IFGE NEWSLETTER
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION
SUMMER 1997, VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

IFGE Board of Directors Call For Nominations

Each year IFGE members (you!) have the opportunity to nominate individuals for the IFGE Board of Directors. Through nominating (and later voting for) qualified individuals who you feel best represent your constituency, perspective and desires for IFGE's present and future course, you have the ability to directly influence your organization's policy, as well as the services it provides to the TG community.

Board members are elected to three-year terms. They serve without compensation. The Board oversees and directs IFGE affairs. It establishes policy and provides for overall operation and management of the organization. It runs IFGE.

Board members may serve as chairpersons of IFGE's action committees, including Finance, Fundraising, Nominations, Awards, Publications, and Programs & Conventions committees.

IFGE holds four board meetings each year at different TG events around the country. IFGE board members must attend a minimum of two of these board meetings each year—at their own expense.

When considering potential nominees, please review whether they meet the following qualifications:

- Experience and/or competency in managing the policies of a growing, charitable organization.
- Commitment to the welfare of and service to the transgender community without consideration for personal gain.
- Pro-diversity attitude and commitment to serving the community without bias.
- Willingness to learn, sufficient self-awareness to recognize and avoid personal agendas.
- Ability to exercise patience and diplomacy In the forging of consensus.

The person you nominate should be someone you know well enough to endorse their ability to work constructively within IFGE.

Once you have determined whom you wish to nominate: 1) Send a letter of nomination to the IFGE Nominations Committee at the address below. 2) State why you feel they are qualified. 3) Include information on how we can contact the nominee. **Nominations without contact information will not be eligible for inclusion on the ballot.**

Remember, individuals who represent your views and interests can't be elected to next year's board if you don't nominate them.

Please send your nomination to IFGE Nominations Committee, P.O. Box 229, Waltham MA 02254-0229 or ifge@world.std.com.

IFGE Board of Directors Election Returns Announced

The outcome of balloting for the IFGE Board of Directors was announced at the quarterly IFGE BoD meeting. All members of the IFGE were given the opportunity to nominate and vote. The 1997 results were:

Re-elected for three-year terms: Alison Laing, Nancy Nangeroni, Abby Saypen, Yvonne Cook-Riley.

Appointed by Board ballot to three-year term: Terri Murphy.

Receiving one-year terms: (replacing resigned members): Jennifer Marquette, Jean Marie Stine, Pam Geddes, Kristine James.

Continuing with the Board: Linda Buten, Melissa Foster, Virginia Prince (honorary), Laura Caldwell, Holly Cross, Winnie Brant, Naomi Owen.

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IFGE *Newsletter*

Executive Director:
Alison Laing
Publications Director:
Jean Marie Stine
Director of Graphic Arts:
Mykael Hawley

Board of Directors
Chair: Linda Buten
Vice-Chair: Abby Saypen
Treasurer: Laura Caldwell
Secretary: Nancy Nangeroni

Pam Geddes; Melissa Foster; Yvonne Cook-Riley; Jean Marie Stine; Holly Cross; Jennifer Marquette; Winnie Brant; Terri Murphy; Naomi Owen; Kristine James; Alison Laing; Honorary Board Member, Lifetime: Virginia Prince.

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IFGE Membership

Basic Membership:
$25.00 per year.
Membership newsletter, IFGE ID, BoD voting privileges, and 10% discount on products.

Supporting Membership:
$100.00 per year.
Basic membership, 15% discount on IFGE products, and 10% discount on IFGE-sponsored events.

Benefactor Membership
$500.00 per year.
Supporting membership, 15% discount on IFGE sponsored events. **$400.00** will be treated as a contribution, and will be applied towards a Life Membership.

Life Membership:
$2,500.00.
A supporting membership for life, and is based on accumulated contributions.

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Notes From The Chair

Ringing in the New!

Linda Buten,
Chair of the Board, IFGE

In the past year or two, you have heard all about the changes at IFGE. The latest in this continuing saga is the installation of the new directors and appointments to the Board. I'm happy to announce that we have picked up five new directors that are already bringing in new ideas, and exciting, strong, hardworking desires to improve IFGE.

First, let tell you about the returning directors. Abby Saypen, Yvonne Cook-Riley, and Nancy Nangeroni have once again pledged three more years of their busy schedules to IFGE. This year Nancy's experience and dedication has earned her not only a position on the Executive Committee, but her peers have elected her as Secretary to the Board. It's certainly one of the most demanding, and sometimes thankless, jobs on the board. She is also the new Chair of the Nominations Committee. Even with a full plate, she plans to continue her radio talk show, her news column in Transgender magazine, and her outreach efforts in the political arena. Abby has been elected as vice-chair this year, and continues as Chair of the Building Committee and Winslow Street Fund. Abby also holds positions on the Membership, Fundraising, and Finance Committees. She and Sharon have recently moved to New Jersey. Yvonne continues to volunteer at IFGE in her spare time, and is very active in fundraising. She has spent many months helping Holly Cross get her affairs in order, and relocate to the west coast.

