The Channel
TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

August 2001 "Real" Millennial Issue! Volume 20, Issue 8

TGSF Pride is Transtastic!

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

The Channel

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

ExCom 2001 - 2002 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President ..... Aiyana Eveningstar
Vice President ..... Rachael Janelle
Secretary ..... Janis Ryan
Treasurer ..... Stephanie Ann Blythe
Education ..... Ally Grillo
Outreach ..... Kalani Makanani
Social ..... Tianna Marie DeVil / Savannah

Membership Report

Current Membership as of:

4/30/01 251
5/31/01 213
6/30/01 198
7/31/01 196

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

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

Newsletter Staff

Editor ..... Ayme Michelle Kantz
Advertising ..... Inquiries to TGSF Excom
Contributing Photographers, this Issue: ..... Rachael Janelle and Telzey Adams

Ad Rates

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

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

WWW.TGSF.ORG
NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

FROM THE EDITOR...

I'm sitting here feeling rather smug, satisfied with myself. It seems the squeaky wheel does, indeed, get the grease - as evidenced by the excellent letters that I have begun to receive from the Membership (see Reader's Respond beginning on Page 8). Certainly my remarks the past few months could be construed as harsh or disruptive, at least controversial. In trying to spur some reaction, or at least raise your level of awareness, I willingly set myself up as a target for a major flame war. But I am most pleased to see that our authors have chosen to respond to the issues raised, and not to me personally. For that, I thank them - I'm extremely proud of you. You have validated my art and for that I am grateful.

Cross Dressers and Transsexuals alike are expressing their opinions, and it seems to me the underlying current for them all is one of unity and purpose (or the lack thereof). We're all aware of the problems the complex and diverse TG community faces to some degree, not the least of which is finding a common voice. Yet despite the underlying need to express or define our gender (in whatever form or level of competence), which is the very foundation of our unity - it is the wide range of these expressions that come to divide us.

Differences, Or Diversity...

I heard a joke on a listserv the other day. At a party, how can you tell the difference between a CD and a TS? The TS is the one wearing comfortable shoes.

I had the pleasure of exchanging some email with a TGSF member, a CD, discussing why there seems to be so much animosity between the two factions. We concluded that a lot of it stems from "passing" issues - the need (or lack of) to pass, the competence in passing, going to all the trouble to pass as convincingly as possible, and then getting pegged when in the company of others who don't pass as well. Surrounding the issue of passing (as we examined the reason why this defined the difference between a CD and a TS), is one's level of commitment, particularly the investment of time and one's personal sense of self-worth.

I made the comment to my friend that many TS's feel "guilty by association" when in the presence of CD's, and that this causes resentment in the TS. After all the time and trouble a TS takes to mainstream, they're Read in a flash and all that work's been for nothing. It's smacks of insecurity. It's not a rational reaction. It's one inspired by fear. It shames me to say that I've been guilty of it myself. I suppose it boils down to acceptance and confidence in one's self. If you can love who you are, wherever you are on the gender scale, then you can accept the differences in those around you. Webster's may have a different definition of "maturity," but that one seems to work for me.

My friend said the same thing happens among CD's. By the perceived levels of self-presentation, wedges are driven between the have's and have not's, A "pecking order" develops, based on how well you pass and how developed your perceived gender's socializing skills are. She pointed out that "it is a common human behavior to try to gain self respect by 'putting others down.' It's very common, but it is also an unreasonable tactic, and one that holds no value."

The flow of our discussion naturally led into the reason and purpose for organizations like TGSF. I'd like to quote her here:

Continued on Page 3

Letters To The Family - Let Me Out Of Here!

Or, How I Spent My Summer Vacation

By Aiyanna Eveningstar

First off I want to thank all of you who came down to fishermen's wharf and gave time and effort to make this year's float, especially those of you who could not walk with us because of other commitments. Rachael Janelle and I especially would like to thank my best friend Lichen who worked like a dog along with me for three long days making a float out of scraps that we had laying around so the float cost next to nothing.

Lichen is a member of our group in support for all expressions and variations of gender. Lichen has worked with me on all the productions I have been involved with and donated the use of his sound system this year for the pride parade. He was supposed to be to be our D.J on the float, but both he and I were too late to catch the start time for reasons I don't care to go on with here. Not enough space.

Didi got some television airplay and an award (which she deserves for walking in those shoes). A view of the contingent and float was cut off as T.V 20 went to commercial without using any of the press material that we had supplied. I was following about three blocks behind with the TGSF banner in my hands. I never caught up to our group until the very end of the parade.

As I tried to catch up, at first I was not feeling so good. How could I let myself miss the parade?! I was kind of kicking myself down the street, in a funk, not thinking good thoughts. As I got into an area where there was a space between contingents, I realized people were cheering for me simply because I was walking in the parade. Although I might be a stereotype of TG person some people would like to see less of, i.e., I dress outrageous, like bright colors, seductive clothes and shoes, feathers, and even enjoy any form of talent including lip-sync.

I was being encouraged by a lot of people: "nice dress-you're beautiful" they were yelling at me. I started waving back. More cheers! Their appreciation was unconditional. They didn't know the reasons that had brought me where I was feeling the way I was. But they encouraged me just for making the effort. Like an expression of ultimate love it lifted me. I felt I was part of a greater humanity that I had cut myself off from with my own negative thoughts.

There is a dysfunctional member in my blood family. Whenever I go home I have to deal with the anger that she makes well up in all my relatives and myself. There is no way of making this person see that all the abuse, hatred, and lies are just creating a gulf that can't be bridged with trust. A person could argue until they were blue in the face and never reach a common ground. The more one talks the worse it gets.

It fell to me that at some point I was going to have to tell this person about the death of my mother and why they were not included in her funeral without showing a great amount of hatred. A wise older woman gave me some very Zen advice. She said to pray that in every way that their life could get better and tell them so. In that way the positive takes precedent over the negative. Getting rid of that negative outlook saved me from being consumed by it. That positive energy can be used as a tool to carry myself to new awareness and ideas. We need to switch our thinking from can't to can, from don't to do, and show a little faith in ourselves.

By the way the title of this article has nothing to do with it's content. If anyone wants to know how I almost didn't get out of South Dakota, let's have a drink together and I'll tell you the story.

From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

"My concern is that the groups (including TGSF) continue to provide support for those new to being 'out of the closet.' Each [member offering] encouragement to everyone trying to present themselves in the manner that they feel appropriate for their perceptions of their own gender, and [for those] trying to improve such self-presentation. I was most appreciative of the assistance I got when I first came out, and continue to listen to suggestions. I, also, was of the understanding that TGSF (ETVC) was formed for such reasons." She went on to say:

"You speak of insecurity felt by many TS's, and I can understand that also. No matter where we are in the spectrum of gender identity, that insecurity is often underlying our self-confidence and doing ourselves emotional damage. We are not alone in this behavior. Almost everyone does it to some extent—it's part of the human experience. I see a larger problem as well, that of the attitudes that are prevalent in our USA society (I refer to them as Judeo-Christian notions of what is right and what is wrong to do or be). Such is something about which others can give help only marginally—it has to come from inside the person who is trying to perfect their self-presentation. The problem arises when someone tries to blame someone else for their own issues which are their own responsibility."

Sounds like good, adult common sense to me. I'm hoping that by sharing these snippets of our dialogue with you, Dear Reader, that my friend and I inspire a little self-exploration within you. Examine your feelings. Look well upon those things that you feel are "holding you back," or that make you uncomfortable. Know your limitations. Emphasize your strengths. And share your fears with others. Welcome others to share theirs with you. We're all in this together, somehow, on one level or another. The past is all that's gone, and the future is yet to come. So this is only us, inside, living at the moment. Now is forever.

Well what the hell does that mean, you ask? OK, so I got esoteric on ya for a moment, but seriously my friends, it all comes from within. It is the one thing that will heal us as a community. There is a perceived fracture of interests and direction for TGSF, a rift that needs mending. I don't think it's that bad, really - no blood, no foul, right? But yes, I do think we all could do a better job of being non-judgmental and more welcoming of the diversity we each bring to the table.

So how do we do that? Well, actions speak louder than words. I need not tell you what to do. I think that, after reading the rest of this issue, you'll form your own game plan. And I also think that the key word that should register in your heart is "participation." Even if you're deep in the closet and can't dare to go out en femme (or vice versa as the case may be), find your way to a TGSF event. You can make a friend there, or find a confidante, or get information you need. You can even support others just by being there - there's strength in numbers, you know. And if a public appearance just isn't in the cards for you, participate in other ways - write me a letter. I've harped in previous columns about what our members can do in lieu of attending social activities. But please - participate to one extent or another. You'll be the happier for it and so will everyone else around you. The Karmic Wheel will turn and TGSF can get back to being the welcoming, educational, and social organization it was founded to be - regardless of what it's called (with Kudos to Shirley Faire - I just LOVE her!). I wish you all well, and keep those cards and letters coming!

