge into the latest mind candy of the week (I've been devouring whodunits at a voracious rate), and am happily disgorged up from the underground station on moving sidewalks into the glory and grit that is San Francisco, Tomorrow Land. Fantasy Land. Either works.

While I can thrive in the hustle and bustle of city living, I'm learning that I don't miss it all that much. It's fun to visit, but coming home to the splendid weather in these rolling green hills, a scant half-hour's drive east of the Bay, has just enchanted me. You should see the sun rise over the mountain. I do. I get up at 4:30 every morning. And not because I'm some tripped-out hippie Sol goddess, but because at my age I hate rushing around in the morning. So I give myself an hour to sit on the deck drinking very strong coffee and indulging my tobacco habit. Gets the blood moving and the brain in gear. The body follows soon thereafter. Most of the time willingly.

And I write. I keep a little journal. Not much every day. 10 or 15 minutes of impetuous mental projections and other random thoughts. I try to communicate my feelings in short, intense spurts (sounds almost orgasmic). So while I haven't written a column in *The Channel* two out of the last three months (and that has got to be a first for me people), I have been keeping my fingers nimble. I gotta quit with these Freudian references while I'm ahead.

Writing my column just wasn't fun anymore. After my last rant (and God bless **Rachael Janelle** for taking the bit between her teeth!), I just wanted to take a break for a while - a self-imposed Sabbatical. I didn't want to get to the point where my feelings made me stop doing the newsletter altogether. I owed it to myself not to go there. And I owed it to you as well. Yeah, maybe I was burning out a little. Got cranky and impatient.

But I've also learned through the grapevine that some of you out there actually have missed my monthly soapbox ravings. And I am touched. I really am. I know some of you don't necessarily agree with what I say sometimes, but I was glad to know that people were reading my drivel, have actually followed along during my travels and travails, and have wondered what I've really been doing with myself since I've returned to California. Come September, it will be two years back already. Wassup wid dat?

And like a well-thumbed novel, returning to my home state hasn't meant I've stopped moving around. Frankly, moving sucks. No two ways about it. First it was the glitzy and spacious apartment in Emeryville, which was, in my opinion, in a shitty neighborhood and over-priced, but I had to take it anyway because I was in a hurry. The dot com driven economy was just at it's apex, and real estate moguls slavered greedily.

Continued on Page 3

The Vice President's Report

By Rachael Janelle

The Waiting Game

As I'm writing this report there is still 10 days before the end of the month event. This is when the "yes" and "no" vote will be counted for the new ExCom positions. I would just love to jump into some of the plans the new ExCom has been thinking about. But, my first official TGSF event as a member was a couple years ago when Nicole and Janis were running for president of TGSF and the vote ended in a tie. It was pretty unbelievable that it was a tie. There was a run-off election the next month that Nicole won.

Just recently I was in Stockton for their coronation that was a great event and the new empress and emperor running for that position both received more "no" vote than "yes", therefore, no one was elected. So I will play "the waiting game" until the evening of April 25, 2002 to see the results. Hopefully next month I can report more on some of the things the new ExCom members would like to do.

Things are still happening. Check out some of the up coming events. If you love sushi check out the mid-month event at Blowfish Sushi. The seminar at the Women Health Boutique will be very informative about bra's and breast forms and we plan to go to dinner after the seminar if you like. I will be having a Barbeque at my house May 26, 2002 Sunday over the Memorial Day weekend, everyone is invited. If you cannot make that one we have planned a picnic June 22,2002 at Central Park in San Mateo. Also, for the TGSF end of the month event on May 30, 2002, there will be a fashion show put on by Joanna from "I Love It!". It was fun last year. We do need some girls to model for the event. If you are interested please call Joanna (510[redacted]

One major TG events coming up soon is The San Francisco Pride Weekend, which is an incredible event. We will be constructing the float Friday night, June 28, 2002 and Saturday, June 29, 2002 Please join us on the big day, Sunday, June 30, 2002 at The Parade. It is an awesome experience.

No report would be complete unless I say something the about up coming Cotillion 2003. January 25, 2003, " Enchanting Evening in The Island". We are starting to work on the poster and handbill for the event. In addition, we are asking some individuals to be judges for the event already. I am finding the interest in "Cotillion 2003" is very positive. To make an event successful always start early. I was already planning "Cotillion 2003" a day after this year's event.

We have been having great attendance at all the events we had and I would like to thank all the Girls and individuals who have been attending and supporting the group.

Transcending Transgender

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

A support group facilitated by Janetta Johnson and Portia Denard; Where: City of Refuge, United Church of Christ, 1025 Howard Street, San Francisco CA 94103, (415) 861-6130. When: Every Friday, 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Food and snacks will be provided.

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From the Edito...

Continued from Page 2

When they jacked my rent a scant six months after that, it was off to my quaint and quiet cottage, tucked at the end of a teeny cul-de-sac in Alameda. Much more suited to my sense of style, and it was a tad less expensive than Eville. And it was quaint, quiet, had my own backyard and a place to park Moby. The cat finally had a safe neighborhood to throw his considerable weight around. I was truly content there. Neighbors were great, totally cool. I could've stayed there forever.

I kept my head above water for 12 months. Got a lot of support from my friends and family. Work went well. I even talked the landlord down to $1300 (from $1425) and thought long and hard about doing another year's lease. The drop in rent combined with a small bump in salary made it truly tempting. Believe me, I was heavily invested in cardboard and mondo sealing tape by then. I could've made those bleepin' boxes in my sleep!

I was so over it. No way I was gonna move again. I had my routines down, interspersed with activities that were fun, if not interesting. My heart hopeful for a good connection, but not really looking too hard. Making some new friends, but nothing serious. Perhaps still a bit wary of giving my all again.

Skipping Ahead

So how'd I end up in Walnut Creek? Funny you should ask. Obviously, I didn't sign that lease and ended up making boxes instead. Trucked it up and schlepped it inland. At this point in my narrative, I'm debating about how much I should prudently reveal. After all there are others out there reading this besides you. Like my mom. Hi, mom.

Suffice it to say, during one day in the life last October, the loonyverse intervened in its roundabout way, as it is fond of doing. I blindly turned a corner one day, and ran right smack into a person with similar interests coming the other way. It was one of those karmic moments that you hope happens but don't really expect.

Her name is Sappho. Those of you familiar with Greek mythology and history will recognize the name, although it has nothing to do with her sexual orientation. (Give me time. I'm workin' on it.) But truly, she is of that lineage, having been named after her Great-Great Grandmother, the family immigrating from the Isles to America in the previous generation. Turns out, she and I grew up in the same neighborhood in Santa Monica, though she is twelve years my senior so we didn't grow up during the same time. But we were both astonished to discover geographic synchronicity at work.

Continued on Page 18

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April, 2002

TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in San Francisco at the home of the President Aiyana Eveningstar, on Sunday, April 7th, 2002 at 4:00pm. In attendance were President Aiyana Eveningstar, Vice President Rachael Janelle, Treasurer Stephanie Ann Blythe, Outreach Chair Kalani Makanani, and guest (and temporary acting Secretary) Kara Flynn. Absent were Social Co-Chair Tianna DeVil and Education Chair Allison Grillo. The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

Minutes:

There were no changes to last month's minutes.

President's Report

Aiyana reported that she had received a payment from Piedmont, late because of personal issues between both correspondents.

She is in the process of submitting the application for the Gay Pride Parade (and will be filing a waiver). Aiyana still has to rent the truck for the parade. Stephanie Ann then mentioned that someone had offered to drive her personal truck and that we would only need a flatbed trailer. Aiyana also reported that we would still need volunteers to be monitors, who need to be trained in a required one-hour training session. Aiyana is also working on her selection for the President's Certificate.

Vice President Report

Rachael reported that officer certificates would be presented at the end of the month. She discussed gifts and certificates for appreciation at the End of the Month Social from ExCom members. She mentioned that on May 28th there would be a party/barbeque at her house, where everyone would be able to meet her significant other, Rob (her dog). Rachael will also be including another note in the next Channel to remind members to please pay their dues.

Treasurer Report

Stephanie Ann reported a current balance of $2,150.22. She still hasn't received the $2,500 check from Chris Austin. Stephanie noted, much to the joy of Rachael, that last month's financial numbers from the Cotillion were not correct. She reported that the correct amount was $3,051.12 made from the Cotillion. Rachael discussed the status of changing the website over to another server. She proposed taking the membership page off the website because it is not able to submit the form properly, including payment methods. The proposal passed with all those in favor. Stephanie Ann reported that she is picking up the mail from the post office box at least once a week. She also mentioned that she had received a letter from KQED for submittal of items in their LGBT program. Rachael said she would follow up with them.