Alison Laing has also been elected to a three year term, but since she is still Executive Director, her position on the board is put in hiatus so there is no conflict of interest at this time. (By the way, Alison and Dottie have bought a home in Rhode Island, just an hour away from the IFGE office.)

In accordance to our by-laws, the newly seated board selects a fifth director for a three-year term. (There are a total of 15 directors, five three year terms are filled each year.) Terri Murphy from Atlanta has accepted this fifth position. She is a long-time supporter and contributor to IFGE, and is very active with the development and direction of the Southern Comfort Convention. She has jumped right in by accepting the Chair of IFGE's annual Coming Together convention.

We have three new faces on the board this year. All three are filling out the final year of a previous board member's term. One you are sure to recognize is Jean Marie Stine, the editor of *Transgender* and the current Chair of the Publications Committee and works with the day-to-day operations at IFGE, along with her assigned duties. A dear and long time friend of mine from Crossport has joined us this year. Jennifer Marquette brings experienced leadership qualities to the board, and has already joined with Terri Murphy to aid with the Convention. We have crossed the Canadian border and brought in Pamela Geddes to the board. The convention next year is in Toronto, and Pam's efforts, along with those of other Xpessions members, are the reason. She is a strong IFGE supporter, and brings many organizational skills that are desperately needed to the board room.

In other news, Laura Caldwell has been elected by the board as Treasurer for the current year. So you can see, we have all new Executive Officers except for me. I did however, lose some weight, sprout a new head of hair, and now tell everyone I am 33 years old, so I'm sort-of newish.

Our recent past Directors like Sheila Kirk, Eve Burchert, James Green, and Jane Ellen Fairfax are no longer on the active board mostly due to an overload of their schedules, but they have all been invited, and agreed to accept an honorary position on the board in an advisory capacity. I count on their continued support.

Holly Cross to West Coast

10 Years with IFGE

After ten years as a full-time volunteer at IFGE's Waltham Headquarters, Holly Cross is making a permanent move to Long Beach, California. Few figures are more beloved in the TG community; few more recognized; few have done as much to help encourage others as Holly Cross, who described herself with typical humor as, "the first post-op transvestite." A community fixture for more than two decades, Holly was a stalwart of the Tiffany Club, and came on board at IFGE as a volunteer, board member, and financial contributor almost from the get go.

Over the past decade, there have been few TG conferences or conventions Holly did not attend. From the Texas T Party to Fantasia Fair, to California Dreamin', to Southern Comfort, to Be All, and hundreds of gatherings in between. Wherever she went, Holly's many kindnesses to TG people, particularly newcomers, will long be remembered.

For ten years, it was Holly Cross who answered the phones at IFGE, who replied to correspondence, who filled requests for information on crossdressing, hormones, SRS, F2M issues and other matters. It has been said that for many TGs, *Transgender Tapestry* was their first introduction to the community. It can be truly said that for most of those individuals, Holly Cross was their first contact with another TG person.

A graduate of MIT, Holly Cross was licensed in just about every field of electromagnetic engineering. As an engineer with multiple specialties, Holly served in China and Puerto Rico for the military just after World War II. She is certainly one of the few people with all the equipment for an operating radio station in her basement.

A recipient of the Trinity Award and many other TG honors, Holly may have been proudest of last year's Miss P'town Award at Fantasia Fair, which she took with a Colonial era costume that would have done Betsy Ross proud. For that matter, Holly is very proud of her family's Colonial heritage for she is descended from one of New England's oldest families.

Holly had hoped to devote another decade of service to IFGE. However, a stroke last year slowed her down a bit, and her two-story home became too difficult to maintain alone. So, it's off to the Golden State, and a condo on the beach for Holly, and a well-deserved rest basking in the California sunshine.

However, the Boston area's loss is California's gain. For Holly will be visiting the many friends she's made on the west coast over the years. Here at IFGE, we only hope they appreciate her half as much as we do.

As she boarded her flight to Long Beach, Holly's last words were, "This has been the most exciting ten years of my life." They were ten of the most exciting years of IFGE's life, too, thanks in large part to the presence, efforts and penetrant humor of Holly Cross.

Farewell, Holly!

You will be missed!

Minutes of the Board

(Traditionally, the four yearly meetings of the of IFGE's Board of Directors are open to the public and all IFGE members are invited to attend. Since, practically speaking, not every member can attend, beginning with this issue of the newsletter, we will be reprinting the official minutes of each meeting, as kept by the Secretary [with a few emendations to protect the privacy of board members].)