Sunday, July 1, 2001

TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the *TGSF* Executive Committee (ExCom) was held in San Francisco at the office of the incoming President, Aiyana Eveningstar, on Sunday, July 1, 2001 at 4:00pm. Notice of the place and time of the meeting had been given to those present at the previous ExCom meeting, published in the *TGSF* Newsletter and posted on the *TGSF* web site.

The meeting was called to order at 4:45pm by President Aiyana Eveningstar, after the tardy arrival of the carpooling Secretary Janis Ryan, Outreach Co-chair Ally Grillo, and Treasurer Stephanie Ann Blythe. Also present was Vice-President Rachael Janelle. Aiyana announced that LeChara Johnson had submitted her resignation from the position of Education Co-chair; therefore the five members of the ExCom present constituted a quorum of the now nine-member board. Outreach Co-chair Kalani Makanani arrived at 5:03pm, and Social Co-chair Tianna DeVil arrived at 5:23pm, along with several guests. Absent were Education Co-chair Annie and Social Co-chair Savannah.

Janis presented a proposed agenda for the meeting, which had previously been sent to the ExCom members by Email.

Minutes

Janis presented the revised minutes of the ExCom Meeting of May 6, 2001 incorporating minor changes submitted by Rachael Janelle, stating that she and Aiyana would help with contacting advertisers for *The Channel*. On a motion by Stephanie Ann, seconded by Rachael Janelle, they were adopted by voice vote with no dissenting votes.

President's Report

Aiyana stated that we need to get on with the advertising in The Channel. The Treasurer is responsible for tracking the accounts per the bylaws. Janis indicated that several current advertisers were not in the advertiser's database. Rachael stated that would help with telephone calls based on prior invoices and last month's issue of *The Channel*. Ally also said that she would help with telephone calls.

Ally agreed to resign as Outreach Co-chair and accept an appointment as Education Co-chair. Aiyana made that appointment, and the ExCom approved the appointment by voice vote on a motion by Janis seconded by Rachael.

A motion was made by Stephanie Ann and seconded by Rachael to grant free advertising in *The Channel* to *Carla's* in exchange for hosting the *TGSF* Library. The motion passed with 5 votes for, none against, and 1 abstention.

The rental of the truck for the *TGSF* float in the San Francisco Pride Parade cost $575, which was $225 less than was predicted. Aiyana will carry this balance for now. Rachael said that she would donate the additional expenses of $100 that she had incurred for supplies used to build the float.

Vice President's Report

Rachael reported that the *TGSF* float was number 10 in the parade. There were initially some violations of the parade rules by people boarding the float while it was moving and throwing candy from the float. The float had started too quickly for us to get organized. Otherwise, she felt that the parade was awesome. Stephanie Ann reported that during the live television coverage of the parade by Channel 20 our float had largely been preempted by a commercial. Ally stated that she had had a great time, and thanked everyone who had made the float possible. She said that she was disappointed by the relatively small turnout of both members of *TGSF* and other groups to march along with us. The ExCom thanked the float builders, especially Aiyana and Lichen.

Social Committee Report

Tianna requested to give her report at this point in the meeting, since she had to leave early. She thanked Rachael for providing her with a place to crash, food, and parking during the parade. She also thanked the ExCom members, specifically Stephanie Ann and Janis, who had participated in building the float and served as wheel monitors during the parade.

She announced that the Mid-Month Event will be held at the *Holy Cow*, 1535 Folsom Street near 11th Street in San Francisco, starting at 8:00pm on Thursday, July 12, not Wednesday, July 11 as had been incorrectly reported in the July issue of *The Channel*. Janis will send a notice of this change to all members and local groups. She has adopted the name "Event" rather than "Social" for these meetings.

She announced that the End-of-Month Event will be held at the *Blue Muse*, Gough and Hayes Streets in San Francisco on Thursday, July 26 starting at 8:00pm It will feature a *Leather and Lace Extravaganza*, and prizes will be awarded in several categories.

She stated that the August Mid-Month Event will be at *The Thirsty Bear*, on Folsom Street near Third Street in San Francisco on Thursday, August 9, beginning at 8:00pm

She stressed that *TGSF* events are open to the entire transgender community, including FTMs. She and Savannah will look for other places to meet, such as upstairs at Jezebel's and downstairs at Asia SF.

She proposed that TGSF sponsor additional events such as dinners. She also proposed a picnic hosted by the current members of the ExCom with former members of the ExCom invited to attend. Janis will contact former members of the ExCom regarding this. She announced that the GAPA event was scheduled for July 14.

New Business

One item of New Business was considered at this point to accommodate Tianna. On a motion by Janis, seconded by Tianna, the President was requested to appoint a committee to begin consideration of issues relating to *Cotillion 2002*, including the proposal by Marcia Chapdelaine to include the *Cotillion* as part of *California Dreamin'* on Saturday April 20th, 2002. The first meeting of this committee will be on Tuesday, July 24 starting at 7:00pm at the office of Aiyana at 2071 10th Street, San Francisco. Tianna departed at 6:09pm

Secretary's Report

Janis announced that the corporate name change from *Educational TV Channel* to *TransGender San Francisco* had been completed by California Secretary of State. She now needs to file Fictitious Business Name statements with the City and County of San Francisco to use the names TGSF, ETVC, Educational TV Channel. Notices of these filings need to be published in a newspaper in San Francisco, and Janis suggested the Bay Area Reporter for this, and the consensus was to do this as long as the expense involved was comparable to other publications. Then we will need to update our San Francisco Business Tax account, open a new checking account and submit the name change to all vendors and correspondents.

Janis presented the membership summary as of 6/14/01 with projections for July and August as follows:

Date	Number	Date	Number
4/30/01	242	5/31/01	203
6/30/01	186	7/31/01	182
8/31/01	150		

Continued on Page 5

Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

Janis reported that 250 copies the July issue of *The Channel* had been printed, of which 165 copies were sent to members on June 28 and 66 copies were sent to groups, advertisers, and friends on June 29.

The responsibilities of Editor of *The Channel*, the Secretary and other ExCom members were discussed. An email message from the Editor, Ayme Kantz, was presented, where she included a private communication to her from Janis. In it, Ayme emphasized the duties of the Secretary and other ExCom members to provide information in a timely manner. Janis explained her frustrations with the receipt of information and production of the July issue. She still has not been able to arrange a personal meeting with Ayme. Rachael stated that she felt that we need to use our publications to bring us closer to other groups and TG Forum. She suggested that we use the newsletters that we receive from other groups to obtain leads for advertising in *The Channel*. She commented on the layout of *The Channel*, and restated the need for the ExCom to address the relationship between it and the Editor.

Janis stated that she has located the account and password information to update the Calendar on the *TGSF web* site, but she has not yet obtained the information required for her to make changes to the remainder of the web site.

Janis announced that Jamie Fenton has set up the email server for TGSF.ORG. The Secretary is responsible for administering this, and will assist ExCom members and others affected in setting up the individual email accounts.

Treasurer's Report

Stephanie Ann reported that the cash balance in the *TGSF* checking account as of July 2, 2001 was $2,484.69. During the previous month $120 had been spent on administrative expenses, and $75 had been received in donations.

Outstanding obligations for the float in the *SF Pride Parade* included $575, as reported by Aiyana, and an undetermined amount due to Jamie Fenton for audio equipment.

The outstanding balance of our obligation for *Cotillion 2001* was $1,351.88. On a motion by Janis, seconded by Rachael, the ExCom approved by voice vote with no dissentions the payment of $851.88 toward that amount to the SF Galleria. Aiyana will discuss the remaining balance of $500 with them.

Education Committee Report

Newly appointed Education Co-chair Ally announced that she had arranged with Dr. Steve O'Brien to give a seminar on hormone replacement therapy on September 8. A time and location are still to be determined.

Also discussed was a possible seminar on August 18.

Outreach Committee Report

Outreach Chair Kalani congratulated Ally on her appointment as Education Co-chair, and affirmed that she and the other members of the ExCom are here to help her.

She stated that the summer is a quiet time, and no presentations are scheduled during this time. She also stated that she has already arranged presentations on September 3 and October 2. She suggested that a class for new volunteers as outreach presenters be scheduled for August or September. She commented favorably on the format of the request for honorariums used by the Pacific Center. Janis agreed to obtain a copy of that for us to adapt for our use. She informed the ExCom that we had received a $25 honorarium as a result of a presentation at De Anza College, where copies of *The Channel* and other handouts had also been distributed.

