



GIRL TALK

Powder Puffs of California — Serving the California Gender Community Since 1987

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*Thank you, Dee
for a job
well done !!!*

July is On!

But the July meeting is still on! The Board had to juggle the calendar, but the July meeting is going ahead. As of press time, Joan was trying to arrange for a speaker. But after missing June, what the heck, our femme selves are screaming to go out. So, why not stop by the old watering hole and chat with friends in your latest finery.

Date: Sat, July 18
Time: 8:00 pm PDT
Place: Placentia Holiday Inn, 118 E. Orangethorpe Ave, Placentia, CA. Take 57 Fwy to Orangethorpe exit. Head east.

Calendar of Events

- Jul 18 Nominations?
 - Aug 15 TBA*
 - Sep 19 Beauty Faire '98 *
 - Oct Halloween Party
 - Nov 21 TBA
 - Dec Christmas Party
- * Meeting begins at 8:00 pm

Nominations? Elections?

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Board Members (5)

Sorry to inform you, but the July meeting will not be all fun and games. Some important business must be attended.

It is that time to elect new officers to guide us next year. Current Prez Deegrade has chosen not to run for president, but would like to remain involved as a board member.

Who's next?

Well, it's time to nominate someone. But in addition to president, we will need a vice-president, and five board members. Joan has already thrown her wig into the ring for secretary/treasurer. I, Cyndi Silk, would also like to announce I will run again for a board position. Yes, you can nominate yourself.

Anyone else?

Have your nominating pen ready. For a current listing of officers, see page 2; left-hand column.

Powder Puffs' Officers

1997-1998 Officers

President
Dee G.

Vice-President
Diane D.

Secretary/Treasurer
Joan G.

Board of Directors
Dee G., *Chairperson*
Patti B., *Member-at-Large*
Tommi S., *Member-at-Large*
Cyndi S., *Member-at-Large*
Jeri T., *Member-at-Large*

Social and Outreach Director
Diane D.
Jeri T.

Newsletter
Cyndi Silk (editor), Diane D.

Librarian
Dee G.

California Dreamin '98

Powder Puffs of California
Educational TV Channel (ETVC)
The Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)
Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)
FtM International

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Membership rates. \$36/yr, \$15/meeting; \$165 covers dues & meetings for entire year. A Renaissance Education Affiliate.

PPOC:
<http://www.ren.org/ppoc.html>

CA Dreamin:
<http://www.flash.net/~dhome/cadreamin>

Murder-Suicide Raises Questions About Therapist's Role in Sex Change Surgery

June 19, 1998

By Marian Jones [Fox News] NEW YORK

Submitted by Barbara Johnson

The following article appeared on the Fox News website. It is reprinted here for your interest. Do you think the reporter accurately reported the subject of Gender Identity Disorder? How would you have advised the reporter? - Ed.

Last Wednesday, Rita Powers' patient showed up for a therapy session with a 9 mm handgun. In a burst of gunfire, the patient fatally shot Powers, a San Diego therapist, then turned the gun around and committed suicide. The motive? Powers had apparently refused to grant her client who dressed as a woman and preferred to be called Julia written approval for sex change surgery.

The incident highlights the unique and powerful role the mental health establishment plays in deciding who can get a sex change operation a role that is increasingly being called into question. International guidelines followed by the medical community require two written letters of approval from licensed therapists specializing in this area, one with a doctorate-level degree, before medical professionals will perform the surgery. (The San Diego therapist apparently was not yet licensed, so it is not clear why she would have been granting the approval in the first place.)

The therapists must find that the patient meets the criteria for Gender Identity Disorder. This is defined in the DSM-IV, the American Psychiatric Association's diagnostic manual, as persistent discomfort with one's assigned sex and a feeling that this sex is inappropriate. This must be coupled with a preoccupation for at least two years with

changing one's primary and secondary sex characteristics to that of the other sex. Those diagnosed with the disorder, according to the guidelines, must also have dressed and lived as the preferred sex for at least one year, and must complete a minimum of six months of psychological counseling before being certified for sex reassignment.