Education Committee Report

Rachael briefly mentioned the May Education at the Women's Health Boutique.

Outreach Committee Report

Kalani reported that she would talk to Karen about covering some of the areas in the North Bay, and Rachel Hill in the South Bay, with Kalani covering the East Bay and the City. She will be sending out the mailings to the teachers toward the latter part of April.

Old Business

Kalani said she had received a check from JoAnn for $30, to amend the Treasurers Report, which brought the total up to $2,180.22.

New Business

Rachael had received a letter from Kris, the photographer who mentioned at the TGSF End of Month social in March that she was interested in doing a photographic documentary on the TG life. Kris mentioned that she was really interested in building her portfolio and that she would like to make available any photographs that she takes of TGSF activities, but that most pictures available would be of the "documentary' style. Rachael mentioned that she was very interested in her doing a portfolio/yearbook for TGSF. Kara will remain in contact with her and keep her up to date on activities. Ways were also discussed of coordinating activities or opportunities with the LGBT Center, and other ways of reaching the community. Aiyana wanted to thank everyone on the ExCom for their efforts over the past year.

Adjournment

The next ExCom meeting will be held the first Sunday of next month, May 5th, at 4pm at the home of President Aiyana Eveningstar [redacted] San Francisco. Ayiana made a motion to close the meeting and seconded by Stephanie Ann. The meeting adjourned at 6pm.

Are You A Veteran?

Are you aware that there is a gender discussion group every Monday afternoon at the Ft. Miley Veteran's Center in San Francisco? The group is open to all TS, TV, and TG's who are qualified veterans. If you are interested and wish further information, contact Lorraine Hall at: [redacted]@aol.com or call 510[redacted]

Cotillion 2002!

Production Video Tape Available!

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Femininity Can't Be Bought - It Must Be Earned!

By Nicole Mossinger

I kind of knew it all along. But I was never found the right words to say it in such a simple way. It finally dawned on me, after attending Denae Doyle's seminar on "Expressing the Woman Within with Dance." We can spend as much money as we want on surgeries, hair, cosmetics, clothes and accessories, but all that cannot take us all the way to true femininity. These things might make us look and feel feminine, but they are not the whole story as the world sees it.

Because femininity is a lot more than the 'façade.' It includes who we are and how we express ourselves in everyday situations. It includes how we carry ourselves, how we move, how we communicate, and how we relate to others. Nothing in the world can 'buy' this for us. We've got to work on it by ourselves, or (better) with the help of a good instructor. Sure, this costs money, too! But not nearly as much as we typically spend on surgeries or hair removal. The downside: we have to do the hardest part of the work - no matter how good or expensive our 'femininity coach' might be.

Feminine movement and voice are neglected too easily in the transition process. We take our pictures, and see a woman. What else do we want?

Well, real life is a little more complicated, Because the photo camera is exchanged for real people's eyes and ears, along with their perception of what a woman is or should be. Here is where the difference between being tolerated and being accepted comes to play. Sure, in the San Francisco Bay Area you will find more tolerance than anywhere else - and that's greatly appreciated. If that's the only thing important to you, you don't have much to worry about. But if you are like me, if you like the freedom to travel safely outside of the Bay Area, if you don't want your gender status to be recognized immediately, then buckle up for a rough ride towards the land of true femininity.

I often hear excuses, like "I am too tall to pass", "I have too big of a frame size", "I don't have a butt", or "My hands are too large". Think twice: Genetic females come in all shapes and sizes, and nobody questions their femininity. I have seen countless women with those attributes, but usually they knew how to play them down. It's something you can learn, too! But it takes some effort. To get started, consider shifting your reading from Glamour magazine to books like "Flatter Your Figure" by Jan Larkey. Then ask a fashion or feminine image consultant for help. The book will help you understand her recommendations.

Now you can focus on the 'tough stuff' - moving and speaking like a woman. This is hard work, and it is somewhat difficult to evaluate yourself. Unless you really have a fine eye and ear for detail, you will need some kind of femininity or voice coach sooner or later. You can get your feet wet with books like "Creating a Feminine Carriage" by Elaine Sagant (see "http://hammer.prohosting.com/~edysart/Feminine_Carriage.htm"), or the videos like "Develop a Female Voice" by Melanie Ann Phillips (also available as CD or tape). Denae Doyle is currently working on a video that - I believe - will cover both areas ("http://www.femimage.com").

Learning to speak like a woman is a lot like learning a foreign language (I learned two - English and French - and it helped!). You will need to practice with somebody who is qualified, honest and unbiased. That's where the consultants come in. They can teach

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Shirley Faire

Transsexuality

Sex used to be easy to understand. Arouse. Pump. Come. Not that it was easy. I was aroused by women, but didn't know how to approach a woman, was shy, fumbling, apt to launch into a furrow browed discussion of politics or manic joking, afraid to show my desire, afraid of myself, of her. I might be thinking "So, uh, hey, wanna' do it?" but all that came out were my latest theories about the geo-political significance of, I dunno, bubble gum. I couldn't close the deal. I couldn't even present the deal. I even pretended there was no deal. And there wasn't, because in truth I did not know how to be a man.

Yet I enjoyed sex, or the fantasy of it. I wanted whatever most men seem to want. Bluntly, nice tits and ass, sculpted waist, pretty face, and fevered passion. "Oh, Charlie! I *want* you!" "Right, baby..." Arouse. Pump. Come.

There was also the other in me that was aroused by the idea of being that to which I was attracted; it, too, was a fantasy, but one to which I could not attach a scenario. Yet the result was the same. Arouse. Pump. Come. And so much more fevered and intense, and shameful.

When I began taking hormones and living full time I didn't stop wanting to be with women, the process just got more confusing. Arouse, pump, come became a memory. The old thingy just didn't stand up and bark anymore, even if its bark was silent. It wanted to do tricks, but all it could do was roll over. Masturbation turned into an art, sort of like a shifting your sailboat into a wafting breeze on a calm day. Any fluff of wind was an opportunity to exploit to the maximum, which was minimal. And how many women were there, anyway, that wanted to go to bed with a woman built like a man? I could count them on the finger of one finger.

Now I am post-op. I still like women, and while finding women who want to sleep with me isn't exactly like finding ants at a picnic, it is at least possible, and has in fact happened, and continues to happen. "So," you ask, "what's it like to make love as a woman? What are the orgasms like?" (You are such a pervert. It's your best feature.) Well, it is different. Actually, it isn't "it" any more. I mean, sex is no longer a short play in three acts. It's more like a marching band that surprises you. You turn a corner and there it is. Now it's surrounding you. Now the players are marching down the street. No, wait, they've just gone around the block. Now the band stops playing and everybody's taking a break under a big shade tree. Now they're up, playing and shouting. Screaming. Now they're under the shade tree again. Suddenly they're all chatting quietly about the best way to spread butter on a potato. No, they're running. Running and playing and singing and shouting.

Sometimes my partner and I go on for hours and hours. And sometimes I just could not care less; for weeks, months, even, when suddenly, there's the band. Sometimes it passes by. Sometimes I'm in the band. Sometimes I'm one of the instruments: the tuba, or the glockenspiel, or the—no, I'm never the trombone—the drum, oh yes, the drum. Boom, boom, boom, baby. And the trumpet, the wild, free blast of the trumpet. Oh, yes, I'm that, too.

Seeking Roommate

Passable crossdresser, soon to relocate to San Francisco, looking for passable CD/TS for roommate. Will share with expenses. Will need help on where to go and shop, being new to the area. Write: Gail, PO Box 4463, Columbus, GA 31904. Photo would be nice.

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TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
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TGSF Events in May

Sunday / May 5 / 4:00pm

TGSF ExCom Meeting

At President Aiyana's house, [redacted] in San Francisco. All TGSF Members in good standing are welcome to attend

Saturday / May 11 / 3:00pm to 5:00pm

TGSF Education Event

Everything You Want To Know About Bras And Breast Forms

Susan and Sharon, both certified fitters, will be on-hand for personal fittings, as well as offering many other tips. At the Women's Health Boutique, 1115 South B Street in San Mateo. Their phone is 650-357-9236. For more information, contact Rachael at 408-[redacted]

Wednesday / May 15 / 7:00pm

TGSF Mid-Month Event

Blowfish Sushi

2170 Bryant Street (Cross Street 20th) in San Francisco. Their phone is 415-285-3848. More information contact Aiyana 415-[redacted]

Sunday / May 26 / 12:00noon to 6:00pm

Barbeque At Rachael's House

Location: [redacted] Sunnyvale, CA. For more information contact Rachael Janelle at 408 [redacted], or e-mail [redacted]@hotmail.com.

