TGIC NEWS – FEB/MAR 1993

A Publication of Transgenderist's Independence Club, Albany, NY

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – Winnie [redacted]

This newsletter is a little late, by about two weeks, for two main reasons. First, I took a break to attend the *Tiffany Club First Event*, where I had a good time, including a visit to the new IFGE headquarters building in Waltham. IFGE is doing an excellent job in improving the image of cross-dressing and cross-gendered behavior, and deserves our support. You can help by subscribing to *Tapestry* magazine, now published quarterly, which is the best periodical on our "thing". Copies are available for perusal in the Club Room.

Second, the TGIC membership records were transferred from Jennifer to me. Thanks to Sharon, who was able to translate the computer files from CP/M to DOS, my job was simplified. However, there was still a lot of work for me in changing the file format to suit my word processor and learning how to select information to print mailing labels. See my article on page 2. And thanks to Jennifer for maintaining our records in previous years.

At our Thursday meeting on January 14, Tina played a few songs for us on her guitar, a nice change from our usual routine, though there were some spirited discussions that night, too. Ed. H. brought in his tools and fixed our two broken kitchen chairs. At first, he couldn't see the problem with one of them, until Sharon sat down and found it! Thanks, Tina and Ed. (Unfortunately, one chair broke again the next week, but Ed has promised to try again!)

Ed has also suggested that we endeavor to address a specific topic as a short round-table discussion during each of our Thursday night meetings. To start the ball rolling, he selected a number of initial subjects and a weekly schedule which is listed in *italics* on our Calendar – see page 7. Ed promises to act as moderator and kick off the discussion if no one else does, starting at about 8:30 pm. We have had mixed success with focussed discussions in the past, and I hope more members will come and contribute. If you have a particular interest, please suggest topics for the future – or any other activities for our Thursday meetings – but be prepared to follow through.

Our Dinner Party on January 16 was a party of six, a small increase over the last party, so interest appears to be returning. Hopefully, we will have still more for our next party, set for Saturday, February 20 at 8 pm, again at the Northway Inn. All coming should get word to Joan H., who makes our reservations, by Thursday, February 18. Please sign the sheet posted in the Club Room, or tell us by mail or phone. But if you forget or decide to come at the last minute, join us anyway; they can always make room for one more. However, I will *not* promise to open the Club Room for changing that evening, unless specifically requested.

Dues Reminder! If you still owe dues at this time, please send them in with the membership renewal form on the last page of the last TGIC News. If your renewal date is later in the year, save the form until then, or use it to update your address, etc.

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TGIC ELECTION RESULTS

A total of 13 ballots were returned by the deadline of January 7, a few not completely filled. The nominees won by a landslide! However, the support of those who took the trouble to vote is appreciated.

Position	Officer	Votes
President	Winnie B.	13
Vice President	Joan H.	13
Secretary	Joyce W.	13
Treasurer	Winnie B.	12
Director	Tina A.	12
Director	Ed H.	12
Director	Paul K.	12
Director	Sue M.	12

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS – Winnie [redacted]

The format of the computer file containing the TGIC membership records that were transferred from Jennifer to me required certain changes to make it compatible with my word processor. In my system, the records are now kept in a table of eight columns, and can be automatically sorted in alpha-numerical order by any selected column. This is useful, for example, in printing mailing labels where those that require special handling (e.g. foreign postage or dues notice insertion) can be brought to one end of the list, which should reduce the chaos of our envelope-stuffing parties. The eight columns are:

(1) Mailing name
(2) Address
(3) ZIP code
(4) Membership category (2-letter code)
(5) Date for dues renewal (year/month)
(6) Phone number and calling caveats
(7) Code number for member directory
(8) Social name, if different from mailing

Information not given to us by members is omitted. The *TGIC MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH DIRECTORY*, which is being sent with this newsletter to current members, is an abbreviated example of the table. It was prepared by first sorting the general table by column (7), placing those members who want to be included in the directory at the bottom. This section was then copied to another file and sorted by ZIP code, so that members living close together will appear nearby in the list. Columns (4), (5) and (7) were then deleted, together with individual addresses or phone numbers that remain confidential.