Announcements

There were no additional announcements.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business (continued)

Aiyana presented a petition by a member for a membership fee waiver for the period from May 1, 2001 to April 30, 2002. After discussion, a motion to accept this petition was adopted by a voice vote. Janis did not participate in the discussion or voting.

Aiyana invited the members of the ExCom to consider ideas of how to present *TGSF* in a manner where we could receive outside funding. She feels that we need to identify a specific need in the transgendered community that we are in a position to fill.

She also stated that we need to bring our taxes and other government filings up to date.

She indicated that we need to re-evaluate certain items that were passed by the previous ExCom, specifically the proposals to create an educational grant, a resources database, assistance to homeless people, and the solicitation of corporate sponsors.

Adjournment

The next ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at 4:00pm at the office of President Aiyana at [redacted] San Francisco. On a motion by Janis seconded by Rachael he meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm.

HEY!

$10 Bucks Per Issue Gets You An Ad Like This...!

Tall, feminine, graceful closet CD seeks Big Sister to help with shopping and makeup tips. I live alone so it's helpful if you can come here, but I can certainly travel. SF Area. Call (415) 000-0000.

Up to 40 words only $10.00. Send text of ad and Check or Money Order to TGSF's PO Box, ATTN: Editor. Reach out and come out!

DRESS FOR DINNER ??

Private crossdresser and wife looking to make friends with similar couple (35-45) for dinners at home in San Francisco. Bring your wit, sense of humor, and favorite dress, and lets have some enjoyable evenings. Anyone out there ??

[redacted]@hotmail.com

(Paid Advertisement)

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TGSF Events in August

Sunday / August 5th / 4:00pm

TGSF ExCom Meeting

The next ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at 4:00pm at the office of President Aiyana at [redacted], San Francisco. All TGSF members are welcome (and encouraged!) to attend. Please - we need volunteers on our Committees!

Thursday / August 9th / 8:00pm

TGSF August Mid-Month Event

Hello Girls, Guys and all those in between. We had a blast at our last month's event. Let's do the same this month at one of the group's favorites. The call of the wild comes this time from the Thirsty Bear. Good food, great drinks and a chance to show the rest of world we know how to have a good time as well. Believe it or not, this is a Presidential Request from our beloved Aiyanna! So let's take this opportunity to repay her for her efforts of June's Mid-event "Dirty Blonde" and have a fabulous turnout! See ya there! The Thirsty Bear is on Howard Street near Third St, San Francisco.

Saturday / August 18th / 11:00am to 3:00pm

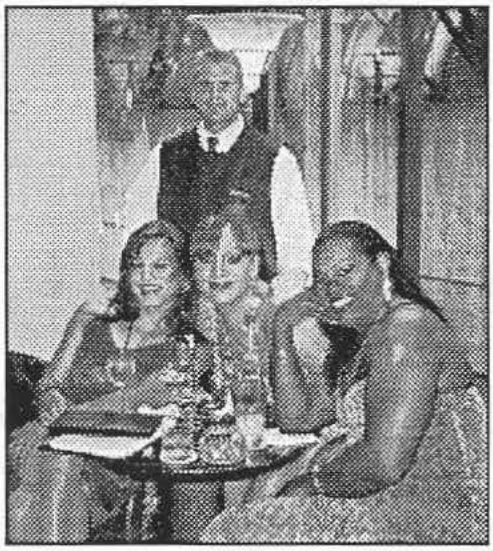
Pride Picnic 2001

You are invited to come and join the fun! It is a potluck so bring a dish to share. Where: Anthony Chabot Regional Park, Castro Valley, Mallard Group Picnic Site Sponsored by: GLOBE (Gays & Lesbians Organized for Betterment & Equality) Lavender Seniors Lighthouse Community Center EBN - East Bay Network Lambda Youth For more information contact: Charlene Shores (510) [redacted]

Thursday / August 30th / 8:00pm

TGSF End of Month Event
Celebrity Follies!

As your 'Resident Diva' I am issuing a challenge! This is to all of you who have wish that you could be that favorite idol that you've dreamed about for so long. Come dressed as your favorite personality! Here's your chance to become 'all that you can be' for an evening! We'll have contest to determine who comes closest to appearing as their idol! So Ladies and Gentlemen use your imaginations! Let's see what you've got! This going to be so much fun!! Oh yes it will!! The Blue Muse is on Gough St. at Hayes St., San Francisco.



Monica, Savannah and Tianna celebrate Pride Weekend in style!

August's Birthdays...

June Belated Birthdays		8/3	Cheryl Shephard
6/1	Vivien Chambers	8/3	Marla
6/15	Jubillee Gee	8/3	Susan Blewitt
July Belated Birthdays		8/5	Bill Jones
7/1	Ellen Elaine Pierce	8/7	Debra Bolle
7/1	Mahrie Luuz	8/9	Billie Jean Hall
7/8	LeChara Johnson	8/13	Andrew Firebaugh
7/16	Marie Kochaver	8/13	Sabel Samone
7/19	Michelle Cole	8/13	Susan Seger
7/21	Jennifer Hope	8/16	Gail Stern
7/21	Paula Chapman	8/17	Deborah Anne B.
7/28	Donna Stickley	8/20	Roxanne C.
August Birthdays		8/21	Esmarelda Alderete
8/1	Jenifer	8/27	Lulu Blau
8/1	Kenette Faulkner	8/27	Sabrina Evans
8/1	Rebecca Martin	8/28	Evelyn Perry
8/2	Nicole Mossinger	8/30	Chrissy Summer
8/3	Angel Louise Grant	8/31	Bardi DeTro
		8/31	Darcy Leopard

Our apologies to those members whose birthdays were inadvertently omitted from previous issues of The Channel. *If your birth date is not on file, it is listed as "1"*

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Cosmetics Lingerie Fem Fashions Wigs Nails Shoes Cosmetics

Nails Wigs Lingerie

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The Current Location of the TGSF Library!!

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

Cosmetics Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Lingerie Cosmetics

Calendar of Events – August 2001

Other Bay Area Groups

Alameda T's (A-T's)
Open to all gender expressions and their significant others, at the Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward. Meets every first and third Tuesday, 8:30pm - 10:30pm; info call: 510-881-8167 or email Rebecca Martin: becca@tgforum.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 PM MPTG	2 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	3 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	4
5 4:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	6 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	7 8:30 PM A-T's	8 7:00 PM TransBay	9 8:00 PM TGSF: MidMonth Social	10 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	11 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
12	13 5:00 PM CCHH	14	15	16 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	17 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	18 11:00 AM PRIDE Picnic!
19	20 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	21 8:30 PM A-T's	22	23	24 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	25 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
26	27 5:00 PM CCHH	28	29	30 8:00 PM TGSF: End of Month Social	31 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	

TGSF Membership Application

Membership Year Renews Annually at Sign-up Date / $30 Single Membership; $40 Family.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

Your Email address: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Our Readers Respond

Dear Editor,

You invited past title holders to write about the Cotillion, so here's my point of view. In years gone by, I thought title holders were symbolic and real representatives for the group, embodying poise, confidence, presence, loyalty, talent, and public speaking abilities to promote what the group is about, to current members, new and joining members, and the transgender community as a whole.

In recent years, I feel the title holder(s)' sphere of influence has expanded to reach a wider audience including the gay and bisexual community, the media, politicians, both local and national, and anyone interested in transgender issues.

When I became the first Mr. ETVC in 1994, part of my stepping down speech at the end of my reign was to state that the position of Ms. and/or Mr. ETVC (TGSF) can be whatever you wish to make it, with no limits. I used my year to build a sturdier bridge between ETVC and the Court system, FTM group, and with my Ms. ETVC, to do outreach to the greater community. All of which we accomplished.

I had been an officer and written a column for several years for the Channel. As Mr. ETVC I made more connections, as had not happened before, and I used those connections to expand the group and to become more of an activist for transgender rights. I was only one of many to speak at the historic Board of Supervisors public forum on TG issues when they gathered information and accounts of discrimination of TG's for what eventually became anti-discrimination policy and laws for San Francisco. This is now rippling into a state-wide bill which hopefully will become law.

I feel that having a Cotillion and representatives for the group, besides the officers, is important. However, to hold an ever more expensive event that nearly bankrupts the group on an annual basis does not serve the group's best interests. Perhaps we need to return to a smaller venue; we have not filled the one we have used the past 3 years. *(Editor's Comment: Nor have we continued to collect an entrance fee, which used to be a tidy source of income).*

My suggestions - charge less for tickets, Lose the food altogether, while definitely keeping the talent portion of the competition, which is the heart and soul of the event. Without the talent acts, there would be less ways for the judges to best decide who has that special presence to carry through the following year, and perhaps be part of other entertainment events such as the Big Shoe, etc. If Dale had not been allowed to play her instruments, or Tianna to sing, or all the past wonderful talents I have witnessed, we would all be the poorer for it. And there would be much less pull for the audience, as a major part of the evening's entertainment interest.