Thursday / May 30 / 8:00pm

TGSF End Of The Month Event

Fashion Show by I Love It! Boutique

We need girls to model the clothes - no experience needed! If you want to be a model, call Joanna at 510 [redacted] At the Blue Muse Restaurant, 409 Gough Street in San Francisco.

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May's Birthdays

5/1	Valerie Cross	5/14	Phyllis Fink
5/1	Susan Agles	5/15	Cindy Martin
5/1	Sylvia Finak	5/16	Vera Sepulveda
5/1	Alicia Kenwood	5/18	Rhonda Shaw
5/1	Cindy Mckay	5/19	Nikki Rillingale
5/2	Consuela Valdes	5/20	Terry Ryan
5/4	Melanie Okubo	5/21	Robyn Smith
5/9	April Brennan	5/23	Angela Pidge
5/9	Gracie Thoreson	5/25	Tianna Marie Devil
5/10	Alicia Chan	5/25	Marielle Valence
5/10	J.F. Schimmel	5/28	Nicole Cook
5/10	Amanda Gonzales	5/28	Siobhan Ellis
5/12	Joyce White	5/28	Magan Regiani
5/13	Sallie Hunt, Lmft	5/30	Jane Bolig
5/13	Serena Anderson	5/30	Chris Silver

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Cosmetics Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Lingerie Cosmetics

Calendar of Events – May 2002

Other Bay Area Groups

Pacific Center for Human Growth (PacCtr)
A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-548-8283

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)
Meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00pm at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Mail: PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170 or call 408-984-4044

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)
Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 162907, Sacramento, CA 95816 or call 916-364-7212 for meeting locations. Website: www.sga-tg.org; email: sga@transgender.org

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)
Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of every month, 8:00pm at Club 1220, 1220 Pine Street in Walnut Creek. Write to DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885 or call 925-937-8432.

DVG Rap Group (RCC)
Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 2118 Willow Pass Road, Suite 500 in Concord. For more information call 925-937-8432.

FTM
A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

TGIF
A social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707-[redacted]

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)
A new trangender support group meets at the Billy De Frank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, call 408-293-2429.

Far West Women (FWW)
A support group for TGs affiliated with the GLBT Alliance in Humboldt County. Meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00pm in the GLBTA Center at Fourth and "D" Streets in Eureka. For information call the Center at 707-445-9760.

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)
Bi-weekly social/support group for gender-gifted persons serving Santa Cruz and Central Coast. 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month at The Diversity Center, 1328 Commerce Lane, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-5422; 7:00pm

The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)
A support group for the LGBT community that meets at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Women's Health Boutique, 1115 South B Street, San Mateo - (408) 619-2908.

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)
288 Turk Street, SF. 415-749-2167. Facilitated TG discussion group every Monday, 5:00pm - 6:30pm.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 PM MPTG	2 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	3 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	4
5 **7:00 PM TGSF ExCom Meeting**	6 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	7	8 7:00 PM TransRay	9	10 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	11 **3:00 PM TGSF: Education Seminar** 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
12	13 5:00 PM CCHH	14	15 **8:00 PM TGSF: Mid-Month Event**	16 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	17 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	18
19	20 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	21	22	23	24 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	25 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
26 **12:00 PM TGSF: BBQ At Rachael's**	27 5:00 PM CCHH	28	29	30 7:00 PM TGSF: BOM @ Cliff House **8:00 PM TGSF: End of Month Event**	31 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	

TGSF Membership Application

Membership Year is May 1 to April 30 / $30 Single Membership; $40 Family.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

❑ New Member | ❑ Renewal ❑ Member #:_____ | with ❑ Family Member | What Year did you first join TGSF? _____

Preferred Name: _____ Birthdate (Month/Day): _____ / _____

Mailing Name: _____

Family Member's Name: _____ Birthdate (Month/Day): _____ / _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Optional: ❑ Telephone: (_____) _____ What Name should we ask for if we need to call you? _____

Your Email address: _____ Website URL: _____

Would you like a link from the TGSF Website to your URL? ❑ Yes ❑ No

May we use photos of you taken at TGSF events in our newsletter or website? ❑ Yes ❑ No

Send Check or Money Order to: TGSF, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486, or hand to any Board Member at a TGSF Social.

Our Readers Respond

Events at Billy DeFrank Center

All will be held at the Center and are free. Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 938 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126

The Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center strengthens communities by developing diverse resources that empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their allies. Our vision is to provide leadership for a just and compassionate Silicon Valley.

5-15-02 /7-9PM When the Relationship is Over with Amy Caffrey LMFT.

5-22-02 / 7-9PM Mining One's Own Spiritual Resources with Linda Fuselier, SNJM.

5-29-02 / 11:30AM –1PM Vintage Taste Luncheon and Senior Pride Roundtable Discussion with Joyce Abrams LMFT.

5-30-02 / 7-9PM Immigration Issues in the LGBT Community with Attorney David Wright.

6-18-02 / 7-9PM Estate Planning for the LGBT Community with Attorney Roy W. Litherland.

6-26-02 / 7-9PM Rainbow Housing for the LGBT Community with Peter Lundberg of Our Town and Jim Mikulski of SFRACH

New Groups at the Center:

Bi Polar Support Group for LGBT Folks meets Mondays 7-9PM facilitated by Hugh Cox LMFTI. Call Hugh at 408-293-3040 X 201

South Bay Transmen Social and Support Group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month 7:30-9PM. This group is for FTM/ Questioning guys. Call Marianne at 408-293-3040 x 116 for info.

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Michael Meets Michele

I am Michael and have been Michael my entire life, and only recently discovered Michele. I have also been Michele my entire life but was never formally introduced until I found TGSF on the Internet about 18 months ago.

I learned that I was not alone and that there are many men who feel as I do. I found that there are many understanding people out there, and that there are places where I can comfortably shop for women's clothes in person or on the Internet and bring Michele to life. Although, as they say, clothes do not make the man and I guess that also applies to the woman.

In the last 18 months I have put together a decent wardrobe which was up until that time an impossible dream, especially when I wear a size 14 women's shoe. I do now understand why women have such a difficult time deciding which outfit to wear since I am experiencing the same problem.

I have found that I am not alone anymore and there are places where I can go to socialize as Michele when the opportunity presents itself. I discovered a world that I did not know existed, although I do wish there were a central community center analogous to a gym club where I could go without limitation as to time and socialize as Michele. A place where I could be a lady and learn the art of being one.

Walking on 5-inch heels is like walking on stilts at this point and somehow my expertise in applying makeup is not exactly up to par. The bottom line is that I am Michael but do really enjoy being able to literally slip into the role of Michele on occasion. It is also comforting to know that I am not alone in my feelings as there are many both male and female who have similar crossdressing feelings and needs.

As a parting thought, I do not think the person who coined the phrase "Be Yourself" had crossdressers in mind.

Michele

New Online SO List!

New online mailing list for wives and SOs of crossdressers and men who consider themselves to be transgendered; no topic off limits. Attitudes range from complete acceptance to really struggling. Open to women only - no crossdressers please! Women need a place where they can feel safe to discuss these issues. Write to Cheryl at [redacted]**@yahoo.com** and explain a little about your situation.

TG Models Wanted!

I Love It Boutique Fashion Show

Girls needed to model clothes from "I Love It" for fashion show on

May 30, 2002

at the Blue Muse.

If Interested contact Joanna at 510 [redacted]

or Rachael Janelle at 408 [redacted]

No experience needed!

Special Events This Month!

East Bay Classes Presents

Lady Sidara teaches "CrossDressers Do It Better!"

Sunday, May 5 from 3-6pm (doors open at 3pm, class starts at 3:30pm). Cost is $15. RSVP to [redacted]@yahoo.com to reserve your space.

Find out how you can expand your sexuality and sensuality by putting on the Glitz, the Feminine Look, the Walk and Talk of a Queen. Or maybe a SEX Queen.