Columns (4) and (5) are printed at the top right of the mailing labels. The two-letter codes are selected so that alphabetical sorting of (4) will bring the membership categories into an order that will simplify certain record-keeping and mailing tasks. The codes are:

FG foreign general member
KK key club member with closet
KO key club with attic storage
MA member with special mailing request
MC member couple
MG general member
ML life member
SS sample subscriber
SN subscriber to *TGIC News*
ST subscriber to *The Transgenderist*

Some time ago, Jennifer began noting the month when dues were paid, and recording the next anniversary as the date for renewal. For prospective new members (those now in the **SS** category, previously SMP) she recorded the date when the first free sample newsletter was mailed. However, difficulty in searching through the mailing list for dates led to considerable variation in the number of "grace period" issues sent before dropping a name from the list.

We will continue the same method of recording dates, but in year/month order so that sorting by column (5) will bring delinquents to the top of the list. When dues are paid, the date will be incremented by one year, so re-sorting will return them to near the bottom. We will also allow a four-month grace period. For the last issue, **"LAST"** will be printed on the mailing label in place of the date. Then, if dues are not paid before the next mailing, the member or prospect will be dropped. For those who may be short of cash at the time, we can offer a 6-month extension for $20.

NOTE: For **KEY CLUB** members, the date indicates the month through which their rent has been paid.

Quite often, mail sent to addresses recently changed by members or furnished by new enquirers is returned to the Club by the Post Office, stamped *"Addressee Unknown"*. If this happens, we will first assume that it is an error by a P.O. sorter who does not recognize that the name you have given belongs to that address. We will insert *"c/o"* before the address, so the P.O. should deliver our next mailing anyway, and change the first letter of the category code to **R** to alert you. If you see this on your label, you should complain to your P.O. If you told the P.O. to return our mail, please tell us, too, so we won't waste any more postage.

All of you, please check your mailing label and directory entry (if you are in it) for accuracy. I have updated and verified the Club records as far as possible, up to February 4, but there may be some errors due to poor handwriting or transcription from phone messages.

TRANSSEXUAL PROBLEMS
– Theodora K. [redacted]

I suspect that all transsexuals might be different. Some well adjusted, some like the following one; for legal reasons, the name is omitted.

Eleanor (a pseudonym) was 17 and had severe problems. She left no note and made no call for help. She read two textbooks, college level ones, about toxic gases. She attempted to leave "Planet Earth". Luckily, the gas only confined her to bed for a week with chemically induced pneumonia. She was very healthy.

Nobody found out she did this. Her parents had no inkling.

At an older age, she demolished a car, by driving it at roughly 80 mph into a metal gate and into a multi-ton boulder. She was arrested and, surprisingly, talked her way out of a night in a psychiatric ward.

I met her a few years ago, while a student at SUNYA, in a Calculus course. She's white, has a higher than average IQ, drives and talks circuitously. I asked her how she'd gotten stitches so conveniently over her radial artery. (She gave a big grin....)

She had accidentally cut herself.

Eleanor is still alive. She is also a good reason to have "outreach" and information for those transsexuals who have serious problems.

MOONLIGHT IN MANHATTAN

The **Greater New York Gender Alliance** presents *Moonlight In Manhattan* – a weekend of fun and fantasy, April 23 to 25, 1993. Yes, travel to New York on Friday April 23 or come earlier if you wish. For three days and two nights you will revel in the Big Apple amid all of the sights and sounds of this exciting city. You will stay at the Days Inn on 57th St. right near Central Park where you will have a luxurious room for a special rate of $79 per night, plus taxes. Make up your own party, because that rate is for the room, no matter how many people are in the room. Come earlier if you want, as a special set of rooms have been booked for the **GNYGA** starting on Thursday, April 22. Hotel registration information and special telephone numbers are in the registration package.