The difficulty in obtaining approval under these guidelines can lead a person to become desperate, say advocates for transsexuals. "When you deprive a person of medical services they feel they need, this can take the form of extreme actions toward themselves and even others," commented Riki Wilchins, executive director of GenderPAC, a national advocacy group for gender-related issues. Violence such as the San Diego murder-suicide is almost unheard of, Wilchins added, noting that self-destructive behavior such as substance abuse are more common.

Wilchins, who had sex reassignment surgery in 1980, does not believe that approval from a therapist should be required at all. "When I went to get a nose job, they didn't say, 'You have rhino identity disorder.' When I went to get my breasts done, they didn't say, 'You are a large-breasted woman trapped in a small-breasted woman's body.' Yet when I had the [genital]surgery, there was this arcane structure that says you must spend thousands of dollars getting psychiatrists and psychologists to say this is okay," Wilchins said.

Sheila Dickson, Ph.D., a Phoenix psychologist specializing in gender identity, partly agrees. "For many, many people, this psychological certification is not a necessity." But such an approval process is necessary in many cases, Dickson says, to ensure that the patient understands the implications of the procedure.

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President's Page

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As many of you have heard, Dee Grady has chosen to not run for a fourth term as president, though she still wishes to serve Powder Puffs as a Board Member. One of our members wished to express her gratitude for Dee's tireless service and submitted the following piece. I've decided to run it on the President's Page as it seemed to express a sentiment many of us hold about our president (Dee, not Bill)—Ed.

A Tribute to "Mom" - Our Outgoing President

By Loren Michele, Submitted June 18, 1998

Yes, I kiddingly refer to Dee as "Mom." Because... she's the one that encouraged me to grow my own fingernails! The reality of the matter is that Dee has done much more than she realizes.

I first came out at PPOC in July 1995. PPOC was where I first felt that great feeling of instant acceptance. Through her and other thoughtful members at that meeting, I had found home at last. Even more, she has consistently been there for me as a foster parental figure during my transition. Especially in the early months.

I still think of PPOC as home for me, even though I also began attending Born Free (in Riverside) a few months later. Dee never poked fun and was always calm and reassuring. She assured me that venturing out to OZZ would be perfectly safe. She helped me through those initial awkward questions. Dee was completely understanding and accepting when I told her I was a transsexual and wanted to be a member of PPOC. To me she is a shining example of a crossdresser who knows where she is at, has accepted herself, and projects confidence.

Aside from her leadership skills, she has always had gentle reminders for my personal safety, and always kept in mind the safety of the group in general. I salute the job she has done over the past few years, and thank her warmly for truly making PPOC a support group. Thank You for your support Mom !

Big Big Hugs,

Loren Michele

Gender Identity

The guidelines safeguard against disastrous outcomes, according to Robert Segraves, M.D., a psychiatry professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. "People have enough trouble moving from one part of the country to another, in becoming parents, or in getting married. When you talk about changing gender, this is a huge adjustment. "The psychiatric approval process also weeds out people who are mentally unstable, added Paul Tobias, Ph.D., a Los Angeles psychologist who has been working with transsexuals for 25 years. "There have always been a certain number of people with severe [psychological problems] who believe that if they change their body, they can resolve their emotional difficulties." "We want to make sure that a person is not suffering from multiple personality disorder," added Mildred Brown, Ph.D., a Santa Clara, Calif., sexologist and author of a book on transsexualism. "If we did the surgery and then another personality of a different gender came out and found that body parts were missing or added, there would be a severe problem. "A person seeking this surgery can also be "a homosexual indenial, who thinks that if they have the body of the opposite sex, they can relate (sexually) to the people they want to relate to, and society won't stigmatize them for being gay," Brown explained.