This class, brief as it is, will explore feminine expression for men, from introduction to this realm of sexual play, to more advanced interests. All are welcomed who want to learn more about cross-dressing, "forced feminization," transformation from male to female, living the life as a woman or she/male, or playing out fantasies.

Bring your own make-up, clothes, shoes, and wigs, or try on and experiment with what I will bring to the class. If you have not put on ladies' clothes or lingerie before, this is a safe and confidential moment to try it.

Lady Sidara teaches cross-dressing around the Bay Area and country. She is a prodomme and lifestyle player located in Berkeley. She has a BA and Master's in humanistic psychology, which influences everything she does in her BDSM scenes. Her favorite element of her style of domination: erotic energy.

Esprit 2002!

The Pacific Northwest's Premier Transgender Conference!

For the past 14 years, Esprit has been jointly planned and hosted by The Emerald City of Seattle, Northwest Gender Alliance of Portland, and The Cornbury Group of Vancouver BC. Esprit 2002 starts on Sunday **May 12, 2002**, and finishes up one week later on Sunday May 19th! It is held at the Red Lion Inn in Port Angeles, Washington, about a three-hour drive from Seattle.

We have a full slate of seventy classes planned along four separate themes, including the Basics of Crossdressing, The World of Transgender, Transitioning, and an extensive Couples program for those in a relationship with a Significant Other.

Each day features social activities such as a Prom Dance, Cabaret Talent Show and our special Graduation event for first time attendees. We also have a fashion show, lots of dancing, and an afternoon set aside for fun activities in the local community.

Visit www.espritgala.com for more information on our unique event.

Kelly Hansen
Education and Schedule Coordinator

SF LGBT Center Legal Collaborative

Kicks Off Monthly Series with LGBT Families Panel

On **May 9, 2002**, the newly formed Legal Collaborative of the LGBT Community Center kicks off its monthly series of panels and workshops with the panel, "LGBT Relationships: Recent Victories and Upcoming Challenges."

Attorneys and activists from the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Our Families Coalition and the California Alliance for Pride and Equality will shed light on the recent flurry of new lawsuits and legislative initiatives across the country that have dramatically altered the rights of LGBT people as spouses and parents.

Panelists will discuss the groundbreaking wrongful death lawsuit of Sharon Smith in San Francisco; a shocking appeals court decision in San Diego that could invalidate thousands of second-parent adoptions; the enactment of AB 25, the California domestic partnership bill; and two highly publicized fights by transgender people in Florida and Kansas to win marriage recognition. The panel will also highlight the battles still to be fought in securing immigration rights for same-sex partners of US citizens and permanent residents.

Pro-bono notaries will be on-hand at the event to help same-sex couples (or any couple where one partner is over the age of 62) prepare the required paperwork to register with the state as domestic partners.

Members of the Legal Collaborative will be available to provide information and answer questions from attendees about their organizations. Refreshments will be served.

The panel will be held between 6:30pm - 9pm (formal presentation begins at 7pm), in the Ceremonial Room, San Francisco LGBT Community Center (1800 Market Street at Octavia).

New FTM Group Forming

South Bay Transmen

Come and hang out with other FTM/questioning guys at our social and support group. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30-9:00pm at the Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 938 the Alameda, in San Jose.

For more info: Contact Marianne at (408) 293-3040 ext. 116 or supportedu@defrank.org, — or Lance at [redacted]@onebox.com.

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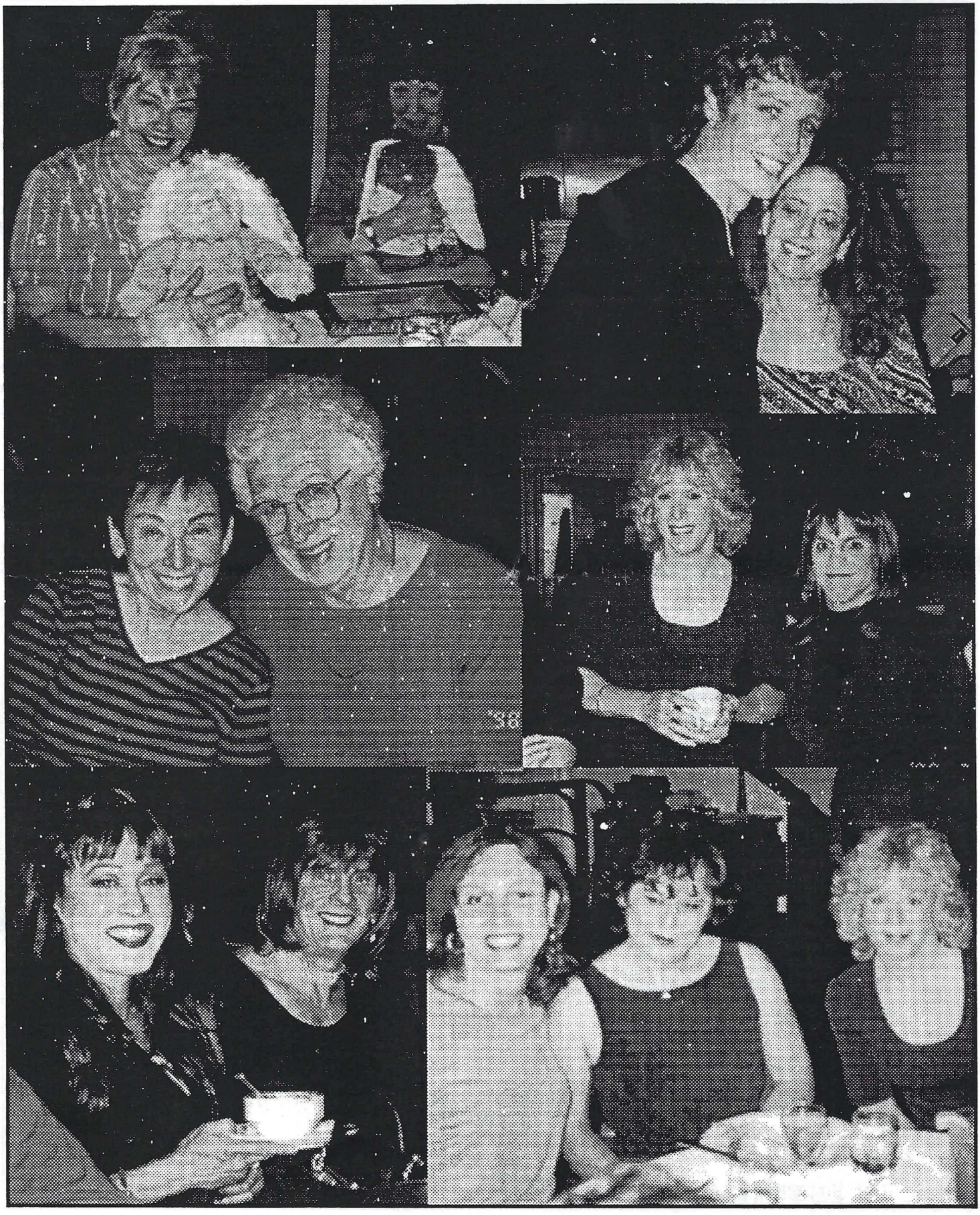

Upcoming Events

Coming June 28 - 30, 2002

San Francisco Pride Weekend!

TGSF Needs Your Help with

- Float Building on 6/28 6pm To 10pm Location — TBA
- Float Building on 6/29 12pm To 8pm Location — TBA
- Marchers on 6/30 San Francisco Market Street
- Couple of girls to help set-up our Booth on 6/30 8am
- 8 Girls To Take Contingent Monitor Orientation Class. This class is 1 hour long and will be held at 8 different locations around the Bay Area.

Some of us will be staying at The Ramada Hotel

1231 Market Street – San Francisco –415 626 8000

Room Rates If Available— $139

For More Information

Contact Rachael Janelle 408[redacted]
or Email[redacted]**@Hotmail.Com**

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Coming June 1, 2002

San Francisco GLADD Media Awards - Featuring Sandra Bernhard

Did you reserve too late, and get left out of the SF GLAAD MEDIA AWARDS last year? This year you can guarantee a seat for yourself and your friends by claiming a table "on-line" . And instead of buying ten tickets up front, you only have to charge "one" ticket to your card, and can deal with the rest later... and the table's yours.