If not for the talent competition, I would not be where I am now, having been part of another contestant's act the year before I decided to run. That one performance, plus some skits in an early Big Shoe gave me the confidence to get up there, and win. I then went on to appear in a number of Court fundraisers and events, and a few years ago audition and get a major part in a cross-dressed local production of Guys and Dolls. My vote would be to continue the tradition of the Cotillion, but pare it down wherever possible, present the debutantes, and keep the talent.

Francis Vavra

Aloha Everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well and had a chance to enjoy some of the festivities of SF Pride Week! I'll tell a little about my personal experience later. This is my very first article for The Channel and it was extremely difficult for me to write because of the issue involved. Many of you may have noticed that I haven't been as active, sociable, talkative, punctual, etc., in the past month or so. Well, to keep it short, I recently had my feelings hurt pretty severely. What made it so traumatizing to me was due to the fact that the other people involved are members of the transgender community and that this was my first time experiencing this type of emotional pain.

By the time you read this things have already been patched up to a certain extent. It is not my intention to disclose details and names so please do not ask me to disclose these. In a way, the fact that everyone is talking and that ties haven't been severed is a testament to the quality of the friendships between those involved. However, for me, the scar will remain in my mind for the rest of my life.

Which brings me to the difficult part. Unfortunately, this occurrence has triggered thoughts of cutting back on my dressing or stopping completely, and thoughts about going out and seeking an environment with a wife and kids. I had these thoughts immediately after the incident occurred and was awake for a period of four days trying to sort out emotions, thoughts, decisions, etc. I still haven't resolved anything at this point and plan on taking as much time as necessary. If I do leave, I will always cherish the numerous acquaintances, friendships, and shared times together that were all made possible because of the special people involved with TGSF and many other organizations throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Well, time to lighten things up a bit and share my SF Pride Week experience with everyone. Remember that enormous, misting, floral costume that I wore at the last Cotillion? Well, I marched the entire parade route with that immense bunch of flowers strapped to my back! What I wasn't expecting was wearing the costume for the period of time during the party in the Civic Center. I ended up wearing the costume for a total of eight hours! Why you ask? Simply put, my friends told me to leave it on. Also, I was bombarded with requests to take pictures.

By the end of the day, I had received more than a hundred requests to take pictures. What was exhilarating was the diversity of people asking to take pictures. There were people from the GLBT community, straight people, tourists, locals, news and media people, etc. Especially heart warming and touching were both the people that brought their kids up to take pictures with me and the kids that approached me by themselves. The comments that I received were also interesting and diverse.

There were compliments on the costume, shoes, makeup, legs, butt (??), creativity, etc. A few comments were actually invitations from individuals that wanted to take me home with them an.....Oops, sorry! I just ran out ink and had to change the typewriter ribbon. ;-) Needless to say, this experience cheered me up and was by far my largest outreach experience both in terms of diversity and number of people reached.

So, plans are in the works for another huge costume next year. I even made a business contact that day that may give our organization a donation in exchange for me promoting his business at the same time. However, next year I just might be carrying a donation jar and asking for donations in exchange for pictures! Any feedback or comments concerning this article would be greatly appreciated! Thanks for your time!

Aloha & mahalo nui loa,
Kalani

Our Readers Respond

Dear TGSF:

I did not respond to the original editorial for many reasons, but reading it again, plus Ayme's follow up and the letters, has caused me to think maybe it is time to think through the what, how and why of organizations like TGSF. While I am from a long way away geographically, I have been a part of ETVC long enough to have had a very low membership number and to have known most of the original founders. Also long enough to have known and enjoyed the Chez, and to recognize that when we lost that venue, we lost more than just a meeting place. We lost our sense of purpose. Perhaps the two just coincided, as that was about the time the TS portion of our TG society began to be better identified.

TGSF, like most of the clubs across the nation, was founded by cross dressers. Now, before that starts a vocal outcry, let me have a moment to talk about what that statement means. In the beginning, every TS I have ever known, (and because of my advanced age and openness about being TG, that is a whole lot of people) was a cross dresser. Many of them even professed that they were not TS and had no intention of ever having their dingus whacked off (this and other variations on that terminology are theirs, not mine). Some of them even espoused the virtues of non-surgical TS status and spoke eloquently about the reasons why surgery was not the answer for them. (The two most vocal are currently scheduled for surgery, one in Toronto and one in Thailand.)

Cross dressing seems to be the starting point for most of us because it is the visual manifestation of being TG, plus it is relatively easy to do, fairly inexpensive, and the least psychologically distressing. (It's one thing to put on a dress and heels, it's quite another to want to be a woman! That takes us from a little strange to really freaky!) From this beginning comes the freedom to explore the rest of the TG spectrum, the exposure to the world of transexualism, and the opportunity to discover who and what each of us may be. Thus it is not surprising that the nationwide movement to create a network was primarily the work of cross dressers, even though many of those CD's' eventually became TS's' and somehow we discovered that we were all TG's.

So much for the how. Now let's tackle the what and the why. Up here in the Great Northwest, we formed a group known as The Emerald City. We were all CD's at the time, and we were attending what is now recognized as being a primarily TS support group meetings. The FNTVTSSG is the longest continuous running support program in the nation, and it is a function of the Ingersol Gender Center.

One evening, several of us looked at each other and asked the fatal question: "What are we doing here?" That was inspired by the usual negative feelings being expressed by a group of people who were seeking help with their exploration with being TS. We, however, figured out that we did not need help. We were happy as we were, and we liked ourselves and each other. Why put up with all the sadness and guilt just to get together? So, we hatched Emerald City and set up a meeting schedule that did not conflict. Of the original group, three are women today (one knew it then, two found it out later), one has disappeared, and three of us are still CD's. Only the CD's are still active in Emerald City (In fact, the vast majority of the long term members are CD's!), so why should it be a surprise that our views are the ones that predominate?

Today, we are probably best recognized as the social arm of Ingersol, providing a setting of acceptance and a collection of guides and guideposts on how to function successfully in society. We are, in fact a social club, dedicated to the notion that it is OK to be TG and to have fun in life at the same time.

I discourse at length about this, because the same is true of so many of the TG organizations across the nation. Sometimes we lose sight of the fact that this fascinating network was created by people who just wanted the social interaction of being with other TG people. Much of the rest of what goes on is peripheral to that one central idea. We just want to know there are others like us out there.

Today, that network is being shared by the TS community, which should never forget it is a subgroup of the TG world. The operative word here is shared. It appears that, for many, part of the process of a successful TS transition is ultimately leaving the TG world behind and mainstreaming into society. As a result, there is no stable base of TS people to provide the structure for a TS network of its own. (That may well be a natural and desirable outcome. If mainstream TS people derive all of their support from other society organizations [marriage, work, the gym, the opera, Junior League] then they have no need for what we provide.) On the other hand, the most successful TS support groups (like Ingersol) are founded and run by TS people who have chosen to remain identified as TS.

Having said all that, what is my point (otherwise this is a diatribe)? The point is simple. The TG network of clubs, TGSF included, was created by, is run for, and is run by, primarily CD's. Either CD's who will always be CD's, or TS's who are CD's for now, while they discover what they really want to do or figure how to pay for it. The purpose is first and foremost social. Providing a setting to be with others who are TG. The rest of what we do, we do at our members' request. The services provided are those which a member feels strongly enough about to provide and other members feel strongly enough about to support.

If that means we are bunch of cross dressers looking for a party, so be it. We are also a bunch of cross dressers who are willing to create a party. We are also members of the TG community who are willing to share that party with any members of the TG community who want to join us. We are also a community which will welcome new ideas and new services, but remember, each new suggestion will probably be accepted with a question: "How do YOU intend to implement this idea?"

So, should TGSF be more than a party? Perhaps. But if you think so, don't just bitch about the party. Step up and make it happen. Put your efforts behind making what you want a reality. And then, think about sticking around afterwards and helping others who come along later.

(Editor's Note: I must apologize to the author, for since she did not sign her letter, nor can I locate the original email to which it was attached, I have failed to give her the credit she deserves. But I have a feeling many of you know her anyway. Mea Culpa!)

New Online SO List!

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

More Readers Respond!

Dear TGSF:

Oh hell. OK, go do it! write: AN OPEN LETTER TO TRANSSEXUALS. So - here goes. I've read too many sad and tragic tales by and about transsexuals in the pages of *The Channel* . Sorry: TG's CD' s and others but this is a letter by and for transsexuals. I am a 55 year old pre-op M2F. I've been in transition for about 5 years. Now I'm living fulltime (almost a year). I'm in the process of a horrid divorce (My one, painful experience.) But to balance that black hole - I have two wonderful children. A daughter, 17, and an amazing son, 14.