Minutes of the Spring, 1997 Meeting of the IFGE Board of Directors, held April 20, 1997, at the California Unity Conference

Board members present: Linda Buten, Pam Geddes, Melissa Foster, Virginia Prince, Alison Laing, Yvonne Cook-Riley, Laura Caldwell, Abby Saypen, Jean Marie Stine, Holly Cross, Jennifer Marquette, Winnie Brant, Terri Murphy.

Board members absent: Naomi Owen, Kristine James.

Others present: Jane Ellen Fairfax, Sheila Kirk, Sharon Saypen, Marissa Richman, Eve Burchert, Pat Conover, Joan Hoff.

Leaving the Board: Michelle Martin, Eve Burchert, Lynn Walker, Maryann Kirkland.

Elected to three-year terms by membership ballot: Alison Laing, Nancy Nangeroni, Abbey Saypen, Yvonne Cook-Riley

Appointed to three-year term: Terri Murphy

Receiving One Year Terms by membership ballot (replacing resigned members): Jennifer Marquette, Jean Marie Stine, Pam Geddes, Kristine James.

The following board offices were filled: Board Chair, Linda Buten by acclamation; Vice Chair, Abbey Saypen by acclamation; Secretary, Nancy Nangeroni by acclamation; Treasurer, Laura Caldwell by acclamation.

The following were appointmented to the Executive Committee: the four officers named above (by Massachuetts state law), plus Melissa Foster, Pam Geddes, Jennifer Marquette.

Business: It was determined that the following be given some special position, perhaps Honorary Board Member, with their positions to be renewed yearly at the Board's discretion: James Green, Jane Ellen Fairfax, Eve Burchert. What specifically this title should be was tabled for review.

Board Members were reminded to keep their memberships up to date. Any board member not paid up may be removed from the board.

Nancy noted that she will be making, with the help of other board members, proposals for changes to the by-laws to bring them up to date with current board membership and practice.

Storage and disposition of the archival properties at IFGE was discused. It was clearly stated by the board that these should, at least for now, remain in IFGE's possession until such time as it becomes clear how best to ensure their continued availability to the community.

Alison Laing resigned from her voting position, stating that she wished to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest. Linda asserted our agreement that Alison may return to a voting position anytime she is called upon to do so. There was discussion of the propriety of allowing IFGE employees to hold Board positions. Terri Murphy pointed out that, although the bylaws allow for up to three employees to be Directors, in other organizations this is considered a prohibitive conflict of interest. Nancy pointed out that both Jean Marie and Alison have been scru-

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THE CALIFORNIA UNITY CONFERENCE

400 Transfolk Can't be Wrong!

April 15-20, 1997 were red-letter days for IFGE and the entire TG community. Nearly 400 transgendered individuals and their supporters gathered at Long Beach, California's Hotel *Queen Mary*, once one of the most fabled of ocean liners before being dry-docked as a hostelry. The occasion was California Unity, the 11th Annual IFGE Conference combined with the regional California Dreamin' convention.

It can modestly be said that there has never been a gender event to equal it. And no wonder! Cal Unity was the result of the joint efforts of no less than nine participating organizations: IFGE, PPOC, Diablo Valley Girls, Neutral Corner, Androgyny, the Transgender Menace (Southern California), Born Free, Pathfinders, and ETVC.

Just consider these staggering statistics: almost 400 attendees; three tiers of programming (see accompanying stories), each amounting almost to a separate conference within the conference: 1) the main program with material of interest to almost every one who attended; 2) a program for spouses and significant others; 3) a "masculinities" program designed especially for F2Ms; three unforgettable galas, including two glamorous awards ceremonies, where worthy TG individuals and supporters were honored with more than one dozen awards: The Alicia Lichty, Virginia Prince, Trinity, FTM International, Diversity, and *Transgender Tapestry* awards. (See accompanying stories.)

Thursday night, the Jim Bridges Salon hosted an IFGE membership fundraiser that will go down in history. Moviestar-handsome in a white tux, Jim presented a series of knockout performances by headliners from the biggest drag/FI shows in town. Friday night saw attendees turned out in their stunning best for an annual PPOC/Cal Dreamin' Award Banquet that will long be remembered! Saturday night mixed entertainment and edification, as mistress of ceremonies J.J. Allen, sequins flaming, steered the evening between award presentations and one of the most beautiful and fabulous singers ever to perform at a TG conference.

As for the *Queen Mary* itself, the hotel proved such a fabulous and TG-friendly place that during the conference the California Dreamin' Organizing Committee voted to hold the Cal Dreamin' convention there in the year 2000. The boat/hotel itself was luxurious, historic, exciting and boasted three world-class restaurants, each more superb than the last. The staff was even more wonderful, impressing TGs with their professionalism, courtesy and gender-supportive attitude.