Registration for the weekend will start at 10 am on Friday April 23 in our own special hospitality room. Meet old friends and be prepared to make new ones. Meals will be on your own. From 7 to 10 pm we will have a mixer and welcoming party. Then we will load up a bus for an all-night visit to the various bars and fun places in Manhattan. Party until the wee hours. Come to the Copa, Sallys II and more, or just relax in your hotel room.

You also will find Jim Bridges set up in his famous boutique and Muriel Olive will be there with Fem Fashions. On Saturday you can sleep in late or attend workshops presented by Jim, Muriel, Mariette Pathy-Allen, Dr. Jeffrey Mechanick, Lilith Martin and others on make-overs, wig care, photography, hormones and more. Make your appointments early if you want individual treatment for the evening. Many girls will find themselves on the street visiting many of the fabulous shops in Manhattan that will be listed in a special **CD SHOPPERS GUIDE** that is being prepared just for this event.

The main event is the Saturday evening dinner-dance *Moonlight In Manhattan*, a gala affair with all of the fun and excitement that you have come to expect in New York. This event will be open to the general public as a fund raiser for our special charity *Gods Love - We Deliver*. This group provides food to the many AIDS victims in New York and receives very little governmental funding. Bring your formal, special gown, get made up to the nines and have a great time. If you are coming just for this event, there will be a special changing room available... but do come early. Better yet, make reservations. Don't miss this event of the year. We expect over 300 people and we want you there.

There will be a registration fee for the complete event of $25, which will include the hospitality suite, workshops, shopping tours, registration package with the Manhattan TV Guide, and other events. The Bar Bus run will be $15 per person and the *Moonlight In Manhattan* dinner dance will be $50 per person. If you want to register for the entire package, the total will be $90 if registration and payment is received before March 10. Register early as there is a limited amount of space.

The **Greater New York Gender Alliance** is composed of the directors from Crossdressers International, LIFE, Metropolitan Gender Network, Tri-Ess, Girls Night Out and the Imperial Court. The co-chairs are Dee Dee Summers from LIFE ans S. Kristine James from CDI.

Reservation forms and information can be obtained from
Linda [redacted]
[redacted]
New York, NY 10036
Phone: [redacted], Monday through Thursday evenings from 6 to 10 pm EST. *(Some forms are available in the TGIC Cub Room).*

Tiffany Club of New England - Computer Bulletin Board Service

Phone : (617) 899-3230 4 Lines - N81

On December 1st 1992, the Tiffany Club of New England went online with our Gender related BBS. This board has been designed to provide Information, Support and Education for our sisters in the Community.

TGIC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	Winnie B.
Vice President	Joan H.
Secretary	Joyce W.
Treasurer	Winnie B.
Director	Tina A.
Director	Ed H.
Director	Paul K.
Director	Sue M.

TGIC PUBLICATIONS

Transgenderists Independence Club (TGIC), PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604, Phone (518) 436-4513, is a nonprofit, educational, social support group for persons wishing to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of gender, including crossdressers, transexuals and their friends.

The Transgenderist

Bimonthly (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) to Members, Subscribers, prospective new members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications. Devoted to TGIC self-help and outreach to others, with original articles by Club members and local news of significant interest outside of our membership. Club business and other matters are limited to updates.

TGIC News

Bimonthly (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) to Members, Subscribers and prospective new members. Devoted to TGIC business and inreach from others, containing Club business matters, local news of little interest outside of our membership, selected reprints and other outside items such as clippings and cartoons.

TGIC MEMBERSHIP DUES

General Member	$40/yr
Couples	$45/yr
Key Club / large closet	$40/mo
Key Club / small closet	$30/mo
Key Club / attic storage	$15/mo

All the above categories include a one-year subscription to both TGIC News and The Transgenderist, mailed First Class.