Now, sometimes I have my moments - where I am depressed - hurt by the bigoted spouse or just lonely. Otherwise, I am a positive and happy person. Despite (because?) the fact that I am a transsexual. So onward, I want to write something positive. Following are a few (I think) helpful thoughts that I have to guide me.

One, I believe I am a special person, because I am a transsexual. And those around me - if they are open - can be part of that special experience. I am special person because I can give others a new perspective. I can allow them to break rigid molds.

Two, I live my life, not the life of others. I get my inspiration from my female spirit and sexuality. If I am bombarded by the outside world or others who are trying to hurt me - I turn to who and what I am. When I do that I become strong and feel good about myself. This gets me through so much. Like when I started part-time. Then, I was physically a male, but I had to expose my hidden female spirit. So, I released Ellen and she was born. With her beard, square jaw, deep voice and cheap wig —she came out into the world - walking, shopping and just going about her life. And despite what must have been an awful sight, Ellen was never confronted as being a freak and only once - was called a faggot (to her back). It took me 50 years, but I do not live the expectations of others. If you live the expectations of others you'll never realize your own reality. Oh yes, you'll be called selfish for taking your life into your hands - but you and those around you will be better for it.

Three, I am not fighting my being. I do not regret who and what I am. I love being female. I am more female and feminine than I ever thought I would be. I do little things to allow me to enjoy my femininity. Bubble baths, candles, jewelry, and clothes. Though they are not means to an end. Just an extension of my being. I do not regret that I am not the lesbian amazon I thought I'd be as a TS. So I am a woman (gender) - first and TS second. Sorry, I know that rubs some of you the wrong way. But that is me. The fewer, outside our-world people (that I have to deal with on a regular basis) that know I am TS, the better. I have learned that once they know I am TS and not female, I will not (with few exceptions) be fully accepted in the gender I desire. And this is even with those that are supportive of me being TS.

Four, be honest with yourself and the professional (doctors, therapists, etc.) that are needed to help you on this adventure. Be yourself - do not overdo it -unless that is you! I myself am not and exhibitionist. Heaven knows life can be cruel enough - and it will get even more cruel if you deceive yourself about who and what you are.

Five, now this may be hard for some, my male organ is not available for sex. My sexuality is female. My boyfriend, is not allowed to see it or play with it. I call it TP. It's only function is to direct my urine. And it doesn't do a very good job doing that task. TP and I do not get along very well. Needless say, it is the equivalent of my chastity belt. But I am a (really) a young girl (not even exposed to the world for two years). Do not get me wrong, I do want sex and I want to be penetrated. But I am not ready either physically or emotionally. Oh, I desire it so very much. Soon. In its time. After all transition isn't everything immediately.

So, Six, be patient and plan - there is a lot to becoming the woman you desire to be.

Seven, added after I reread and reread this letter - smile.

Certainly there are more rules and guides I have that keep me on track and positive, but the above are some of the important guides.

So, you ask, what is my life like. Well, I am always taken as female by those that do not know I am TS. I have even gone back east to work with Southern Christian Evangelist Ministers and they never realized that I was not a genetic woman. I honestly cannot say if some people suspect that I am TS, they never confront me. So I do not worry about it. So on ward, my children love me, see me often (I do regret they do not live with me, but, hey I do not want them to be up- rooted). My voice (either on the phone or in person) is always taken as female (a product of my female spirit). I am a member of a local gym, and needless to say I use the women's locker room, and I have never been challenged, even though everything is exposed except TP. I have transitioned on my job. I am an architect. Most of my clients have stayed with me and I might add do not regret it. So, I am a creative and productive member of society. Finally, I have a boyfriend who treats me like queen.

Now, you probably think I am really a dainty girly little thing. Well, I am 5'9+ and far heavier than I'd like to be (sorry, I'm not going to tell how much I weigh - we need some secrets). So being a woman isn't always small.

In the near future I'll be involved with CUAV speakers bureau. So, hopefully I'll be doing my part to educate the non-TS world, that we are hard working, honest, decent people who just want to get on (and enjoy and be happy) with our life. Life is good.

Ellen

PS: a burning question - now that we are not ETVC, is name of the newsletter *The Channel* appropriate?

(Editor's Comment: Oh girl, don't go there!)

New Members since July Issue:

Chrissy Summer

Susie

Welcome!

Barbara J. Anderson

Ph.D., L.C.S.W.

Clinical Sexologist
Certified Sex Therapist

1537 Franklin St., Suite 104
San Francisco, CA 94109

Ph (415) 776-0139
Fax (415) 441-0936

Upcoming Events and Things of Note!

New TG Support Group - Alameda T's!

DEAR TGSF:

I am a new member of TGSF, having just joined two months ago. But I have been attending support and social group meetings in the east bay for some nine months now, thanks to Janis' wonderful support when I was afraid to even step outside my front door as my true self.

I'm writing to day to ask you to include our support group in south Alameda County in *The Channel's* listing of monthly events. Our meeting is held twice every month at the Lighthouse Community Center, 1217 A Street, Hayward, CA, 94541, Ph.(510) 881-8167. I can be contacted by e-mail at [redacted]@tgforum.com for information about the group, or anyone interested can also call the phone number above. We now meet every first and third Tuesday from 8:30PM to 10:30PM and the name of our group is the "Alameda T's", though we are thinking of changing the name. I have a few ideas I will be presenting to the group and will notify you if we decide on a change then.

The meeting is open to any and all members of the transgender community and their significant others. There are no dues, but donations of whatever one can afford to the Lighthouse Community Center are encouraged.

I write with the hope that we can help reach out to those in our community here in the south county, as so many of my newfound friends have reached out to me in my transition.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Martin
Alameda T's

(Editor's Comment: I'm pleased to add the Alameda T-s to the Calendar, and offer a big welcome to our East Bay friends!)

Coming in September!

HORMONES AND YOU: PERFECT TOGETHER?

An Educational Forum

Is hormone therapy in your future? Is it in your present, or past? Or are you simply curious about hormones, these powerful substances that will give you some of the secondary physical characteristics of the gender of your choice, and perhaps also change you emotionally?

Regardless of your answers to these questions, we hope to see you next month at the Women's Building in San Francisco's Mission neighborhood. Steve O'Brien, M.D., of the East Bay AIDS Center, will speak on the effects of estrogen and testosterone, and we know you'll have plenty of questions for him about what hormones can and cannot do. At this forum you will learn the basics about an important component of gender transition.

Saturday /September 8th /2:00pm.

The Women's Building is located at 3543 18th Street, San Francisco, and only a few blocks from the 16th Street BART station.

NEW TGSF EMAIL SERVER

Thanks to Jamie Fenton, a long-time member of TGSF and one of my predecessors as Secretary, the TGSF Email Server announced in last month's issue of The Channel is now online.

The main purpose of having our server with the same address as our web site (tgsf.org) is to allow members and others to communicate with us and obtain information without having to look up the personal email addresses of the people to be contacted, or determining the individual to be contacted for a particular reason.

These email addresses, as well as the personal email addresses, are listed under Contact Information elsewhere in this issue. In addition to the email addresses for officers, committees, the editor of The Channel, and our webmistress, I have created two additional addresses:

info@tgsf.org

This automatically returns general information on TGSF and upcoming events, and forwards any requests for additional information.

Calendar@tgsf.org

This is the central email address for submission of upcoming events of TGSF and other groups, as well as other activities of interest to the Transgender community in Northern California.

Information submitted here will be submitted as appropriate to the calendars in The Channel and the TGSF web site, the TGSF Telephone Hotline, and the TGSF email list. Additionally, it will be shared with other groups for publication by them.

Submissions should include a brief description of the event, the date, time, and location where it will be held, and contact information by telephone and/or email for obtaining additional information.

Note that the deadline for items to appear in *The Channel* is the 15th of the month prior to the newsletter's publication.

Announcing Joan Sheldon's 16th

HIGH SIERRA FEMME FLING

at beautiful

Lake Tahoe, Nevada • August 15 - 26, 2001.

A truly grand gender blending adventure in the splendor of the high sierras surrounding the majestic, pristine Lake Tahoe. Our Lodge is nestled in the pined slopes above the shore of Lake Tahoe at Incline Village, Nevada.

Accomodation Rate Schedule, per day - Bedroom: $75 per person, double occupancy, or $100 per married couples.

Femme Den: $50 per person • Day Guests: $30 per day.