How easy is that? Reserve your table right now at http://mediaawards.glaad.org/index.cfm?loc=sf

Questions? Contact Kurt: E-mail: [redacted]@codacreative.com, Phone: 510[redacted]

Celebrities scheduled to appear at this year's SF GLAAD MEDIA AWARDS include:

- The Inimitable Sandra Bernhard
- Stephen Weber From "Jeffrey" And "Wings"
- Pretty Baby Brooke Shields
- And From Queer As Folk: Peter Paige
- ...And Many, Many Others.

The Thirteenth Annual GLAAD Media Awards, presented by ABSOLUT Vodka, will take place Saturday June 1, 2002 at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in Union Square in San Francisco. If you attended last year's event, you know what a terrific celebration it was - and this year will be bigger and better than ever. Be there as we honor this year's outstanding and inclusive representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in film, television, print and online.

Want to be real part of it? Then host a table at the GLAAD Media Awards. The nine friends you bring together will thank you for creating an unforgettable evening of glamour, laughter and celebrities. More importantly, you'll provide much-needed support for GLAAD's important work.

In return, you'll receive two tickets to the private, star-studded VIP Afterparty, which immediately follows the Awards. You'll also receive invitations to three underwriters' parties in the months before the Awards at San Francisco's hottest galleries and restaurants, exclusively for GLAAD's top supporters. At the event itself, you'll also receive premium gift bags and entries in an exclusive raffle for a great weekend getaway.

GLAAD's event coordinator, Levy, Pazanti & Associates, will help you keep track of your guest's reservations and payments and even send out official invitations on your behalf. Just fill out the enclosed form. Tickets are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Sign up for a VIP table by April 9th for priority seating & inclusion in the official invitation. The GLAAD Media Awards always sell out: don't be disappointed, sign up early this year!

Check out www.glaad.org for the most up-to-date information on the event, including information on corporate sponsorship, advertising and volunteer opportunities. Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,
Kurt Stammberger and Janis Callon
Co Chairs

Special Announcements!

The March for Gender Rights - Washington, D.C.

Be a part of the team building process as we demonstrate our commitment to securing our civil rights. A non-partisan initiative presented by the organizers of Southern Comfort Conference

Everyone is invited to join in as we gather in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2003 to make history in the first ever March for Gender Rights.

This would be the first March on Washington to focus on the needs, issues and concerns of transgender and gender variant (TGV) Americans. TGV Americans simply want the same rights as every other citizen, and this march will demonstrate to our lawmakers and the rest of the country that we are organized, united and committed to achieving that goal.

A successful March would solidify the public profile of TGV people as the next emerging group to take up the mantle of furthering human liberation, through our advocacy for gender freedom, for all people.

Participation in this gathering would be open to everyone in all of our many communities, regardless of self-identification, political affiliation or gender ideology. Significant others, family members, friends, and GLBT allies would be especially welcome to participate.

It is our hope and dream that our community will put aside its individual differences and come together to make this march a success. In that light, an open Town Hall Meeting will be held during the 2002 Southern Comfort Conference to discuss and explore goals of the March.

These goals might include demands for legal protection from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations; equal access for medical care, especially transgender care and HIV prevention; and recognition of the sanctity of marriages and our parental rights, regardless of our gender status. Anyone and everyone is invited to attend this special Town Hall. An open list server has also been established for those who cannot attend and to promote early discussion of these goals. To subscribe to the list server please send email to gendermow-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

The organizers of Southern Comfort Conference will spearhead this unprecedented event, but understand that for it to be successful, the march must not only be carefully planned but also be fully representative of the diversity of all TGV Americans. We are presently seeking leadership from all TGV communities to organize this event.

This is a challenging undertaking and will prove to be a demanding year-round job. Those who choose to volunteer should not take their commitment to this march lightly. When volunteering please include a brief summary of why you would like to participate, and what role you wish to undertake. Initial organizing meetings will be held In Atlanta at the Sheraton Colony Square on **May 3-5** and August 9-11 of this year. Contact [redacted]@yahoo.com for more information about participation in this event. Visit the Southern Comfort Conference web site at http://www.sccatl.org/ for travel directions and reservations.

A final announcement on the exact date and time the march will be announced at the Southern Comfort Conference 2002, which is scheduled for Sept. 17 - 22 of this year. Please copy and disseminate this information as widely as possible.

Goddess Circle Formed

Dear Sisters,

I would like to announce that TSWomanSpirit has founded the first officially trans-inclusive Dianic (i.e. feminist, non-patriarchal, non-hierarchical) women's web-circle.

Founded last week on the evening of spring equinox (Ostara), Kourai Circle is now open for select trans and genetic women who are interested in studying Goddess spiritual paths from a matrifocal, feminist perspective.

An applicant should join TSWomanSpirit at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TSWomanSpirit. Then she should write to one of the moderators:

- [redacted]@yahoo.com,
- [redacted]@cs.com, or
- [redacted]@warmfuzzy.com

...and introduce herself - explaining her interest. Applicants should (as a minimum) have read the following: Riane Eisler, "The Chalice and the Blade", and at least one of: Marija Gimbutas, "The Language of the Goddess" Marija Gimbutas, "The Living Goddesses"

From Her Heart,
Ellen

Look for these in June!

Upcoming TG Events!

Saturday / June 8 / 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Lana La Duca Presents

Lana is a Certified Clinical Cestherician with 16 years experience in aesthetics. She will be giving a presentation, and cover such topics as:

- Facial treatments –
- Facial camouflage-
- Eyebrow arching-waxing –
- Plus more!

Location: Women Health Boutique, 1115 South B Street in San Mateo. Lana's phone number is 650-[redacted]

Saturday / June 22 / 11:00am to 4:00pm

Picnic at Central Park in San Mateo

Central park is located at el camino and 5th street. Please bring something to share with others. Our area will have heart balloons - come join the fun!

Takin' Care of Biz...

March 18, 2002 through April 21, 2002

TGSF Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash	$2,764.04
Event Equipment	
Decorations	$1,000.00
Food Service	$200.00
Office Supplies	$50.00
Total Assets	$4,014.04

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	$0.00
Educational Fund	$1,600.00
Taxes	$0.00
Insurance	$0.00
Utilities	$0.00
Operations	$0.00
Total Liabilities	$1,600.00
Equity	$2,414.04
Total Liabilities & Equity	$4,014.04

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

Membership	$1,550.00
Advertising	$300.00
Cotillion	$130.00
Donations Received	$145.00
Social	$66.00
Education	$0.00
Outreach	$0.00
	$2,191.00

Expenses

Cotillion	$675.44
Halloween Party	$0.00
Big Shew	$0.00
Pride Parade	$0.00
Social	$0.00
Education	$60.00
Outreach	$0.00
Newsletter	$337.98
Operations	$546.24
Donations Paid	$0.00
	$1,619.66

Net Income $571.34

TGSF Donations

Our Friends Who Give
as of April 20, 2002

Jennifer Anderson $25.00
Shelly Lynn Cohen $70.00
Cami Lynn $50.00

Bless You and Thank You!

Contact TGSF!

ExCom Members

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Rachael Janelle ..... [redacted]@hotmail.com

Vice President
Karen Andrews .... [redacted]@hotmail.com

Secretary
Susan Laird ..... [redacted]@hairzapper.com

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Information ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com
Requests for information concerning TGSF *and upcoming events*

Calendar ..... www.tgsf.org
Submissions can be made online directly. Cancelling mistakes or for other problems, please contact Jamie Faye Fenton at [redacted]*@tgforum.com..*

Transgender Stories, Transgender Lives

By Mary Anne Christiano

Throughout history, people have exhibited behaviors outside of traditional masculine and feminine gender. Many people develop a gender identity that does not align with their biological sex.

The term "transgender" was originally coined to describe transsexuals, or persons who, though not homosexuals psychologically, identify with the opposite sex, and whose sexual organs have not been changed by surgery. This term now refers to people who do not identify with the gender roles assigned to them by society based on their biological sex. Transgender is also used as an umbrella term, covering people who choose not to conform to societal standards of gender expression.

Besides transsexuals, the term transgender also includes crossdressers, one who dresses either in public or private in the clothing of the opposite sex; two-spirit people, people who are born one sex, and end up fulfilling the roles assigned to both sexes; and drag kings and drag queens, people who emulate a person of the opposite sex in appearance and manner, generally for the purposes of entertainment, and not necessarily because they identify as the opposite sex.

The Montclair Public Library, along with the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network of Northern New Jersey has been hosting a three-month series of meetings focusing on transgender issues, "Transgender Stories, Transgender Lives."

The series features three events, one occurring each month, and will take place in the Library's main facility at 50 S. Fullerton Ave. All events in the series, which will be held in the main auditorium, are free of charge.