Over in what once served as the cargo hold is today a three-level conference center, where Cal Unity's daytime events were held. The main level housed registration, our many wonderful and supportive vendors, booths sponsored by various national and regional TG groups, tables laden with informational brochures and announcements for forthcoming conferences, a professional caricaturist, and the press booth. On the second level, straight from Europe, was the display for the first U.S. showing of the Magnus Hirschfeld Exhibit. (See accompanying story.) The lower level of the conference center hosted panels, workshops and other exciting presentations.

Throughout the five delightful days of Cal Unity, participants enjoyed near round-the-clock conversation, education, outreach, entertainment, receptions, banquets, and other festivities. Old friends met, new friends were made; the joy, pride and excitement of being TG were very much evident.

Whether you couldn't join us for Cal Unity, or whether you were fortunate enough to be an attendee, come to IFGE's 12th Annual conference, Crossing Borders, to be held May 24-29, 1998, in scenic Toronto, in conjunction with our Canadian co-hosts, Xpressions, is shaping up to be even more exciting!

[Rewritten from dispatches in California Unity: The Newsletter, "Edited, written and misspelled and mispunctuated by Jean Marie Stine, IFGE, and Frankie Hill American Boyz."]

CAL UNITY F2M PROGRAM BIG HIT

California Unity's F2M-oriented Masculinities Program amounted almost to a separate conference under the convention umbrella. Sponsored by IFGE, FTM International, FTMCEP, Genderqueer Boyzzz, and Under Construction, it provided our West Coast brothers with a conference venue in a year when the FTM International Convention will be held on the East Coast (Boston, MA, where it will be in part sponsored IFGE). The Masculinities Program was organized by Jacob Hale, Spencer Bergstedt, and James Green, and drew more than fifty participants to the *Queen Mary*. Among the highlights of this tier of programming were: the Sexualities Rap Sessions; the Dark Sides of Masculinity; Our History: Community Formation; Relationships: Work, Family, Partners, Friends, and Fellow Travelers; Body Modification: Surgery and Alternatives; Our Political Future: Gender Identity Disorder Reform; and The Emergence of the FTM Community (a Mariette Pathy Allen slide show). Presenters and panelists included: Guy Baldwin, Jordy Jones, C. Julian Leonard, L.R. Smithline, Max Fuhrmann, Jude Patton, Michael Sistrunck, Jason Cromwell, Jerry Kellen McCracken, Bronwen McGarva, Tony Barreto-Neto, Daphne Sholinski, and Sky Renfro. For attendees starved by the dearth of available material and information, the California Unity Masculinities Program appeared to be a major success.

SPOUSES AND S.O. WORKSHOPS CAL UNITY SUCCESS

Dozens of wives and significant others gathered at California Unity for a special tier of programming just for them. Coordinated by Sandra Cole, Ph.D., and Lynda Helfend, Ph.D., the sessions aimed at helping wives and significant others successfully meet the special challenges of transgender relationships. Activities included trips to local shopping malls and the fabulous J. Paul Getty Art Museum, along with breakfasts and workshops such as Practical and Creative Solutions for Partners; Expectations: the Grieving involved with Changes; What Is All This Commotion About Boundaries?; Sex: Who Is Going to Wear the Night Gown?; and others. For those whose partners were TG, it was an unparalleled opportunity to meet with two warm, sympathetic therapists with years of experience in successfully counseling couples living in TG relationships. Spouses just learning of their partner's transgender nature said they also appreciated the chance to meet and learn from spouses who had discovered the silver-linings behind what at first appeared to be a cloud. Attendees expressed their enthusiasm and reported the S.O. Symposium was a major step forward in their personal lives.

Awards, Awards, Awards, Awards, Awards

11TH ANNUAL TRANSGENDER AWARDS CEREMONY HOSTED BY IFGE

FTM International president James Green, radio talk show hostess Nancy Nangeroni, TG pioneer Virginia Prince, Tri-Ess' Eve Burchert, *Man in the Red Velvet Dress* author J.J Allen, deputy sheriff Tonye Barretto-Neto, GenderPac ex. dir. Riki Anne Wilchins, PPOC pres. Joan Goodnight, Xerox Corp. representatives Carolyn Dennison and Jayne Moyer, Sheila Kirk, M.D., photographer/artist Mariette Pathy Allen, and *Transgender Tapestry* editor-in-chief Jean Marie Stine were just some of the presenters and recipients on stage during the 11th Annual Transgender Awards Ceremony hosted by IFGE. Sharing the podium with IFGE-bestowed awards, were the first annual FTM International Awards and the announcing of the annual Winslow Street Grants. (See accompanying stories.) The evening's glittering events were kept moving by the evening's glittering mistress of ceremonies, J.J. Allen.