Subscriptions:

The Transgenderist, 6 issues: $25
TGIC News, 6 issues: $25
Single copies of either: $5 each

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S. P. I. C. E.
The Most Important Crossgendered Community Conference of the 90's - July 8-11, 1992

Hi, I'm Carole, a crossgendered single male in my 30's. You may know me from my article series "Out of Carole's Closet" in *Gender EUPHORIA* (the Boulton & Park newsletter), or a piece called "Challenges of Living as a Crossgendered Heterosexual Single" in a recent *Femme Mirror* (Tri-Ess national magazine). The title of the latter, pretty much describes my current place in life. Hopefully, the crossgendered part is permanent (this is pretty much a given, although I wouldn't change it), and the single, isn't.

You may have heard about the upcoming S.P.I.C.E conference within our community. It's not a convention to: bolster sales of a "Sears store brand perfume", new line of lingerie, or even those leaves and funny colored potions you throw in to make those last minute food preparations palatable. S.P.I.C.E. stands for Spouses/Partners (female) International Conference for Education.

> S.P.I.C.E. is the first national convention dedicated to our spouses/partners and <u>not</u> primarily focused on those of us who are transgendered. For those of us who are transgendered and in a long-term relationship, our spouses/partners are very significant aspects of our lives and important to us. S.P.I.C.E. provides the opportunity for our spouses/partners to "work the issues through" and come to a better understanding of a relationship with a transgendered person. Even for those of us who are not in a long-term relationship, but someday hope to be, S.P.I.C.E. provides the assurance that support for your spouse or partner will be available to help your lives together to be richer and fuller, recognizing the positive contribution of your nature to the relationship. *[Gender EUPHORIA, November 1992, Vol VI, No 11, page 19]*

My personal view is that this event is the most significant milestone for the community for the decade. (Not to undervalue a host of important other community conferences.) To me it makes numerous statements.

The first is that we are NOT a bunch of perverts off in a closet; that our community is composed, in most cases, of wholesome individuals involved in relationships. (Not that you need to be in a relationship to be wholesome.) Our people would be considered "normal" in society, and in many cases, above average, other than for lack of societal acceptance of being cross or trans-gendered.

Secondly, it provides hope for people like me who are unattached, that enough understanding will develop in our society that this won't be a permanent condition. Like any understanding, it needs to develop one person at a time. Also, unless we as a group, can view the implications from the other side, view the issues from our spouses/partners perspective (in more than their shoes), how can we hope to create, sustain or strengthen such relationships?

As this is the first such conference, where generating momentum is a major undertaking, I view it as a top priority for our community to rally behind and support. This is especially important now, in it's conception phase. We can't afford to let it wait for five or ten conferences to succeed. Our community needs to get totally behind it immediately, especially within the current "moral majority" environment.

As all new things, there are those who doubt the success or importance of this conference, perhaps because they cannot see how it relates to them. I would like to try to dispel some of this rhetoric.

"Why would I let, or even encourage, my partner to ever attend S.P.I.C.E.?"

Your spouse or significant other deals with the transgendered issue 365 days a year like you (366 on leap year). Remember, all that guilt you had early on, it certainly was a burden for me. Finally you have gotten over it, or at least feel more comfortable being out with others like yourself (otherwise you wouldn't have come across this message) and started to deal with it in a constructive manner. Well, your partner didn't have to deal with it and had a choice, other than for yourself (the common link). Imagine for a moment their feelings. If you are like me, you still don't understand it completely and have moments of doubt... You and I have dealt with it our entire lives. Your partner hasn't! Their conscious or unconscious thoughts might include: "What will other people think of me that I promote, tolerate or even know about such behavior and stay in a relationship?" or, "I love them so much, why can't they get over it?".

I took a job in sales once selling a product which I was not confident in. As you guessed, it just didn't work out. Are you a confident enough salesperson to sell your partner that it is worth it, or that it is not as gray as it seems? Can you provide the understanding of people such as Cynthia [redacted]? Cynthia and Linda [redacted] have been happily married for thirty five years, they've counseled and helped hundreds of crossdressers, dedicating their lives to our community. Can you match the understanding reached in a discussion group with partners and professionals from all over the country, who can isolate your outside problems from those of gender dysphoria?