The series began Thursday, March 14, with a screening of Julie Wyman's film, "A Boy Named Sue" about a female-to-male transsexual experience. Elaine Schenkel, program organizer of the series, assembled the event to teach people about transgendered lives.

"There's a lot of dialogue going within the gay and lesbian community about where transgender fits," said Schenkel. "That's something that I hope to bring some discussion out in the series. But that's not all we're seeking to do at the series. We also just want to basically educate people."

Montclair resident Kate Draven was born with both female and male sexual organs. She is an intersexed individual.

"Intersex is a gender," said Draven. She said that because she was born with both sexes, her mother abandoned her when she was born. But, to her great-grandmother, she was a gift.

"She didn't hide or keep me from the world," said Draven. "She prepared me to survive on my own. Not to become a prostitute or get involved in drugs and drinking."

Most children born intersexed receive cosmetic surgery so the children can be either male or female. Draven said that she feels lucky that her body wasn't altered.

"Every child altered at birth is unhappy," said Draven. "You can't assign a sex. God creates. Intersex is not a disorder. Reality supercedes opinion."

Montclair resident Karen Lateiner will be leading a panel discussion in the second event of the series, which will took place on Thursday, April 11. She is the mother of a transgendered child, Jenni-Josh Lateiner, who died at age 24 in an automobile accident in 1998. Lateiner discussed the issues that transgendered young people face as well as the challenges that their family members are called upon to manage.

"We had no clue growing up," said Karen. Her son Josh Lateiner graduated in 1991 from Montclair High School, studied computer engineering at Tufts University, Boston, and designed a program for digital data. Josh started a business developing software in Boston and later moved to Oregon. That is when Josh started transitioning and living his life as a female.

Karen said that she and her husband Roger were in complete shock. Josh had a younger sister named Sarah, and he told Sarah before he told his parents.

"Josh was always a little bit of a weird individual. He was a character. He liked making people laugh. He was into the Goth scene, and went to Goth clubs wearing dresses," said Sarah, referring to a culture centered around dark alternative music, literature and lifestyles. "But this wasn't dress-up. He was trying to find that place. I had gotten used to it. It was my sibling and she was happy."

The Lateiners said they accepted Josh's decision to live as Jenni and, when Jenni was about to apply for a job at Netscape, both parents helped her shop for the right clothes. Jenni got the job and moved to San Jose, Cal. She lived happily as a female, her parents said.

Jenni oriented herself as a lesbian. She met a woman in California, developed a relationship and got engaged.

"We are very grateful we got to know her as Jenni," said Karen. "It's heartbreaking to know of all the people who are rejected."

Karen said that according to Josh, he had always been Jenni, and he told his mother that he had been struggling from around age 10 and kept it in denial.

Before Jennifer Lateiner died, she wrote a letter to her parents about how happy she was. The letter read, "Don't forget the simple things, the magical moments when you get a moment of peace to breathe in and reflect on all there is to celebrate about life. I strongly believe that feeling is it. If you can reach that peace and know all you need to know, in terms of uncovering happiness and living a great life."

The final event of the series will take place on **Thursday, May 9** and will feature as keynote speakers transgender activist and author Leslie Feinberg and her lifetime partner Minnie Bruce Pratt, also an author, poet and activist.

Refreshments for all events will be provided courtesy of the Lateiner family, under the auspices of the Jenni-Josh Lateiner Memorial Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey. The Fund was established by the Lateiner family in memory of their daughter, and for the purpose of promoting education and understanding of transgender issues.

The series is made possible by a grant awarded to the library by the Live@YourLibrary Fund, an initiative of the American Library Association, with major support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Wallace-Reader's Digest Funds and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

Questions or concerns about your partner's crossdressing? Please call Julie at **(925)** [redacted] e-mail [redacted]**@attbi.com** or write to: Julie Freeman, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885.

Local defense attorney Danny Williams is changing genders — and finding support in the court of opinion

A Case Of Identity

By Cynthia Hubert — Sacramento Bee

Criminal defense lawyer Danny Williams has made a plea to the court. This time, it's personal.

Earlier this month, the longtime Sacramento attorney revealed that he is actually a she inside, and soon will transform his male physical persona into that of a woman. After more than 25 years of representing clients as a man, Williams has begun dressing like a woman and has asked to be referred to as Ms. It is a crucial step, Williams said, in a process the lawyer hopes will finally bring inner peace. But Williams is not sure her career will survive it.

"The public likes to joke that there is no such thing as an honest lawyer. Unfortunately, I am afraid that when they finally see one they will reject me," she said.

For Sacramento Superior Court Presiding Judge Michael T. Garcia, the lawyer's transition is delicate and unfamiliar territory. After talking with Williams, Garcia earlier this month issued a memo notifying judicial officers of the situation and including a request that the attorney be treated professionally and referred to "in the manner requested" while at work.

In the sometimes-stark environment of the court system, Williams may face some awkward moments, predicted Superior Court Judge James Long. "But I respect Danny as a lawyer and a person, and in terms of the legal community I think that Danny's decision will be accepted," Long said. "I don't see this resulting in any loss of esteem toward Danny."

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Jane Ure agreed. "This is certainly a brave thing for Danny to do, because we remain in a somewhat intolerant society," she said. "The court will do its best to make sure that everything is civil, and that Danny is handled as professionally as every other attorney."

But already, the disclosure has cost Williams, who fellow attorneys describe as eccentric and acerbic but capable in the courtroom, a few clients, colleagues and friends.

"I have a business associate who has made it clear he no longer wants anything to do with me. I have a client, a family friend, who no longer wants to retain me and asked for some of his money back, which I gave to him." Bawdy jokes about the transsexual lawyer are making the rounds at the courthouse.

But other people, including the attorney's wife and two adult sons, support Williams unconditionally. "In some ways I am very lucky," the attorney said.

While more and more transgendered people have made their stories public in recent years, it is still frightening territory for most, and Williams admitted some concern about unveiling her true identity. It has been nearly three years since Dana Rivers, a highly respected teacher at Center High School in Antelope, lost her job and left the area amid controversy after revealing her intention to change her physical gender from man to woman. Williams followed the story closely.

"I expected some bigotry," Williams said. "People like us have always had to face that. But I never expected this kind of prejudice from my friends, from people who know me. I guess I've got to get used to it."

Whatever happens in the future, Williams, 50, has no regrets about "coming out" and moving forward with life as a woman, she insisted in a recent interview.

"This has been the hardest thing I have ever done. Who would choose it? But to be true to yourself is what's important in life," said the lawyer, sitting in her midtown office, wearing a simple black pantsuit with a colorful satin blouse, a beaded necklace and earrings. "To be true to yourself is a light. It shines out, and good things come from that."

Williams, who has been undergoing hormonal therapy to sculpt her body into a more-female form, retains a deep baritone voice. In a year or more, the attorney will undergo major surgery that will complete the transformation. She does not plan to change her name. The surgery, for which Williams expects to pay tens of thousands of dollars and undergo in Thailand, will mark a milestone in a personal journey that has been painful at times but exhilarating at others, she said.

"Look, I lived most of my life as a blond-haired, blue-eyed man, and that wasn't all bad," Williams said. "There are a lot of great things about being a man." Williams played football, married a woman who remains a great love and fathered two children. But in his male persona, he felt like an impostor. "It's no fun to lie to the world."

Danny Williams was born in Fort Worth, Texas, into a military family, bouncing from school to school as his father, a fighter pilot, accepted various assignments.

"Even when I was very, very young, I had these feelings about my gender," she said. "I wanted to play hopscotch and dolls, but I didn't do it. I wanted desperately to fit in.

"So I played with the boys. I dated girls. I did all the right stuff. I played football in high school. I engaged in a certain amount of recklessness."

Experts in the field of gender identity disorder, believed to affect less than 1 percent of the population, describe this path as fairly typical among people who have male anatomies but the inner identities of females. Many such transsexuals, according to studies, avoid admitting who they are by becoming overly involved in "manly" activities.

But at some point, the deception becomes unbearable. "I had suppressed my true self for so long," often with the help of alcohol, Williams said. In 1997, Williams was convicted of drunken driving and was disciplined by the California State Bar. Records show her license now is in good standing, and the lawyer said she is sober.