But Wilkins dismisses these concerns as overblown, noting that a very small percentage of people who have the surgery actually believe they made a mistake in doing so. Wilkins and other transsexual advocates also take issue with the diagnostic category of Gender Identity Disorder. There is no question that a transsexual who would murder a therapist and commit suicide is emotionally disturbed, and that many transsexuals could benefit from some therapy given that their situation can often lead to emotional disorders such as anxiety and depression, asserted Nancy Nangeroni, a male-to-female transsexual and the executive director of the Boston-based International Foundation for Gender Education. "But the [general category of] Gender Identity Disorder stigmatizes gender diversity by making it a disorder of the individual rather than a product of a culture that has a narrow concept of gender," Nangeroni said.

Wilchins' group has organized demonstrations challenging this diagnostic category, the latest of which took place outside the American Psychiatric Association's headquarters. She compares these efforts to the successful campaign that gays and lesbians mounted to get homosexuality declassified as a mental disorder 26 years ago. "We would like to see this as a non-stigmatizing physical condition regarded as similar to pregnancy. The only disorder here is a disorder in the minds of people who are uncomfortable with certain types of gender behavior," Wilchins said. Dickson, however, noted that while gender identity disorder

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QUEENSPEAK

by Joan Goodnight

A NOTE OF THANKS

Barbara and I want to thank Dee, Diane, and the Bay Area folks for the beautiful butterfly statuette that they were kind enough to present us at the California Dreamin' Saturday Night Banquet. This blue and turquoise beauty is proudly displayed on one of the glass shelves next to the fireplace and is probably the first object to catch anyone's eye when they enter the room. We weren't expecting anything which makes the reception doubly pleasurable for us. Thank you for your thoughtfulness from the bottom of our hearts.

ELECTION TIME

It's that time of year when we go through the annual process of officer and board member elections. I've indicated to our newsletter editor that I'd like to continue on in the capacity of Secretary/Treasurer for another term. I enjoy doing it and I feel that I can continue to contribute something to an organization that has done so much for me over the past ten years.

Our current president, Dee Grady, has served a couple of terms and has stated that she'd like to serve on the board but not have the duty of the presidency any more. PPOC has had five presidents over the past ten years and Dee was the first president that wasn't one of the clubs charter members. Over the past three years the club has made great strides under her administration and Dee is well known all over the State of California and nationally also. She has served graciously and with a good sense of humor. I for one will miss her conducting of the monthly meetings because you never knew what kind of one-liners she was going to throw out. Thank you Dee, you're one of the best of the best. It's been a pleasure serving with you.

Gender Identity

continued from Page 3

unfairly stigmatizing, it is a necessary prerequisite for insurance coverage, which can be obtained for the expensive procedure if it is deemed medically essential. About 1 in 30,000 adults seek the surgery during the course of their lifetimes, Dickson says, adding that the number of female-to-male reassignments has increased sharply due to recent surgical advances. comments@foxnews.com

I found the article to be extremely interesting. The reporter took

a story which was mostly portrayed as a crazed transvestite (yes, I know it is not correct) gunning down his (yes, I know) psychologist. However, Marian Jones saw another viewpoint and reported the story as an individual rights questions and sought out differing points of view from visible people in the debate. I see this as progress — Ed.

And the Nominees are . . .

By Dee Grady

Well, it is that time of the year. The time we ask for people to run for Officer and Executive Board Member positions. And this year, I'd like to ask for everyone's help in finding the right people to help run this organization. Is there anyone out there willing to see that the door to our meeting room stays open? These people are few and far between. They are very hard to find.

Joan has agreed to stay on as ssecretary/treasurer. But, there are positions we need to fill this year. I'd like us to have a real election this year. Which means having two or more people run for each position we have open.

Is there a particular skill you have which the organization could use? I'm sure there are some of you who'd like to help. A lot of times, people feel they would like to be asked to help, rather than volunteering. Maybe it is because they can't say no. Maybe it is because they feel they need to be asked. Well, here I go, "Would you like to run for a Board position? I think you are a valuable person. I'd like to have you be part of the team which takes this organization to the next level."