For reservations and further information contact:

Rebecca Stake
PO Box 2070
Boulder Creek CA 95006

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF Balance Sheet

(June 18, 2001 through July 18, 2001

Assets

Cash $2,754.81

Event Equipment

Decorations $1,000.00

Food Service $200.00

Office Supplies $50.00

Total Assets $4,004.81

Liabilities

Accounts Payable (Cotillion Expense) $1,351.88

Educational Fund $100.00

Taxes $0.00

Insurance $0.00

Utilities $0.00

Operations $0.00

Total Liabilities $1,451.88

Equity $2,552.93

Total Liabilities & Equity $4,004.81

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

Membership $770.00

Advertising $75.00

Cotillion $0.00

Donations Received $480.00

Social $75.00

Education $0.00

Outreach$25.00

..... $1,425.00

Expenses

Cotillion $0.00

Halloween Party $0.00

Big Shew $0.00

Pride Parade $0.00

Social $32.38

Education $0.00

Outreach$0.00

Newsletter $270.19

Operations $225.26

Donations Paid $0.00

..... $527.83

Net Income $897.17

TGSF Donations

Our Friends Who Give

as of July 18, 2001

Kaycee Cole $10

Roshelle Cumming $10

Debra Darling $10

Phyllis Fink $70

Marcia Chapdelaine $100

Joanna Wilson $50

Rebecca Martin $40

Nancy Cupps $20

Michelle Cowan $10

Bless You and Thank You!

Contact TGSF!

ExCom Members

President ..... President@tgsf.org

Aiyana Eveningstar ..... [redacted]@earthlink.net

Vice President ..... VicePresident@tgsf.org

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

Secretary ..... Secretary@tgsf.org

Janis Ryan ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com

Treasurer ..... Treasurer@tgsf.org

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Comments and submissions to the TGSF *newsletter* The Channel.

Ayme Kantz ..... [redacted]@aol.com

Or ..... tgsfeditor@yahoo.com

Webmistress ..... Webmistress@tgsf.org

Comments and suggestions concerning the TGSF *web site* www.tgsf.org

Information ..... info@tgsf.org

Requests for information concerning TGSF *and upcoming events*

Calendar ..... Calendar@tgsf.org

Submissions of descriptions of upcoming events of TGSF *and other groups for publication in* The Channel, *the calendar on the* TGSF *web site, the* TGSF *Telephone Hotline, the* TGSF *email list, and sharing with other groups.*

Shirley Faire

ETVC Forever

Some years ago your club went through a prolonged fight over whether it should change its name from ETVC to TGSF. As I remember, proponents argued that the "TV" in ETVC implied that the club was only open to crossdressers, ignoring, at best, the wide range of gender folk, all of whom were welcome to join. Traditionalists countered that ETVC had a quite honorable record opening its arms to all. Actions spoke louder than names.

Feelings seemed to run high, as if the outcome really mattered. I recall that one member offered to give the club a substantial contribution as a reward for deciding in favor of the politically correct thing. I don't know whether her offer had any influence. In any event, the politically correct thing was accomplished, pats on the back were generously shared all around and the result was...nothing. Less than nothing.

Not too many years ago, ETVC, in spite of the handicap of its name, worked to include all gender people. "Education," you may recall, is what the "E" stood for. And it was meant to be taken literally. There were Education Seminars. There were even Transsexual Seminars, which featured prominent speakers and imaginative presentations. Books and pamphlets on crossdressing and transsexualism were available for lending at those and other meetings. Leaders from the Tenderloin "T" community were actively solicited to participate in at least one of the Cal Dreamin' conventions. The newsletter featured original articles from or about significant others, electrologists, psychotherapists and community leaders you might not have known about otherwise.

Yeah, there was fun. The end of month socials. The Cotillion. The Really Big Shew. But there was a sense of purpose, too.

Today you stage no transsexual seminars, have no outreach to other communities, and your editor has to clip articles from other publications to fill the newsletter. This is your TGSF, girls. Meanwhile, your membership is about half what it was at its high water mark of 456. Blame the Internet, or say it's because you were so successful promoting transgender freedom that fewer people feel the need to join a "support group," and you may be partially right. More to the point, I think it's because you've comfortably settled into being your true selves: crossdressers who just want to play girl on their days off.

Nothing wrong with that. Having fun is good. Dressing up like a girl can relieve stress and make you easier to live with for the people around you. But, look, if that's what you want for yourselves—and by your actions, it is—isn't it time to drop the pretense that you're anything more? To claim you are makes you look as ridiculous as Dubya in one of his "Ahm Prezdint" flight jackets. The TG community—or more precisely, the TS community—has made history in San Francisco over the past year while TGSF was off getting its nails painted. As an organization you counted not at all, except, oh, right, you gave an award or two, didn't you.

TGSF? Please. Who are you trying to kid. Look, for years, transsexuals have passed through your venue on their way to someplace else. You don't need to change your name for them. They know what the scene is, and that it isn't for them. They just need a place to start, whether it's called TGSF or ETVC. Then it's thank you, good-bye, and on with real life.

I was going to close by calling for you to drop TGSF and rename yourselves ETVC. But, doggone, that would do a disservice to a club that had an enviable reputation as a gender community leader. It ain't who you are.

Vice President Report

By Rachael Janelle

Why a report from the vice president? Well, in the Bylaws of TGSF it states that the Vice President's duties are: be a good girl, and for special events like the Pride Parade and the Cotillion, my duties are to organize, signing up people to perform tasks for the events, and ensure that the TGSF event takes place. So what's the point, girl?

There were some comments regarding the size of our contingent for the Pride Parade. I would have loved to gave had a 1000 plus TGSF members, along with our sister groups and all our friends. But that did not happen.

The people who wanted to be there were there, and they all said it was awesome. We sent out invitations to our sister groups and I provided information to all the people who asked for it. We had ads in the *Channel* and on the TGSF web site.

I made flyers about Pride weekend with locations and starting times of the events, and passed them out at the *Trantastic* show. Aiyana and I had our cell-phones and pagers with us all weekend if people wanted to reach us.

In my opinion the events were a success. Some of the reasons why: no one lost a finger or arm building the float; All the girls building the float are still talking to each other; No one was killed by the float moving down Market or fell off the float. Hope you get the point.

I would like to thank every one who helped build the float and all of the enthusiastic TGSF marchers and float riders.

Transcending Transgender

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

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

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Event Review

An Ol' Fashioned 4th of July Alternative Family Picnic

By Janis Ryan

It was a perfect day for a picnic in San Francisco. The earlier forecast had been for hot, muggy weather—more characteristic of the Midwest minus the mosquitoes—but it developed into a pleasant, sunny day with scattered clouds and a gentle breeze.

The scene was the grassy area of Yerba Buena Gardens, with the Metreon in back and the sounds of the artificial waterfall coming from the right. On the left was a "Jump Fun" inflated house where kids could play. A patriotically dressed woman with a white lace top over a blue blouse and red skirt was dancing around with rainbow-colored scarves in her hair. On the stage in front the Emcee was Chaz Martinez. Music was provided by the *San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band* and the *Dixieland Dykes + 3*. Jackie Jones played novelty instruments including the washboard and musical saw, while controlling her puppet *The Tap Dancing Cat*. Also appearing were the *Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*, Mr. Pat-A-Cake the Rainbow Clown, and Derique the Fabulous Clown.

Spread throughout the grass were families, with kids of all ages, some running around and playing: infants, toddlers, elementary school aged, and teenagers. Many had toys reminiscent of my youth: yoyos, hula hoops, slinkys, paddles with a ball attached with a rubber band. Several of the kids appeared on stage to impersonate their favorite animals.

The focus of this event was alternative families; those formed of gay, lesbian, and transgendered couples, with both biological and adopted children. Several groups providing support to these families were present, including those listed below. The picnic lasted from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., allowing those present to enjoy the rest of the holiday and see the fireworks later that evening.

Alternative Family Institute

425 Divisadero St Ste 203-B, San Francisco CA 94117 / Michelle Mason, MS, Outreach Coordinator; 415-436-9000 Ext 36. info@altfamily.org or www.altfamily.org

COLAGE - Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere,

3543 18th St Ste 1, San Francisco CA 94110; 415-861-5437 / COLAGE@COLAGE.org

Jewish Family and Children's Services

2150 Post Street, San Francisco CA 94115; Margaret Rothman, Program Coordinator - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Outreach Project; 415-449-1228 / margaretr@jfcs.org or www.jfcs.org/LGBT.html

Support Group for Trans Folks
510-527-5662 ▼ valigl@aol.com

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Co-facilitators: **VALERIE IGL**, licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and **REID VANDERBURGH**, MA in Counseling Psychology student and FTM.

A Visit With FTM International

By Janis Ryan

FTM International is a group based in San Francisco that provides information and support to female-to-male transsexuals and their families and friends. It has meetings scheduled on the second Sunday of each month from 2 to 5 p.m. at various locations in San Francisco Meetings alternate between closed support meetings and open informational meetings. I attended the open meeting on July 8, 2001.

Over 40 people were present. I introduced myself, and provided information concerning *TGSF*, including copies of *The Channel* and the flyer describing upcoming events for July, and invited those in the group to participate. I told them about our *Cotillion* and the past involvement of contestants for *Mr. ETVC*.

The facilitator of the meeting, Joel Levine, told me of a proposal that they had been considering having a fund-raising event featuring performances by members of *FTMI* and *TGSF*, including a lip synching contest. I will forward this proposal to the ExCom and appropriate committee chairs for consideration. He also announced a camping trip for FTMs, their families and friends, from July 27 through July 29 along the Russian River. I posted information about this event on the Calendar on the *TGSF* web site and to the *TGSF* email list.

The issues raised by the people at the meeting were many of the same ones that are common to the male-to-female transgender community, including obtaining information about hormones, surgical procedures and surgeons. Other issues relate to families and contacting peers who have transitioned and entered the general community.

I believe that it is important for *TGSF* to maintain close contact with the many other groups in the San Francisco area which deal with issues related to the transgendered community. Additional information about *FTM International* is available by mail at 1360 Mission St., Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103, by phone at 415-553-5987, or by email at TSTGMen@aol.com. Joel Levine can be contacted at 415-[redacted] or by email at [redacted]@aol.com.

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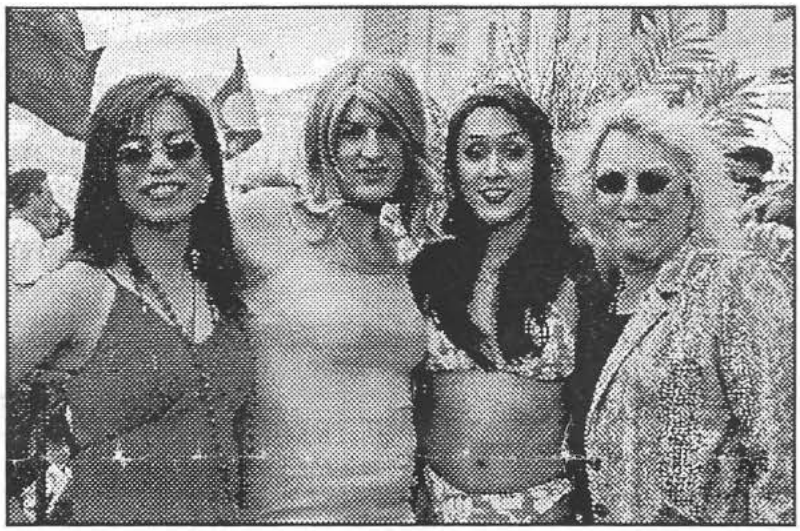
Pride Weekend Adventures

by Rachael Janelle

Happy 4th of July. I am writing this article on Independence Day. What a spectacular ride that was down Market Street for the pride parade. Pride weekend started Thursday night at Diva's for me at the *Transtastic* show, which was fun and I got to see some old friends. Friday was a busy day, I was getting my hair done so I can look good for building a float in a warehouse at pier 45. I was also still picking up items for the float. I was staying at the park Hyatt, at battery and clay not too far from Market Street. The hotel was awesome. I arrive about 1:00pm and unpacking three suitcases (one for each day). I walked down to the corner of market and battery and got a sandwich and sat down outside to eat.

I look up and saw the GLBT flags lining Market Street, I could feeling the energy already for the parade. I went back to the hotel to change out of my cute little outfit, into my floating building attire. Then it was off to fishermen's wharf with a box of 1000 TGSF flyer in hand. Pier 45 is behind Alioto's, its pretty cool place. The warehouse , which we were building our float, is also used as a filming studio.



As I approach the TGSF float there was Miss Aiyanna and her friend name Lechi attaching the first two pieces to the truck. The plan was to transformation a 24-foot rental truck into a bird. After observing the area and seeing all the materials and power tools. I could see that they were serious about making this happen. I could see building a frame around cab of the truck was going to be a bit tricky. I helped for about 5 hours.

I was just coming down with a cold and I wasn't feeling that great. Back to the hotel, my room has a great view with double doors that open to the outside. It was great to hear the sound of the city. My day was done. Saturday the big floating day. Off to warehouse at pied 45. I was the only one there for a while. I got to visit with the other float builder's, which was fun also got to see the large commercial floats come in to the building area. People started to arrive. We put saws, paint brushes, knives and hammer's in t-girl hands and the transformation from truck to bird started again.

I would like to thank all the individuals who helped with the float building. Truck to bird was not an easy task. I left about 7:00pm thing were coming to together. I went back to hotel. My cold just drained all my of energy. I like to say my day was done. But I offered my room to share with a couple of other float-riding girls. So all of us could get ready in the room and walk to the starting area. I was dreaming of that cute outfit I was wearing on Friday in a size 4, what a dream! I was awaken by a knock on the door it was 3:00am Sunday (I was inform early that their would be late, which was no problems, it was leaving that size 4 dress). The fun for me started when I open that door. We started talking and laughing, and I knew that this day was going to be awesome. Back to sleep again. Not for long, I normally get up 5:30am daily. I was up at 5:33 am. I knew I better start getting ready.

It was not long until the my quest float rider was up. One advantage we had in this room was the bathroom could handle two girls putting make-up on at a time. The phone starting ringing and other float runner were arriving. The room transform into a dress room just like the cotillion dress room. It brought back some great memories. We starting to help each other get ready. Miss Monica and I were the first to leave room. We got off the elevator and walked in the lobby got high fives and many cheers, off to the starting area.

We had to walk through the ladies on motorcycle contingent. We had to get to the other side on Market Street. Monica and I were thankful to the ladies on motorcycle or we would have to walk five more blocks to get around them. Some of the girls were there already. Our drivers Miss Nicole and Debbie are in the bird head ready to go. We hear the motorcycle engine starting. It's still only about 10:20am. We were being requested about every 15 minutes. For photos.

Three girls from the contingent next to us got on our float to practice cheer to their 100 plus group. 10 minutes into their cheer Tianna said we better get them off the bird. I asked the girls please get off. So we can get on the float. As soon as they got off the bird it started to move. We starting moving very quickly. Got everybody on the bird, next thing I know we turn on to market. Savannah, Pablo and Berlin went to the rear of the bird, Monica went to the left side of a table which Stephanie Ann and I built on Saturday. I knew a couple girls could stand on it. I said to Tianna get up there girl, up she goes. Monica and I were on each side of her for safety. Somebody said where's the sound, no sound operator. Also on the bird up front by the sound system was Ayme and her gorgeous friend, Aleisa.

Out of nowhere miss Jamie Fenton appeared in her beautiful black long dress, hair up and looking fine. She connected the unconnected sound system, as the bird is moving and started to play some tunes. Wow. I focus my attention now on waving to the crowd. Now appears Miss ETVC 1995 Erin, up on the bird Erin goes, also with buckets and bags of tootsie rolls in hand. We filled the bucket giving them to the marchers to pass out to the crowd. There was an extra bucket left, so Monica and I started throwing handfuls of candy to the crowds. My first handful was pretty successful people reaching for the candy. Second handful, the people just look as the candy rain on them. We stopped ASAP.

One of the fun parts on the bird/float was to pick one person out of the crowd and wave at them or throw them a kiss. That was really fun. We were just passing the grandstand. I saw something on my left side .I turn forward it was Miss Ayme waving her bra over her head. We are just about at the end of the parade, but now we have to make a left hand turn off of market. We have to hold Tianna and Erin from falling off the table that table was only 3x5ft. The bird came to a stop. Wow lets do it again. It was like a ride at Disneyland 1000 times better. Monica and my plan was to make our way back to the room to change. Again people were asking for photos every 1 or 2 minutes.

It took awhile to make our way past the civic center, with all the events and booths, and after getting passed the events we have to go four more blocks to just see a cab. Finally got a cab, and back to room to change out of costume. Tianna and Savannah each had keys to the room so they could come back to change. Quick change for Monica and I, and back to the event at civic center, a lot of people, many booths and entertainment stages. We stayed for about 4 hours, checking every thing out.

As were heading back to the room. We ran into Miss Savannah and I said let go girl. The cab scenario was not as bad as the first time. We got to the room, there is Tianna still in costume lying on the bed. It took her hours to get to the room. Tianna's friend Jamie sweet arrives seconds after us. She was ready to take a nap. The float riders were ready for cocktail and to telling some story. Down to the bar on the third floor we go. There wasn't many people in the bar. We found a table by the window. We started telling stories and laughs started.