"I was in crisis at that time," she said of her abuse of alcohol. "I realized I could no longer bear showing the outside world a person I was not inside. I could not live this way anymore." While Williams, who studied philosophy at the University of California, Davis, and graduated from Lincoln Law School in Sacramento in 1979, appeared as a man in public, the attorney started dressing as a woman at home. "I wanted to try to learn what being a woman was all about. I studied women's expressions. How they crossed their legs."

It felt real, and Williams decided, with the help of a medical specialist, that it was time to "go all the way" and begin

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The Mutual Frustration Of Transsexuals And Conservatives.

Frame Game - The Trying Game

By William Saletan
Slate Magazine

Last month, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that J'Noel Gardiner, a post-operative male-to-female transsexual, was still a man. Therefore, J'Noel's marriage to Marshall Gardiner was void, and Joe Gardiner, Marshall's estranged son, gets his whole estate. The ruling is dressed up as a victory for gender clarity, but it isn't. Both sides of the debate over transsexuality want clarity. And neither achieves it.

If you page through the court's opinion, you'll learn about all sorts of things they didn't teach you in school, such as cheek implants, tracheal shaves, rhinoplasty, and bilateral orchiectomy. You'll read about how doctors "cut and inverted the penis, using part of the skin to form a female vagina, labia, and clitoris." You'll learn that J'Noel was born with the name Jay Ball, that she testified about bringing her husband to orgasm, and that the first U.S. case involving transsexuality was Anonymous v. Weiner.

You'll also have to rethink what makes a man a man and a woman a woman. To Joe Gardiner and the district court that sided with him, the answer is simple: Jay Ball was born male, therefore J'Noel is a man. To those who believe in transsexuality, it isn't that simple. A person is born with a mind and a body, and the two can be at odds. "An individual's sex is comprised of many factors, including chromosomes, internal organs, external genitalia, hormonal levels, secondary sex characteristics, and perhaps most importantly psychosocial identification," the ACLU and the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition told a Kansas appeals court in a brief supporting J'Noel. Jay Ball appeared to be all male, but he wasn't. He was conflicted.

So he-she-got rid of the conflict. "Physical characteristics can, importantly, be conformed to an individual's psychological and social sexual identity," GPAC and the ACLU argued. "Ms. Gardiner's external anatomy, hormonal physiology, secondary sex characteristics, official records, and psychosocial identification all indicate that she is female." The appeals court agreed that such factors should be weighed. According to cases quoted by the court, a sex change should be legally recognized if these factors were "reconciled," "harmonized," and "unified." Unity, not androgyny, was what J'Noel had put herself through surgery and hormone therapy for. She didn't want to be a gay man or a cross-dresser. She wanted to be a woman. "If Marshall were still alive, I wouldn't have to be explaining to another woman that I'm a woman," she told the New York Times. "He would be standing here saying, 'How dare you ask my wife these questions?' "

J'Noel succeeded as far as any transsexual can succeed, which is to say, incompletely. The Kansas Supreme Court, like the district court and a Texas court before it, pointed out that J'Noel's chromosomes, skeleton, and internal organs were still male. The court played the role of Reg in Life of Brian, who mercilessly reminds another character, Stan, that he can't become a complete woman.

Stan: It's every man's right to have babies if he wants them. Reg: But you can't have babies. Stan: Don't you oppress me. Reg: I'm not oppressing you, Stan. You haven't got a womb! Where's the fetus going to gestate? You going to keep it in a box?

GPAC and the ACLU accused the district court of ignoring J'Noel's "lived experience." An attorney from the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which helped write the GPAC brief, faulted the Kansas Supreme Court for pretending that "J'Noel's marriage never existed." But J'Noel, too, sought to deny her experience and erase her history. Eight years ago, she asked a court to change the name and sex on her birth certificate. In accordance with Wisconsin law, the court did so. In the Kansas district court, J'Noel's lawyer argued not that J'Noel really was female, but that Kansas had to accept the assertion on her birth certificate that she was female. The court, however, refused to give up the crazy notion that a birth certificate is supposed to certify what actually happened.

Joe Gardiner and the Thomas More Law Center, which filed a brief supporting him, call the Kansas Supreme Court's ruling a victory for "traditional" marriage. The center's brief argued that allowing J'Noel to marry a man would invite moral chaos. "What about the male transsexual who lacks the necessary financial resources to undergo a similar sex change procedure?" asked the center. "What would prevent that male transsexual from marrying another man in Kansas under the same theory advanced by J'Noel? Nothing." This was the nightmare the center sought to avert: Two people, externally of the same gender, legally wed.

But the ruling yields exactly that result. "Applying the statute as Joe advocates, a male-to-female transsexual whose sexual preference is for women may marry a woman," the court noted, "because, at the time of birth, one marriage partner was male and one was female. Thus, in spite of the outward appearance of femaleness in both marriage partners at the time of the marriage, it would not be a void marriage. ." Three years ago, a Texas court reached the same conclusion. Now two externally lesbian couples are legally married in Texas because in each case one spouse was born male.

To prohibit J'Noel from marrying a man or a woman, you'd have to overturn 80 years of constitutional law establishing a right to marry. You'd also have to explain at what point during the early 1990s, when Jay Ball was beginning to change his external physiology from male to female, you would have forced him, in the name of marriage, to divorce his then-wife.

Then you'd have to figure out what to do with the 275,000 to 2.5 million Americans who, according to a professor cited by the Kansas appeals court, were born with a sexually ambiguous combination of chromosomes, hormones, and genitals. In school, you were taught that girls are XX and boys are XY. In the appeals court opinion, you'll learn about people with XXX, XXY, XXXY, XYY, XYYY, XYYYY, and XO. You'll read about Klinefelter Syndrome, which can put breasts on boys, and Turner Syndrome, which can produce girls who lack internal reproductive organs. "What the district court said about J'Noel, that '[t]here is no womb, cervix or ovaries,' also could be true for a person with Turner Syndrome who had been identified as a female at birth," observed the Kansas Supreme Court.

According to GPAC and the ACLU, at the 1996 Olympics, "Of the 3,387 female athletes who underwent gender verification testing, eight tested positive for Y-chromosomal material." Seven of the eight had undergone surgery to clarify their gender. Nevertheless, "all eight were allowed to compete as women." Should such people not be allowed to compete in athletics as women? For that matter, should gender verification testing be extended to marriage? How many households are you willing to dissolve, and what tests are you willing to mandate, to make sure that all marriages are between what the Kansas Supreme Court called "a biological man and a biological woman"?

In different ways, Joe and J'Noel Gardiner wanted the same thing. They wanted Marshall Gardiner's money, and they wanted J'Noel's gender resolved. It looks like Joe will get the money. What J'Noel really wanted was the resolution. She can't have it. Neither can he.

An Interview With "Southern Comfort's" Lola Cola

Christine Champagne

Filmmaker Kate Davis was working on a project on trans politics when she met Robert Eads at a gender conference in Maryland. Born female, Robert had undergone a sex-change operation to become a man and was now dying of ovarian cancer. Moved by his story, Davis decided to make a film about Eads' life in 1998. The end result is "Southern Comfort," which won the 2001 Sundance Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary. It debuted on HBO on Sunday, April 14. The compelling documentary takes us to Eads' home in rural Toccoa, Georgia, where we meet his female partner, Lola Cola, who was born male, and Max and Cas, both of whom are also transsexuals.

Gaywatch recently spoke with Lola Cola about the making of "Southern Comfort."

When Robert told you he was going to allow his life to be filmed, how did you react?

First, it was like, "I am so sure that I'm going to let somebody follow us around with a camera. I don't think so!" But after he made it clear what his hopes were for the film, I realized I couldn't say no.

What did Robert hope "Southern Comfort" would achieve?

Robert was a private kind of guy. But after thinking about it, he decided that it might be important, that it might perhaps save someone else the same kind of agony that he was having to deal with and give his death more meaning than it otherwise would have.

What was it like for you to have a camera follow you around when you were dealing with Robert's illness?

Well, at first it was difficult, because I didn't know Kate Davis from Adam's housecat, and given that most of the coverage on trans folks in the past has been kind of exploitative, I was leery. But she and [co-producer] Elizabeth [Adams] both showed themselves early on to be sensitive and respectful, so they gained our trust.

Were there certain points where you weren't comfortable with being filmed?

Oh, absolutely. Robert would say, "Cut!"

And Kate would turn off the camera if you needed a break?

Yes, Kate was sensitive to people's limits. Some of the other people didn't care, but I wasn't inviting her into the bedroom.

When you finally saw the finished film, what did you think?

This is really shallow, but the first time I saw it I was just appalled at how awful I looked. [She laughs.] I didn't realize the movie was any good until it started screening at Sundance, and people were so wowed and knocked out by it. Their responses were so positive and emotional. It really hit a chord with people.

A lot of films made about transgendered people focus on, "Here's how the operation is done," and they can be exploitative, like you mentioned before.

Trans people are [treated] like weirdos. But this film was very different. It was a real emotional story, an honest look at Robert's life and the lives of those around him. I'm assuming you saw that, too.

Yeah, absolutely. It's about people, and we heard this from a lot of folks who had seen it, that after awhile the trans thing didn't matter at all. It was just a film about people who happen to be trans.

In the movie, we learn that Robert had a tough time finding a doctor to treat his ovarian cancer. In this society, we take it for granted that anyone can go to the doctor and be treated. How did people react when they watched the movie at screenings and saw what Robert went through to get medical help?

People were horrified to think that this could happen in modern America. If they did that to your dog, there would be a big

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A Case of Identity...

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"transitioning" into a female with two years or more of hormonal treatment followed by surgery.

The lawyer first broached the news to wife Susan Williams as they drove to their downtown jobs from their south Sacramento home one morning. "She sobbed," Danny Williams recalled. "I didn't know that day whether she would be coming home with me or not." She did, and told him she would stand by him.

"Susie has taught me what unconditional love is," Danny Williams said. The couple, who have been married since 1974, plan to stay together. "The most important thing to me is Danny's happiness," Susan Williams said. "I didn't marry the sex, I married the person. Danny is the same person I married, and our life in many ways has never been better."

Although the couple's boys were "taken aback" at first by the news, Susan Williams said, they have come to accept it and the family remains close. So, too, does colleague Randy Costa, who describes Danny Williams as a passionate and dedicated lawyer who strives to do right by clients and friends.

"Danny is one of the finest people I know," said Costa, the lawyer's investigator for five years. "Before Danny came out, I asked him to be my best man in my wedding," Costa said. Before answering, Williams confessed she was thinking about undergoing gender reassignment. Would Costa still want him in the wedding pictures?

"I told him I would be honored, because, man or woman, Dan will always be one of my closest and best friends." Costa said his friend's new identity will no doubt cost him both financially and personally. "Sure, there will be colleagues who will refuse to sit next to Danny, and clients who will consider Danny a freak. But people who know better understand that Danny is above all an officer of the court. Danny is one of few lawyers I know who never bad-mouths the court or colleagues, whether they are working beside her or against her. I know Dan cares deeply about clients, and loses sleep over cases. Once the shock of all of this wears off, I hope all of us can see that Danny is someone we can all respect."

Williams, who represents clients charged with felonies, said she loves trying cases. "My feeling is that the system is skewed against the little guy, even the middle guy, and it's my job to slow that political movement down and fight on behalf of my clients," she said. Some of her clients are indigents referred by the Sacramento County Conflict Criminal Defenders, a panel of about 120 lawyers appointed to represent people who cannot afford to pay for legal services.

Fern Laethem, executive director of the program, said Williams, as a transsexual, "is going down the same road as gays and lesbians and others who are trying to be accepted in our society.

"All they're seeking is fairness, tolerance and social inclusion," said Laethem, a criminal defense lawyer. "Danny's situation is not an issue for me. All I want from Danny Williams is competent and fair representation of clients, and I am confident I will get it."

In some ways, Williams acknowledged, things might have been easier if she had started a new life elsewhere as a woman. But she never thought seriously about doing so, she said. "Why should I leave?" she asked. "This is my community. I love Sacramento. My kids grew up here, and there are lots of good people here. If I get run out of business, I'll go work in a bookstore or a coffee shop. You know, I've always wanted to do that."

New York OK's Transgender Protections

Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network

The New York City Council passed a bill on Wednesday that extends nondiscrimination protections to transgender people, and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said he will sign it into law.

The city joins more than 40 local jurisdictions and two states (Minnesota, Rhode Island) in the United States that have passed similar measures to protect transgender citizens from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. In New York state, Suffolk County and the city of Rochester already have similar laws in place.

The New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy (NYAGRA) estimates that as many as three-quarters of New York's state's transgender citizens live in New York City, and advocates expressed hope that the new measure will influence other cities.

"As the largest jurisdiction by population in the U.S. to ban discrimination against transgender people, it might have a positive spillover effect elsewhere because it suggests to legislators in other cities that transgender inclusion will eventually become the norm in human rights laws," said Paisley Currah, NYAGRA co-founder.

Mayor Bloomberg released a short statement after the council's 45-5 vote in favor of the measure. "In the past I expressed the belief that this legislation is extraneous because transsexuals are protected under the current human rights law," he said. "However, considering its strong support in the council, I plan on signing it into law."

The Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA), the largest statewide gay rights organization, lobbied with NYAGRA for the bill's passage. Commenting on the bill's passage, ESPA Executive Director Joe Grabarz said, "This is a huge step forward for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in New York and its quest for basic civil rights."

Interview wit Lola Cola...

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issue. When we were at the screening at Sundance, there was a doctor who was from Toccoa there, and he came up to me and apologized on behalf of the medical community. That was kind of cool. It's really easy on the face of it to say, "Oh, these are these evil, bigoted doctors." But I don't know. I think maybe it is just ignorance. Maybe some of those phone calls were made to front office people who were like, "Trans what?"

There is a point early on in the film where Robert is talking about how you once said to him that you were afraid to give him your entire heart because you knew you would lose him. Did you ultimately let go?

That was at the beginning, and as it became apparent that Robert was clinging to life, and he was going to squeeze every second out of it, he was going to live life to the fullest, there was no way that I was going to be with him just part way. I couldn't do it. It was either abandon him entirely or just go with it.

If Robert had been able to see this film, how do you think he would have reacted?

I think he'd like it. I'm sure he would. I feel like he's got to be laughing at all this hoo ha about it, having a little chuckle over what a big deal it is. He was such a special guy, and the tragic part was that we all lost him way before he should have gone. But with the film, it's like he lives on in a way, and all of these people who didn't meet him get the chance to see what he was about.

From the Editor...

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We liked each other instantly and instinctively. We discovered we wanted to spend a lot of time together, and did so. She invited me to live with her so we could spend all our time together, and (obviously) I accepted. And things are going great guns. We took a week's vacation in New Orleans last month and had a blast. She's got me on a budget (for the first time that I can remember), and I'm actually on speaking terms with my creditors again. It's all good.

So What's Next?

After attending the April End of Month Event at the Blue Muse (Elections Night), we've got a full and eager ExCom slated for the 2002-03 year. And that's cause for celebration, for all of us now have a real and hopeful expectation that our volunteers are going to make a difference this year. And from the looks of things, we couldn't ask for a better team. The vibe at the social was upbeat, positive, and I got the distinct impression that things won't be as bleak as I painted them back in February. After the dust settled, Cotillion 2002 made a profit after all, we donated money to charities, and our future seems reasonably assured.

For that, I am thankful. But just because we got 10 of our members to do the bulk of the work, doesn't mean the rest of you can rest on your laurels. There are still gobs of things that need doing and it's completely unreasonable and unfair to expect our new ExCom to do it by themselves.

For instance, the LGBT Pride Celebration Weekend is fast-approaching (end of June), and we've got a float to build, parade monitors to train, an Outreach Booth to stock with staff and supplies, and we need our members to show up in droves to march proudly down Market Street. If you missed the Debutante Walk at the Cotillion, there isn't a better place to come out and be accepted than in front of the hundreds of thousands of screaming and adoring fans of the alternative lifestyle. It's a rush you won't soon forget. Be there.

Femininity Can't Be Bought...

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you more systematically and efficiently, and have the experience to monitor your progress in detail. If you are tight on money, consider a combination of consulting and self-learning. Either way, you will have to practice. A lot...

And while we are talking about practicing: Learn to smile - even in difficult situations. It breaks the ice and opens the door to earn the sympathy and trust of others. It can be the magic bullet to get you out of an embarrassing situation. Haven't we all been there?

It's never too late to learn. However, you might have an easier transition, if you develop much of your femininity before you start living full time. This also gives you a more realistic outlook on what to expect in that new role. I have done it that way, and was overwhelmed with the acceptance and support I experienced, once I announced the change. I had gone through great lengths before I finally made the change - including two trips to Germany, to test the waters in my native culture.. So far these efforts have paid off. I wish everyone a similar experience!