VIRGINIA PRINCE AWARD TO EVE BURCHERT

The Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award honors a member of the transgender community who has given a lifetime to the community. It honors our leaders, founders, and pioneers who have provided the effort as well as the inspiration over a period of years. It honor our sisters and brothers who created the TG community's history. The 1997 Virginia Prince Award was conferred on Eve Burchert for an outstanding life devoted to bettering the status of the TG community. Since joining Tri-Ess in 1965, Eve has been active in the Chi Chapter of Chicago, holding leadership offices. She may be best known as an articulate public spokesperson for the gender community. Since 1980, Eve has made over 200 appearances on television, before university and college classes, at professional seminars, and with groups of law enforcement officers. For many years, she coordinated the Fashion Show and starred in the Follies at Fantasia Fair, and served on the board of The Outreach Institute. Eve has been on the board of IFGE, and chaired the Educational Resources Committee. With roots in Europe, she has been active in international outreach. Eve is a tireless worker for all transgendered people and organizations.

1997 TRINITY AWARDS PRESENTED

The Trinity Awards are the TG community's Nobel Prize. It is to acknowledge our heroes and heroines, people who have performed extraordinary acts of love and courage. Its recipients can be community members or non-members, medical or mental health professionals, or even organizations and services. The 1997 Trinity Award recipients were:

Nancy Nangeroni
Linda Buten
Vern Bullough, Ph.D.

THE *TRANSGENDER TAPESTRY* EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

The *Transgender Tapestry* Editor's Choice Awards were created to honor positive portrayals of the transgender community in mainstream media. 1997 winners included

Xena: Warrior Princess
("Here She Comes... Miss Amphipolis")

Nash Bridges (Episode #5, 4/19/96, "Javelin Catcher")

Loren Cameron
(*Body Alchemy*, Cleis Press)

ALICIA LICHTY AWARDS GIVEN AT CAL UNITY

The Annual Alicia Lichty Siprit of California Annual Awards, traditionally conferred at the California Dreamin' Conference, were presented at a special Friday night banquet, hosted by PPOC and the California Dreamin' Organizing Committee. The Alicia Lichty Awards are ech conferred on individuals and organizations that have made outstanding and unselfish contributions to the California Gender Community. the 1997 Alicia Lichty winners were: Betsi Reyna, for founding the spouses and S.O. group, Pathfinders; the Powder Puffs of Orange County (PPOC,) for their ten years of service to all segments of the TG community; the Pathfinders, for its efforts to support and educate women in transgender relationships; IFGE and Alison Laing for outstanding community service on a national level. Kudos on four awards well earned!

PARTNERS IN DIVERSITY AWARDS

The Partners in Diversity Award honors organizations and companies that actively encourage and support workplace diversity, regardless of gender-orientation, racial background, sexual-orientation, and so on. The 1997 winner was:

Xerox Corporation
Received by Carolyn Dennison
& Jayne Moyer
Presented by Michelle Martin, Past Chair,
IFGE Diversity Awards

1ST ANNUAL F2M INTERNATIONAL AWARDS PRESENTED AT IFGE

This year, James Green, President of FTM International, inaugurated a new series of awards on behalf of FTM International and the FTM community at the IFGE California Unity Conference. The FTM International Pride award has been created to honor members of the community whose activities embody the pride of being a transman. The FTM International Community Service/Outreach Award honors those who have given whole-heartedly to the betterment and furtherance of transgendered and transsexual lives, especially those issues pertaining to transmen. The 1997 winners were:

The FTM International Pride Award
Loren Cameron

The FTM International Outreach Award:
Jason Cromwell

1997 WINSLOW STREET FUND GRANTS MADE

At the Eleventh Annual IFGE Awards Banquet, Abby Saypen, trustee of the Winslow Street Educational Fund, presented $4,000 in grants to various transgender endeavors.

The 1997 recipients were:
$1000 to the annual Spouses and Partner's International Conference for Education **(SPICE)** in memory of Ellen Sommers
$1000 to **Riki Anne Wilchins,** for her work with GenderPpac
$1000 to IFGE's **Synchronicity traveling bookstore**
$500 to the **Magnus Hirschfeld Exhibit**
$500 to the **3rd FTM Conference** of the Americas, Boston, Massachusetts
Congratulations to all concerned!

From the Executive Director's Desk

Ten Years of Heroines, Heroes, and Helpers

Alison Laing

The fact that IFGE has completed our Eleventh Annual Convention means we are ten years old. And what a decade it has been! At the California Unity Convention, the Founder of IFGE, Merissa Sherrill Lynn was, once again, recognized as being the person about whom it can be said, "None of us would be here if it wasn't for her." Merissa and IFGE will be forever linked, as it was she who shared her vision of what IFGE was to be. We who carry on will always be grateful to her and the many others who did whatever they could to create, sustain, and assist IFGE in becoming a significant factor in the transgender community.