Our bartender Chris was a gorgeous guy from New Zealand. Just got here and said he was married, but we didn't see a wedding ring. He did know a lot about the pride parade in Australia. He also gives us free cocktails. They looked fantastic, and the girls said they were great. The girls thought we should give him a free one. My response was a free what? Back to the room one more time. My energy level was on empty. The girls started packing up. We were giving each other's hugs and kiss, and somebody asked when the next event would be. Miss Monica said she will be competing in runway 2001 July 14, 2001. We all said we would be there for you girl. Thank you TGSF for a great weekend.

Float Builders & Parade-Goers!

Mr. Gordon Isn't Mr. Gordon Anymore

JIM FITZGERALD, Associated Press Writer
SF Chronicle, July 25, 2001

When last seen by students at Eastchester High School, art teacher Randey Gordon was a man. When they return to class in September, that will no longer be the case. "Mr. Gordon isn't Mr. Gordon anymore," said the 52-year-old teacher who underwent a sex-change operation last month. "But it's still me. The parents and the kids who knew me as a man, they'll accept me. The person hasn't changed. I'm the same crazy, humorous person I was before."

Many people who undergo sex changes — there are an estimated 1,000 annually in the United States — decide to start a new life with a new identity. But Gordon, who has taught in the New York City suburb for 10 years, is one of a small number of transsexual teachers across the country who are returning to the classroom. "I love my job," Gordon said. "I shouldn't have to give that up. The fact is that diversity is something the world needs to understand and respect and I'm doing this for others."

A similar case is unfolding in Northbrook, Ill., where a female high school science teacher will return to classes this fall as a man. In Lake Forest, Ill., an English teacher became a woman in the summer of 1998 and "the transition was very smooth," Assistant Principal Jay Hoffmann said.

It doesn't always work that way. Dana Rivers, a teacher in Sacramento, Calif., was fired in 1999 after becoming a woman. The school board said parents complained Rivers had talked to students about the decision. Rivers denied that and sued; she received a $150,000 settlement and resigned.

Gordon has the support of local and state teachers unions. Darryl Figueroa, spokeswoman for the National Education Association, the nation's largest teachers union, said, "Our position would be that (a sex change) doesn't affect classroom performance — and as long as it doesn't we would tend to support the teacher."

To prepare for Gordon's return to the 600-student high school, the district invited students and parents to what turned out to be a lively meeting that covered everything from privacy rights to bathroom use. (She said she plans to use the unisex faculty bathroom in the school's art wing.)

"There was a lot of confusion and people had questions," Superintendent Bob Siebert said. "Most people were supportive. We told them everything we could about what had happened and we assured them that Randey was going to have to be responsible, like any other teacher, about what she says to the students. We also told them Randey had rights that have to be protected." Ellie Giotas, who has a daughter at the high school, has doubts.

"They're trying to justify something in the name of freedom, in the name of the law," Giotas said. "I would tell this guy, 'Why don't you get the hell out and start your new life somewhere else? Why do you have to impose this on us, on our children?'"

Still, some students seem untroubled.

"He's not a killer, he's not a child molester," senior Zack Sciarabba told The Journal News of White Plains. "He's a person who wants to live his life. He was a great guy and there's no doubt he'll be a great woman."

Gordon, the divorced parent of a 21-year-old son, told the superintendent last August about plans for the sex-change surgery. They eventually agreed on a year's leave, with pay, "so everybody could get used to the situation," Siebert said.

The 5-foot-9 Gordon began living as a woman, dieted from 230 pounds down to 170, and on June 6 underwent the $50,000 sex-change operation. Unlike many transsexuals, she kept her first name, since it could be either male or female.

Monica, Stephanie Ann and Rachael Janelle at the AIDS Walk, Sunday, July 15.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

Please Help!

TG looking for Room to Rent, San Francisco only. I can pay $500-$600 monthly. Contact: Billie [redacted] at **(415)** [redacted]. Thank you!!

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Are You A Veteran?

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

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PFLAG Speaks Out Regarding Salvation Army/White House Discussions

Washington, DC — Kirsten Kingdon, Executive Director of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) today spoke out against the reported discussion between the Bush Administration and the Salvation Army to sanction workplace discrimination against gay, lesbian and bisexual people. The Washington Post today reported that the Bush Administration has expressed a commitment to issue a regulation protecting religious charities from state and local non-discrimination regulations. The Salvation Army reportedly has pledged public support to pass the Bush Administration charitable choice or faith-based initiative.

Any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is just wrong. As a person of faith, I understand how important religious values are to people, but those values should not trample on the basic civil rights of others. It is wrong for our government to subsidize discrimination in the name of religion.

I am dismayed that the Salvation Army, an organization that speaks in the name of Christian values, has taken such a hateful and hurtful position against gay, lesbian and bisexual people. The Salvation Army is not promoting love and acceptance; they are promoting discrimination and bigotry when they claim that gay, lesbian and bisexual people are less moral or less worthy than others. Thousands of PFLAG members embrace both their faith and their gay loved ones its shameful that the nations largest charity is not able to do the same.

President Bush regularly talks about seeing into the good hearts of people. Does he think that gay people do not have the same good hearts and moral values as others? How else could he support, in the name of faith, taking a position that values gay people less than others? As a mother of a gay son and an elder in the Presbyterian Church, I am outraged. As a taxpayer, I am appalled that my tax dollars would be used to discriminate against my son and millions of other gay, lesbian or bisexual persons.

If the Bush Administration and the Salvation Army believe so deeply in their presumed high moral ground, why did they have to resort to private conversations, and hushed plans to modify obscure government regulations? Its because they know that the American people do not support workplace discrimination, and that their harmful rhetoric wouldn't survive our legislative process.

The irony is that by discriminating against gay employees and prospective employees, the Salvation Army is cutting itself off from an entire pool of well-qualified employees and sending a message to the gay people they serve that they are second class citizens.

PFLAG promotes the health and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Serving more than 84,000 members and supporters, PFLAGs more than 460 chapters and affiliates are located in communities across the United States.

Expanded Hotline Hours!

Hotline hours have been expanded to include 10pm to 2am. It's a great time for those of you that wait until the kids or other family members are asleep to address your transgendered correspondence. Telzey still answers the phone live from 7pm to 10pm. And now Debbie and Nicole answer the phone live from 10pm to 2am.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms? What do you think?

Want to have a say in the future of San Francisco bathrooms? Then please contact us. (even if you've already filled out the 'Bathroom Stories' survey)

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission is discussing possible changes to the Compliance Guidelines to Prohibit Gender Identity Discrimination. We want to be inclusive of genderqueer, intersex, transgender, and transsexual people, and anyone who in any way is discriminated against because of gender presentation or gender identity. In a previous survey we have gotten many responses asking for gender neutral bathrooms. We would like to know what you think of this option and if you have other suggestions. Thanks!!

Please e-mail, snail mail, or call: Dylan Vade, dylan_vade@ci.sf.ca.us. / San Francisco Human Rights Commission – LGBT-HIV Unit, 25 Van Ness, 8th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102 / (415) 252-2529

Questions

Name (optional) / Best way to contact you (optional)
Gender identity / Transgender? Yes No
Would you like to see more/less gender-neutral bathrooms in San Francisco? Please check all that apply:
❑ More ❑ Less - single-person gender neutral bathrooms
❑ More ❑ Less - multiple-person gender neutral bathrooms
❑ In addition to female/male bathrooms
❑ Replacing male/female bathrooms
Other suggestions, your ideal bathroom would:_____.
Bathroom horror stories:_____.
Positive bathroom stories (optional):_____.
Other comments:_____.

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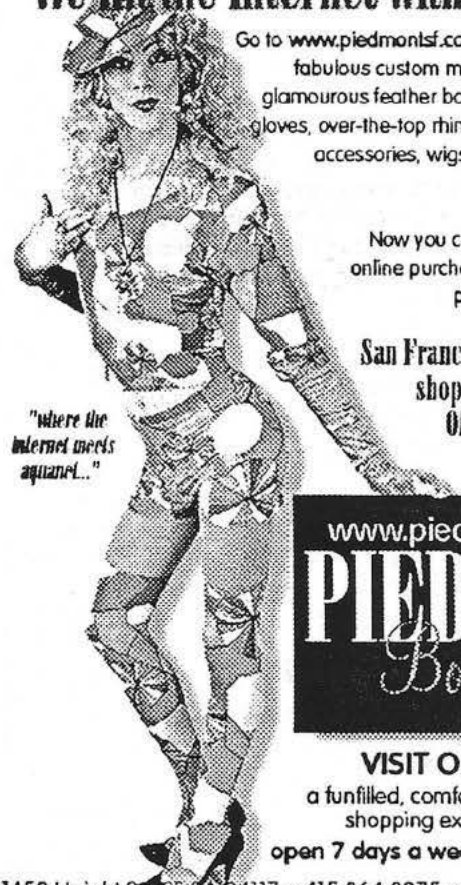

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