What is required of a person to be a Officer or Board member? To start out, one needs to be a "dues paying member", as one of our more vocal members would say. Well, that is all that is required according to our by-laws. But, what I would like to see are those people who really do care about this organization and community. Until we are totally accepted by the "mainstream" society, until we are totally all out of the closet, until we have all gotten rid of the guilt we have carried for after so many years, this organization and others like must keep the doors open for others just like us, who haven't found the community yet.

What else is required? Maybe a couple of hours a month of one's time. Things need to get done to keep and organization like this running smoothly. We need people to help arrange speakers, food and drinks, help with special events, and help put out a newsletter. One should be able to attend as many regular meetings as possible. A board meeting about every three months. It takes about two hours to fully get through an entire agenda. Is this too much to ask? Apparently for a lot of people this is too much.

Please remember just one thing: The door to our organization was there when you need it. Will it be open the next time someone new needs to find out they are not the only one in the world.



The following is a listing of products and services available to the Southern California gender community compiled from information furnished by the individual advertisers. Powder Puffs is providing this listing as a service and assumes no responsibility for ad content, nor does it endorse any particular business concern or product.

CLOTHING AND FASHION

Jim Bridges Boutique, 12457 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 103, Studio City, CA, 818-761-6650

Shana's: Shirely & Faye's designer clothing and fashion accessories. Discount prices. Call 714-854-4562

Lydia's T.V. Fashions, "Where Your Feminine Experience Begins," 13837 Ventura Blvd. Ste. 2, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423, 818-995-7195, M-W 12-7, Th-Sat 11-8

My Secret Place, "A Specialty Consignment Store for Size 14+ Women Only," 188662 Beach Blvd., #116, Huntington Beach, CA 92646 (between Ellis & Garfield), 714-963-4743.

Albert's Hosiery Stores, Full-fashioned stockings — special occasion hosiery, 6336 Hollywood Blvd. (Hollywood & Vine) Hollywood, CA 90028, 213-465-2834, mail orders accepted.

Second Time Around, "Distinctive Consignment Apparel for the Upscale Shopper," Jonella Tescone 298 E. 17th St., #B, Costa Mesa, CA 92627, 714-642-4700.

De 'An Drew Designs, Stockings & Pantyhose, 8884 Warner Ave., Suite 172, Fountain Valley, CA 92708.

Sizes Unlimited, specializing in sizes 14 and up, 5187 Lakewood Blvd. (next to Chucky Cheese) in Lakewood across from the Lakewood Mall, 310 634-2054. Ask for Rey between 9 to 3.

JEWELRY

Jewels by Parklane, Specializing in the highest quality ladies fashion jewelry — unconditionally guaranteed (ask about our \$100 free shopping spree for \$10), Jeani Adams, 714-533-4662.

Cookie Lee, Fine fashion jewelry — home & office shows, Genie Lalama, 818-246-2197 (by appointment).

MEDICAL SERVICES

Shirely Lampert, M.A., MFC. Professor of Human Sexuality, Psychotherapist, ASSECT AND AMERICAN BOARD OF SEXOLOGY. Certified Sex Therapist. Specializing in working with the TS & TV community. (714) 833-7810, 1151 Dove St., Ste 105, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Brad Taylor, M.A., MFCC, 360 N. Bedford Drive, Suite 215, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, sliding scale. (310) 247-9955

Transgender Counseling & Research Center, 4545 Park Blvd., Ste. 207, San Diego, CA 92116, 619-929-2721, Jan Eder, Psy. D., Educator & Research Director.

Patricia Wojdowski, M.S.W. Licensed Clinical Social Worker, 4926 La Cuenta Drive, Ste. 200, San Diego, CA 92124, 619-292-0492 (by appointment).

Dr. Richard F. Docter, Ph.D., 17162 Sunburst St, Northridge CA 91325, 818-349-9709

Regal Opticians, 2402 W. 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90057, 231-382-7606.