"No cross-dressing, besides it costs ninety five dollars."

"But they're not going to allow cross dressing at S.P.I.C.E.," is commonly heard when people talk about it, mostly the crossgendered males. To start with, it is a spouses/female partners conference. Do you realize how fortunate you are that you have a spouse who tolerates this to any degree, and that you have a chance of developing an understanding? I bet you know at least one personal story about a broken relationship which ended due principally due to cross dressing.

Also, times are difficult monetarily for many, however, if you look at the itinerary and cost compared to any other convention, you can see the motive is not profit.

If the transgendered person accepts the female image, and it goes deeper then a "sexual perversion", how can they deny their spouse some time to attend a conference for a weekend, even if they can't dress. Think of it as a chance to focus on the issues for all of us. It is just one weekend! If you're like most, your spouse/partner didn't know it when they got into the relationship. How about letting the other side have a little time? Are you worried they will talk her out of letting you cross-dress? Not likely. Just think how valuable it was for you to attend your first support group meeting, or receive literature from the community and share thoughts when you first came out. For me to get rid of the isolation was nothing but euphoric. Where does your partner have to go to talk about it? In many cases she is clearly instructed not to tell a soul. Which may be out of practically (financial security, protect the children and family, avoid embarrassment and harassment etc.). Just think what one weekend might do for your significant other to spend it "out of the closet". There are no guarantees, but she might not feel so isolated, or she might make a friend who has something in common.

"I could buy another dress or some more makeup, or a third pair of those shoes with the money."

In terms of financial resources at the last "T-Party", I observed over half of the outfits (at least for the formal events) cost more than the registration fee for S.P.I.C.E. Do you think it is too much to spend less than the price for one outfit to help your relationship?

"But I am single, why does the S.P.I.C.E. conference affect me?"

As a single crossgendered heterosexual male, it means that maybe someday efforts like S.P.I.C.E. will generate enough understanding in our society so you (and I) will meet someone who accepts it, or when the time comes, aid in bringing someone special to understanding. Also, you can help your peers, who are lucky enough to be in relationships, exhibiting the truly feminine quality of viewing yourself as a piece of something larger.

"You signed me up (I can only hope), what can I do?"

Get your spouse to attend. I hope I have persuaded some of you to allow or even encourage your spouse to attend. Maybe you can watch over the kids that weekend, to give your spouse a break. Hopefully the weekend will inspire your spouse to become more accepting, and bring you both closer together because you did something for her. (Who knows, she might even bring you home a nighty!)

Pass the word around the community, let's all rally behind this event. Why not develop a contingency in your support group to attend, perhaps traveling together (to reduce expenses), throw a fund raiser or a raffle with a registration fee as a prize, with proceeds to S.P.I.C.E? As for myself any donations to the "Texas T-Party" tag sale (beyond the 25% going to the Boulton & Park outreach fund); I am donating to the S.P.I.C.E. conference. Why not consider doing something similar.

For more information on S.P.I.C.E. (or to help), please write to:

Cynthia [redacted]
P.O. Box 17
Bulverde, Texas 78163

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POLICY: Short announcements and advertisements from Club Members are published free for two consecutive months (once each in TGIC News and The Transgenderist), unless cancelled by the originator or a specific request to continue is made.

GENDER-ORIENTED ART EXHIBITION

Dress Codes: The Art of Crossdressing
March 10 - May 30, 1993
Hours: Wed & Thur 12-9pm; Fri-Sun 12-5pm
Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)
955 Boylston Street, Boston, MA
(across from the Hynes Convention Center)
Phone (617) 266-5152

ICA is a world-class museum, the oldest institution dedicated to contemporary art. This special exhibition will feature visual art, video, film, performance, and educational programs. We are encouraged to attend and meet the public. Flyers with more information are available in the Club Room.

1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON, APRIL 25

for Lesbian, Gay & Bi Equal Rights and Liberation now specifically includes the Transgender movement, and refers to sexual identification, gender and gender expression in their Action Statement.
If you would like to participate or contribute, contact:
Capital District Committee, Phone 395-0591
PO Box 642
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Buses from the area are scheduled, April 24-25. Flyers with more information are available for perusal in the Club Room.

LOTS/NE

Loved Ones of Transsexuals / New England is a support group for the family and friends of transgendered persons. The first meeting was held on February 10 at IFGE in Waltham. For information, call (617) 894-8340.

ARTISTIC WRITING

Very creative personality wishes to meet others of like mind for fun, love, or whatever. Call (518) 456-3505, ask for Eric.

FOR SALE

Weighted synthetic breast forms. Everybody likes them! Sized per liquid ounces of water, 10, 12, 14, 16 ounce, etc. $40.00 per pair. Write to: Ed, Box 501, Williamstown, MA 01267.

HORMONES BOOK

The Club has copies of this book by Shiela Kirk for sale @ $8 if picked up in the Club room, or $9.50 by mail. Ask Winnie.

ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

Your regional HIV Counseling and Testing Program provides free HIV counseling and antibody testing, support and referral. No names will be asked. (NYS Health Department) ***Albany Area:*** (518) 486-1595 or 1-800-962-5065.

CALENDAR

Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30 - 10:30 pm. Some come earlier and stay later, but it is wise call if you are not a Keyholder or if it is your first visit. Come dressed either way, meet and talk with friends. Many continue to socialize at one of the Central Ave. night spots after the meetings.

FEBRUARY 1993

Feb. 18 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Literature evaluation
(Mar. News deadline)
Feb. 20 Saturday, 8 pm
Dinner Party, Northway Inn
Feb. 25 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Search for new members

MARCH 1993

Mar. 4 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
On being "read"
Mar. 11 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Introduction to "Love Bondage"
Mar. 18 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Sizing clothes
(Apr. News deadline)
Mar. 20 Saturday, 8 pm
Dinner Party, Northway Inn
Mar. 25 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Beard cover

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

Contact TGIC for more information. Some registration brochures are available in the Club Room

Feb. 26-28	*Texas "T" Party*, San Antonio
Mar. 14-21	*IFGE Convention*, Philadelphia
Apr. 23-25	*Moonlight in Manhattan*, New York
Apr 28-5/2	*California Dreamin'*, Burbank
Apr 29-5/2	*Poconos Fantasy Festival*
May 20-23	*Paradise in the Poconos*
May 20-24	*Dignity Cruise to Bahamas*
June 1-7	*Tiffany Club Spring Fling*, Provincetown, MA
June 9-13	*Be All You Want To Be*, Chicago, IL
July 9-10	*S.P.I.C.E. - Spouses / Partners International Conference for Education*, Dallas, TX

The TV-TS **Tapestry**

the journal for persons interested in crossdressing & transsexualism

150+ pages of informative articles by peers and professionals with updated listings on conventions, hotlines, counseling groups, medical and psychological referrals, and other helping professionals.

All for $12.00 an issue. Save $$$ with a subscription at $40.00 for four issues ($55.00 first class) and then you can submit a personal listing of your own as well as take advantage of *Tapestry's* mail-forwarding service. Send check or money order payable to I.F.G.E. to:

IFGE
P.O. Box 367
Wayland, MA 01778
(617) 894-8340

International Foundation for Gender Education

"I can't wait to get into your panty hose. They are one-size-fits-all, aren't they?"

Boulton and Park Society Fifth Annual

Texas 'T' Party

"Tea for Two"

February 26th - 28th, 1993
in San Antonio, Texas

Texas 'T' Party
P.O. Box 700042
San Antonio, TX 78270
(512) 545-3668
(Wed, 7:00-9:30pm CT)