In the past year, several of the long-term leaders and workers of IFGE have either retired or reduced their involvement substantially. Among those who have stepped down from the Board of Directors are Eve Burchert, Jane Ellen Fairfax, James Green and Sheila Kirk. These people have truly made a major contribution to IFGE, and to the TG community. James (President of FTM International) and Jane Ellen (Chair of the Board of Tri-Ess) will continue to serve their own organizations, as well as remaining in contact with the IFGE Board as Honorary Directors. Sheila remains as the IFGE Director of Medical Liaison and Medical Research. Eve, too, will remain as an Honorary Member of the Board and continue her efforts in education and outreach. Holly Cross, who still has a year before completing her current term on the Board, is retiring after ten years as a volunteer at IFGE. And all these folks actually payed (through donations and memberships) for the privilege of doing volunteer work for IFGE.

But these aren't the only heroines and heroes of IFGE. If you truly believe in the dream, you too can and will put your heart and soul into it. Each of us must find out how and how much we can be part of this vision. Some folks can barely make the minimum membership payment, but we and they know it still helps. Others have upped their membership level, made financial contributions and have volunteered to come to IFGE to help us move, work with computers, stuff envelopes, or whatever.

There are wonderful local folks like Blanche, Penni and Daphne, who volunteer by taking on a job and doing the whole task routinely week after week. Or, like Frankie Hill and Elizabeth Campbell who will take on a one shot task, like assisting at our annual convention, and do it well. Or, Karen and Jayne, and many others, who come to the aid of IFGE when substantial funds are needed for specific tasks. Without listing them, the paid professional staff at IFGE, all put in far more effort for far less pay because their hearts are in this work. All these folks, and many, many others, are the heroines, heroes and helpers of IFGE

So what can you do to be a heroine, a hero or a helper? First, if you have not yet renewed your 1997-8 membership, do so now and save IFGE, and some other helper, the cost and effort of mailing out a reminder to you later on. Second, see if you can find others willing to join and support this noble undertaking. Third, keep the staff aware of what's going on in the other organizations and how we can be of better help and service. Finally, find ways in which you can volunteer and contribute your time or money to help us carry on this important effort.

For us to achieve the lofty goals of educating all people about the need for freedom of gender expression, we need a lot of help. We are looking for a lot of really good heroines, heroes and helper. Won't you be one?

CALIFORNIA UNITY SHOWS TRUE COMMUNITY

From the initial contacts in 1995 by IFGE leaders Linda Buten and Laura Caldwell with Joan Goodnight, Director of California Dreamin', to the final hugs and handshakes between Joan and Alison Laing after the convention, it was evident that a joint convention was an opportunity to show what can be done when there is true community spirit.

Not only did PPOC, the prime factor in California Dreamin' in past years, become an integral part of the California Unity Convention, along with key individuals from almost a dozen other California organizations, it played a significant role in producing this extremely complex event. The list of folks who took on various tasks, and those who pitched in to help when there was a real need is far to long to be included here.

However, in addition to the IFGE staff persons who were there, there are a number of volunteers who worked on major tasks who must be recognized. The Convention co-chairs, Joan Goodnight and Alison Laing acknowledge with special appreciation the lead people from the California team. They include J.J. Allen, Laura Ashton, Patti Barton, Diane Drake, Dee Grady, Richelle Griffith, Jacob Hale, Kathy Helms, Lisa Robinson, Jeri Thompson, Betsi and Arlene Reyna, Sue Simms, C.J. Wisk-Parr, Loren Winger, Kathy Swarthout, Chrissie and Becki Wisemore and Melanie and Rena Yarbourough. Special thanks to Melissa Foster, an IFGE board member and resident of Southern California and Christine Hochberg also of Southern California.

The California Unity team and the IFGE Board is also grateful to the staff of The Hotel Queen Mary who tirelessly dealt with the continuous changes and issues that arose. While the entire hotel staff, as attendees can attest, was very cooperative, the convention team especially acknowledges Steve Marraccini, The Hotel Queen Mary Convention Manager, for his personal interest and understanding.

It takes a lot of good people to produce a convention, but even more than people, it requires personal dedication, cooperation, understanding and an incredible amount of patience. At best, producing an event such as this is no picnic. Being produced by so many people and so many organizations with half the team a continent away is proof positive of the power of Unity in Community.

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pulously well-behaved in this regard, and closed the discussion by pointing out that as crossdressers we are all exceptions to the rule, and that allowing for exceptions to the rule is an integral part of our community. Nancy noted that she will be making, with the help of other board members, proposals for changes to the by-laws to bring them up to date with current board membership and practice.

Pat Conover was appointed Liaison to the Religious Community.

Publications report: Jean Marie has written an exhaustive publications report which all board members will be receiving soon. Alison and Nancy commended her for her excellent report, which they had seen in advance.

Membership report: Joan Hoff reports average membership amount is up from $50 to $60, and the number of people upgrading from regular ($25) to supporting ($100) is double the number downgrading from supporting to regular. Alison reports 24 new memberships gathered at this convention, including one $500 membership.

Executive Director: Alison Laing reports very positive bookstore results, and a strong need for better financial support, in particular not drawing from proceeds to the point of not having money for inventory. There was discussion about the need to provide for inventory, and the need to meet weekly expenses. It was agreed all around that supplying the bookstore with inventory is a high priority. Alison mentioned a merchandise idea for a "Trans Vest" that could serve as a vehicle for "patch" sales. Alison reports sale of *Transgender* back page advertising to CDS Publications. The convention is a big attendance success.

Crossing Borders, the 1998 IFGE convention, to be held in Toronto, Canada, is on track. Pam Geddes says, "You'll all just love Toronto." The 1999 conference is slated for New Orleans.

IFGE has been a principal supporter of the Hirschfeld Exhibit which will tour the country, and to which IFGE's name will be attached.

Nancy Cain and Laura Caldwell are putting in place a new system for tracking advertising in *Transgender* magazine.

Alison asserted the following needs: a Diversity Chair to supervise the Diversity Award. The next newsletter should carry a prominent solicitation for a Diversity Award manager. Alison reports that, since she and Dottie are moving to Rhode Island, she can now continue indefinitely as Executive Director, and anticipates increased participation. Terri Murphy volunteered to manage IFGE operations for the next convention, in partnership with Alison, who will manage programs. Terri brings considerable successful experience from running the Southern Comfort convention. Pam Geddes from Toronto will attend and assist at the next Southern Comfort, and manage local responsibility for IFGE Toronto.

Wills and trusts manager: Abby and Sharon agreed to take over responsibility for this.

Fundraising committee report: Abby Saypen reports that Karen Adler has agreed to assist in fundraising efforts for IFGE. Alison reports that following the convention, she will set her attention on fundraising. We are all reminded that it is the Board's primary responsibility to do fundraising to provide the staff with the money to do the work of IFGE. Nancy Nangeroni reports that she, with the help of Laura Caldwell and the office staff, is on the way to having a complete grant application package. Pam Geddes raises the question of whether having the word "Foundation" in the name raises inappropriate expectations, i.e., that IFGE is in the business of funding other efforts. Alison committed to presenting a fundraising plan at the next board meeting.

Facility management report: Thus far, no progress on finding a new facility. Alison and Laura have been working with Nancy Cain. Sublet of some part of the building is also being considered.

Nominations and awards report: The chair appointed Nancy Nangeroni responsible for Board of Directors nominations. Winnie Brant remains responsible for awards nominations.

Finance committee report: Laura Caldwell reports a new CPA, Theresa Creeden, of Sandberg, Gonzalez & Creeden, P.C. She is very experienced in our type of business and reasonably price. We are preparing for an audit this year to comply with current tax laws. Bookstore inventory is very low, and will be replenished following the convention.

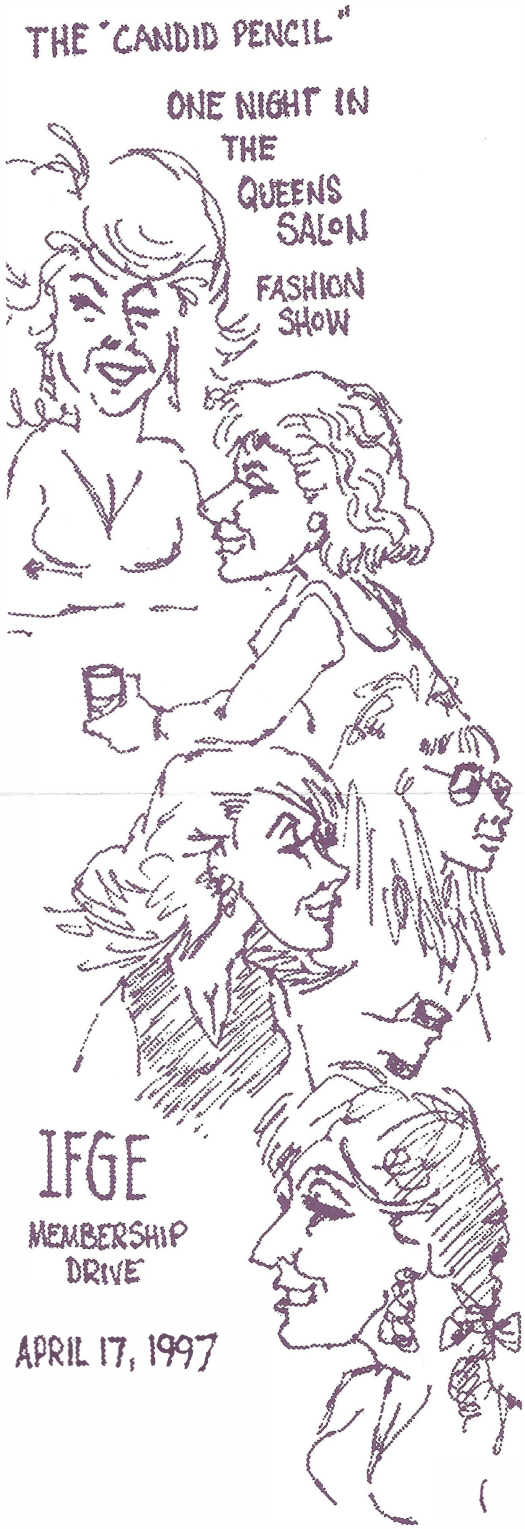
Membership committee report: Memberships running well ahead of projections. Other numbers seem OK, but change from cash to accrual accounting system puts our numbers in a transitional state that obscures performance temporarily. Laura expressed frustration that the numbers don't reflect the positive results that are happening.

The meeting concluded at 12:15 PM, a new world record for efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Nangeroni, Secretary

(The next IFGE Board of Directors meeting well be held June 7, 1997, at the Be All in Chicago, Illinois. Please attend, if you can.)



Cartoon By Darla

IFGE CAL UNITY EFFORTS SAVED BY BIG-HEARTS

Our eternal gratitude to four community stalwarts with big hearts who leapt into the breech and volunteered almost all of their own convention time to running the registration desk and assuming other onerous duties, when it became apparent that we were a bit shorthanded on help at the conference site. These four selfless individuals are: Dotty Laing, of Fantasia Fair fame; Linda and Cynthia Phillips, founders of Texas' Bolton and Park Society; and Frankie Hill, co-founder of the Boston chapter of the American Boyz.

Equal accolades are due Joan Hoff and Daphne Prideaux, two IFGE volunteers from our Waltham HQ who paid their own fare and conference expenses, and then gave up their time to lend additional hands at the registration desk and IFGE-sponsored functions.

Nor should we slight Elizabeth Campbell and Laura Cauldwell, who helped with registration, manned the telephones, and in general made themselves invaluable as part of IFGE's whole conference team.

Because of their efforts, some 400 transfolk and their supporters reported having a wonderful time at Cal Unity.

Thank You!

THE HIRSCHFELD EXHIBIT

Attendees at California Unity were privileged to see the Magnus Hirschfeld Exhibit on the first stop of its U.S. tour. The exhibit has already drawn tens of thousands of visitors in Europe. Thanks in large part to contributions from Cal Unity, IFGE, PPOC, 3-D Communications, and Karen Adler. The Exhibit, compiled by the Germany-based Magnus-Hirschfeld-Gesellschaff e.V., presents a vast treasure trove of unpublished documents, photographs, and texts from the files of the pioneer German sexologist and sexual reformer. Magnus Hirschfeld (1868-1935) was one of the first to studygender-variant people with a non-judgmental, supportive approach, and he wrote a ground-breaking study, Transvestites: The Erotic Drive to Crossdress. The book is still in print.

Hirschfeld's Institute for Sexual Science opened July 6th, 1919, Berlin, Germany. Its stated purpose was gathering and performing biomedical research on human sexuality, particularly what Hirschfeld called "sexual transitions" (e.g. homosexuals, transvestites, hermaphrodites, and eventually transsexuals as the condition became recognized).

The Hirschfeld Exhibit offers a unique look at the lives of turn-of-the-century transvestites, transsexuals, gays, and other "sexual transitions."

Hirschfeld's work has had a long-lasting influence on American sexology, where many of his collaborators later pursued their work. Hirschfeld visited the USA in 1892 and in 1931. His visit stimulated American scientists like Harry Benjamin, a friend and colleague, who built on Magnus Hirschfeld's studies in his own work with transsexuals.

Hitler's Nazi regime denounced Hirschfeld and his Institute as Jewish, social democratic and immoral. In 1933, they raided the Institute, destroyed its records and burned down its building. Hirschfeld fled the country and attempted to reestablish the Institute elsewhere, but died three years later, at least partly of a broken-heart.

Those who did not attend California Unity can view selected materials from the Exhibit at their web site: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/Homepages/Hirschfeld.

IFGE depends on memberships for a significant portion of its income. If you have an interest in gender issues, please join. IFGE is a registered 501 (c)3 non-profit organization. And our members receive special benefits like: a quarterly newsletter presenting news of IFGE and the community, voting privileges, and a 10% discount on IFGE books and the products of more than two dozen vendors.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete this form and

JOIN IFGE TODAY!

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Membership Type: Basic ___ $25 Supporting ___ $100 Benefactor ___ $500

Payment Enclosed $_____ Check# _____

MC/VISA#_____ Exp. Date_____

Confidentiality

* All packages are plainly wrapped for your comfort. The return address merely includes: P.O. Box 229, Waltham, MA 02254-0229
* We do not share our database with anyone, thus no unwanted mail.
* Your name will be deleted from our database at any time with a written request.
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You will receive a numbered membership card. Your membership number must be used when ordering products to receive applicable discounts.

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