ELECTROLYSIS & SKIN CARE

Kathryn Robbins Electrolysis & Skin Care, located in Yorba Linda, 714-692-2747.

Beach Electrolysis by Gwen & Judy, 350 N. Sepulveda, Manhattan Beach, 310-318-9747.

Dana Point Electrology, 34213 Pacific Coast Hwy, Ste. G, Dana Point, CA 92629, 714-240-7709.

Layla's Electrolysis & Artistic Beauty, Westwood CA, 310-236-1010

HAIR & COSMETICS

World of Wigs, A Full Service Salon, 2305 E. 17th St, Santa Ana CA, 92701, 714-547-4461

Ricardo M. Hair Salon, 11620 Barrington Court, Brentwood. CA 90049. 310-472-4002

Sylvia's Wigs, 2612 S. Bristol St., Corner of Bristol & Central, Santa Ana, CA 714-545-1307

Jenny's Wigs, 384 S. Tustin Ave, Eldorado Plaza, Orange CA 714-771-3883

Judy's Creative Hair Design, 1815 W. Orangethorpe, Fullerton, CA 92633, 714-773-0200

Fantastic Hair & Nail Design, 11851 Gilbert St., #105, Garden Grove, CA 92641 (corner of Gilbert & Costco St.), 714-539-8020, Nancy Rodriguez is available on Wednesdays & Saturdays only.

Mary Kay, Terri Davis — Independent Professional Beauty Consultant, 4607 Ostrom Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713, 310-420-9933.

SPECIALTY SERVICES & PRODUCTS

Melody Products International, Melody Products International has added a full line of breast form products from a leading US manufacturer at competitive prices in addition to the flagship Melody Breast Forms. (Master Card/Visa Card accepted) (Check them out along with our other products at Website <http://www.melpro.com>) PO. Box 2142, Yorba Linda, CA 92885 (Fax) 714-693-9165.

Classic Curves, "Get the Maximum Curvature with a minimum of Effort," foundations by Espy Lopez, 2620 Carson St., Ste 55, 310-549-8787.

Waist and Stays Cosetry, The Goddess Shoppe, "Serving the Needs of the Craft," Erin Rado and Paul Rado — Owners, Phone: (800) 777-1185 Office), (714) 579-7514 (FAX), P.O. Box 6399, Fullerton, CA 92634-6399, <http://www.primenet.com/~goddess>, e-mail goddess@goddess.com

Victoria's Institute Hair, Skin, Body Non-Surgical Corrective Treatment 7360 Center Ave Huntington Beach, CA 92647 714-379-6156

Nighty's and Naughty's, 16112 Harbor Blvd., Fountain Valley, CA 92708. E-Mail @ Naughty@wdc.net

Income tax & bookkeeping - LOREN WINGERT, CPA (310) 925-8035

PUBLICATIONS

P. M. Publisher, mail order books & videos. for a list contact P.O. Box 5304, Katy, TX 77491-5304

NIGHT SPOTS

OZZ Supperclub, Restaurant, Hi-tech Danceclub, Cabaret Lounge, 6231 Manchester Blvd, Buena Park CA, 714-522-1542

Viktor/Viktoria's, 1305 So. Pacific Coast Hwy Laguna Beach, CA 92651 714-376-8809

Powder Puffs Rap Sheet

Community Events and Other Happenings — "All Work and No Play Makes Jill a Dull Girl"

On the Local Scene

Places to go, Things to do, People to see.

First Tuesdays

Pathfinders, monthly support group for genetic females involved in the gender community. Hotline 24 hrs/day 714-325-2938. Write Pathfinders, P. O. Box 2973, Corona, CA 91718-2973

Come Taste the Night at Marlayna's T- Party. Tommy Tang's, 7313 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood. Reservations: 213-937-5733.

First Fridays

Peal — TS support group, 12832 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove, 7:30 pm. Call 714-534-0862

First Saturdays

Ladies Knight Out (Heterosexual couples in a committed relationship only) for information write to: LKO, P.O. Box 19608-0179, Irvine, CA 92713

Second Saturdays

Alpha Chapter of Tri-Ess: Meets at Burbank Holiday Inn. Contact Kathy Helms, 818-352-9448 or Virginia Prince, 213-876-6141 for information and requirements.

Born Free: University Room of Hampton Inn, 1590 University Ave., Riverside. 8:00 pm. Contact Born Free, P.O. Box 52829, Riverside, CA 92517, or call 909-875-2687 for info.

CHIC: CHIC emphasizes strict security. Meetings are closed except to members and invited guests. Write to CHIC, P.O. Box 8487, Long Beach, CA 90808 for information and requirements.

Second & Fourth Saturdays

"On the Scene Night" and *"Fetish Night,"* presented by Marlayna at the Queen Mary Show/Lounge, 12449 Ventura Blvd., Studio City. 818-606-5619.

Third Saturdays

Powder Puffs of California, Placentia Holiday Inn, Placentia, CA. 8 pm. Contact P.O. Box 1088 Yorba Linda, CA 92885. 714-779-9013.

Fourth Saturdays

Neutral Corner, meets at King's Inn, Hotel Circle, 7:30 pm. Contact P. O. Box 19008, San Diego, CA 92159. Contact 619-685-3696. WEBSITE: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood?Village/4718/> (This is a case sensitive address! Please capitalize.) E-Mail: neutral-corner@geocities.com

Second Sundays

The Los Angeles Gender Center, monthly support & informational group meeting for the transsexual (FTM & MTF), transgender communities. The Women's Center, 1512 S. Robertson Blvd., LA. Contact The Los Angeles Gender Center, 310-475-8880.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Androgyny, meetings Tuesday nights from 8:30 pm-9:30 pm in Santa Monica, CA; Wednesday nights from 8:00 pm-9:30pm in Riverside, CA. Contact Androgyny, P.O. Box 480740, Los Angeles, CA 90048. Call between 9:00 am-9:00 pm, mention your call is concerning Androgyny, 213-467-8317 (ask for Shirley or Sheila) or 909-360-5584 (ask for Paula)

On the National Scene

From Sea to Shining Sea

Jun10-14 16th Annual Be All You Want to Be Weekend Pittsburgh, PA Be-All '98 P.O. Box 15237 Pittsburgh, PA 15230 <http://users.aol.com/chitriess/trissss/beall.htm>

Jun 15-19 S.P.I.C.E.: Spouse'/Partners International Conference for Education Atlanta, GA 510-235-7450 Pacific Time 918-343-1953 Central Time 215-860-9271 Eastern Time melpeg@phoenix.net

Aug 6-9 World Pornography Conference Universal City, CA Dr. James Elias Center for Sex Research California State University, Northridge 18111 Nordoff Street Northridge, CA 91330-8318 818-677-3844 818-677-2059 FAX james.elias@csun.edu

Sep 30-Oct 4 Southern Comfort Conference Atlanta, GA Southern Comfort Conference P.O. Box 77591 Atlanta, GA 30357-1591 404-633-6470 SccAtl@aol.com <http://members.aol.com/sccatl>

1999

California Dreamin' 99

(I know, some of you just can't wait)

Much of this information was provided by the American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS)

NOMINATION FORM

Officers

President:

- 1.
- 2.

Vice President

1. Diane Drake (i)
- 2.

Secretary/Treasurer

1. Joan Goodnight (d)
- 2.

Board Members (Four Positions)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cyndi Wilson (d) | 2. Dee Grady (d) |
| 3. Jeri Thompson (i) | 4. Patti Barton (i) |
| 5. Tommie Shaw (i) | |

Note: (d) = currently in office and declared for 1998/99; (i) = incumbent

CHAPTERHOOD VOTE ISSUE TO BE ON AUGUST BALLOT

Should Powder Puffs become a full Renaissance Education Association Chapter with 501 (c) (3) benefits?

Pros:

Cons: