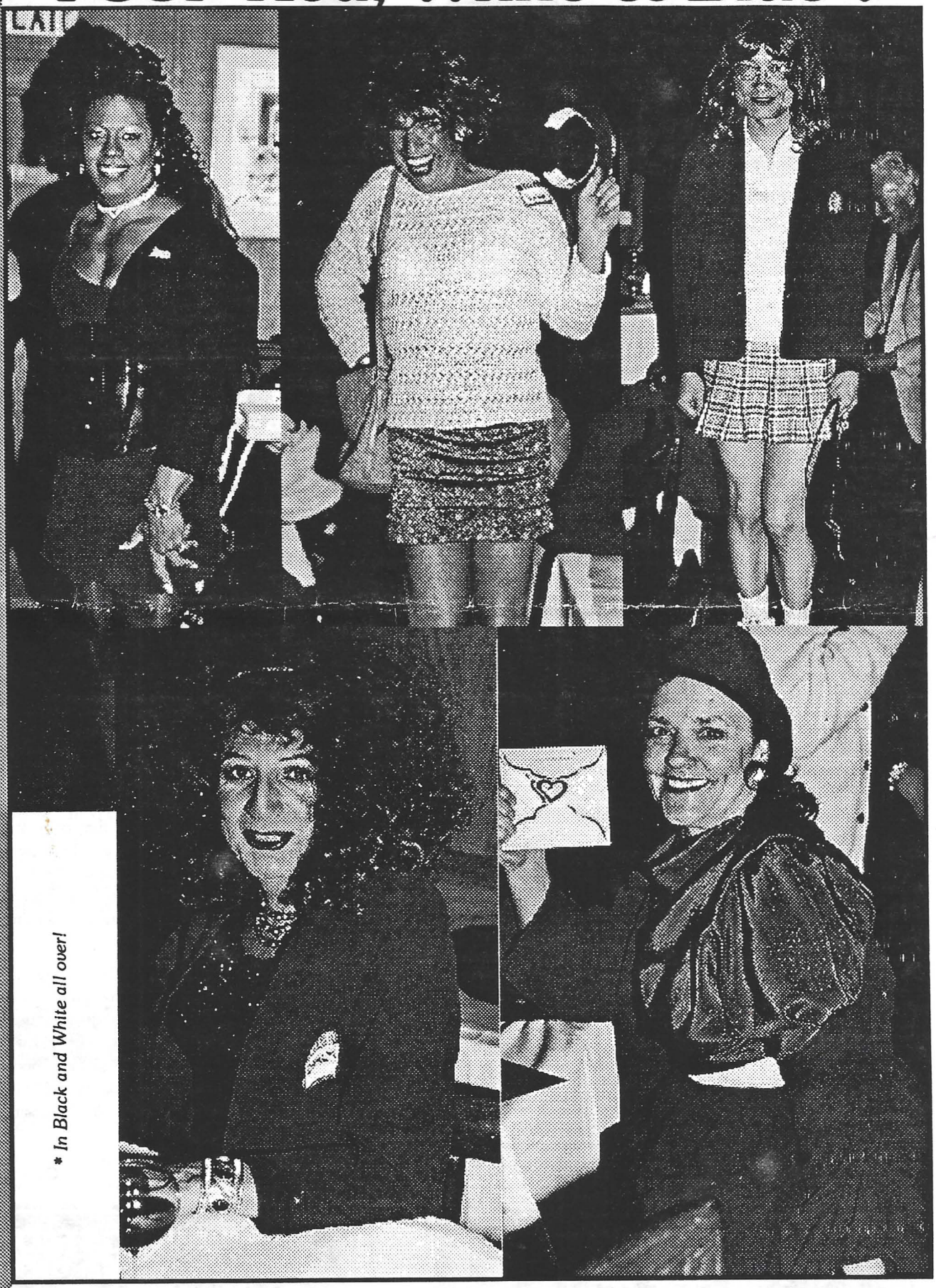
September 1999 Volume 18, Issue 9

TGSF Red, White & Blue*!



* In Black and White all over!

The Channel
TGSF
transGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

The Channel

TGSF, Inc., a 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 1999 - 2000 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President ..... Leslie Bailey
Vice President ..... Lulu Blau
Secretary ..... Roxanne
Treasurer ..... Janis Ryan
Education ..... Nancy Cupps / Tianna Marie
Outreach ..... Theresa Sparks / Telzey Adams
Social ..... Nicole and Debbie Cook

Membership Report

As of August 15, 1999

Fiscal Year		Number	% of 98-99
1998-1999	Total members	291	100.0
1999-2000	Renewals	179	61.5
1999-2000	New members	25	8.6
1999-2000	Non-renewing	112	38.5
1999-2000	Total members	204	70.1

TGSF is a 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 ..... Janis Ryan
Contributing Photographers This Issue ..... Telzey Adams, ... Nicole and Debra Cook

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

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

From The Editor...

I thought by now some company here in OKC would've snapped me up, what with my skillset and level of expertise. Working for Wells Fargo in San Francisco, I've learned, has spoiled me rotten. I took for granted the ease with which I was openly accepted into a progressive and large company, headquartered in decidedly what many consider Mecca for alternative lifestyles. But here in Oklahoma City the business community is just not ready for a transsexual on staff. I've gotten numerous interviews, have said all the right things, impressed them with my resume, and yet I still have not received any offers of employment. I hate having to start over again, but still I was optimistic at my chances of finding another job rather quickly after I moved here. Sadly it's not the case. Transphobia is alive and kicking in OKC.

And to be honest, it's depressing, demoralizing and quite insidious. I've tried different approaches when I meet hiring managers in terms of openly discussing my alternative lifestyle. On one hand I feel like it would be dishonest not to tell them - after all I don't have anything to hide (well....I do, actually, but only if I'm in a bikini...). On the other hand I risk their outright rejection by opening my big mouth. It's not like I'm wearing a sign on my forehead declaring "Tranny," but I still haven't perfected a feminine-sounding voice so invariably that's what's giving me away. You can understand something of how this makes me feel by reading Jeri Marie Liesegang's story on page 12 - I can relate!

Although by law hiring managers aren't allowed to ask such personal questions, I usually volunteer my transsexuality anyway. I want them to know up front that what they see (a professionally dressed, competent woman) is what they get. Oddly, even towards the end of an interview when I tell them I'm TS (after listening to me speak for an hour), I still see shock registered in some eyes. I guess it's all a matter of perception, on both sides. Inside I feel and act like a woman, so despite the somewhat husky rumblings emanating from my voicebox, I guess I'm doing something right.

But still no offers...*sigh*...but I'm fortunate enough to have picked up some freelance work that pays me $13.25 an hour. And that's really terrific money out here (scary, isn't it?). After leaving a $35,000/year job it's very difficult to get excited about working fulltime for $9 or $10 bucks an hour, which is what most companies are offering for the kinds of jobs I'm seeking and qualified to do.

I'm willing to take a $10,000/year pay cut, but even at $25k/yr (and there are jobs out here that pay "that much") I've learned that for every ad I respond to and get an interview out of, at least 70-100 other people have done the same. It's extremely competitive. So what do you think - with all those bodies to choose from, you think a manager with an Okie mentality is going to hire a TS when he could get a "real girl" to fill the position?

Continued on Page 3

WWW.TGSF.ORG
New Site! Get Online!

President's Message

by Leslie Bailey

I am sure that not a single trans person that I know is camera shy (except for the outside media) and I am no exception. Why do we so love seeing pictures of our femme selves? For that matter why are mirrors so popular with our group? The visual, visualizing, reflections, transformation, confirmation, seeing, cognition.

I frequently look through my trans photo album that I started keeping five years ago which chronicles many significant events and many of the friends that have filled my life in that period. Halloween party at the Dumfey with Patti, Big Sur the first time Leslie was out in daylight, cotillions, Pride Parades, ExComs, socials, Pajaro Dunes, outreach events, nights on the town, cards sent by Andrea (lovely girlish images), correspondence, coronations, Emperor Norton's grave site, Cal Dreamin'', Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Big Shew, PFLAG, the Widow Norton, Trauma, a dried rose that my daughter gave me at the first cotillion that Lulu and I produced. I also included in this album some of my favorite photos of my children, my relatives, my daughter's wedding, work and even my ex.

Although I enjoy the pictures of myself, the album has really come to be about all the people who populate my life and have become such an indispensable part of life's pleasures. I also included one newspaper clipping that I would like to share. It seems like a worthy goal. (Parade Magazine, 3-9-97):

"Success?" Fiennes gave me a withering look. "Well, I don't know quite what you mean by success. Material success? Worldly success? Personal, emotional success? The people I consider successful are so because of how they handle their responsibilities to other people, how they approach the future, people who have a full sense of the value of their life and what they want to do with it. I call people 'successful' not because they have money or their business is doing well but because, as human beings, they have a fully developed sense of being alive and engaged in a lifetime task of collaboration with other human beings—their mothers and fathers, their family, their friends, their loved ones, the friends who are dying, the friends who are being born."

"Success?" he repeated emphatically. "Don't you know it is all about being able to extend love to people? Really. Not in a big, capital-letter sense but in the everyday. Little by little, task by task, gesture by gesture, word by word."

That's my album. My family and friends, some important events and some words to try and live by.

Luanna L. Rodgers, MA, MFCC

Specializing in work with the transgender community

- *Individual Psychotherapy*
- *Relationship and Family Counseling*
- *Gender* • *Sexuality*

Call & let's talk!

San Francisco
(415) 641-8890

From The Editor...

Continued from Page 2

Even if I have more experience and better skills, if I was in a similar hiring capacity (and been raised in the mid-west), I would probably feel pressured to conform to what's "normal" in that respect and wouldn't take the risk of hiring someone that's even remotely controversial, so I understand their behavior. Oh sure, they talk the good talk about how non-discriminatory their companies are, but they don't walk the walk when it comes right down to it, which ultimately doesn't excuse their (lack of) action. Some of these jobs even want me to take a drug test before they'll offer me employment! Can you believe that crap? I can understand the necessity of a drug test if I was doing a job that directly effected another's health and safety (like an airline pilot or mechanic), but for a desk job? Gimme a break!

So I get a lot of "we'll get back to you's" and I hurry up and wait, usually to receive a letter of rejection (I've acquired an impressive stack of 'em). I keep plodding along - my resume gets me two or three interviews a week, but I gotta tell you I sorely miss California and the more liberal attitudes out there.

On A Good Note...

I've started singing again! I've joined the recently formed OKC Metro Women's Chorus and was graciously welcomed with open arms. Granted, my singing voice is more suited to a men's chorus, but after a good warmup I'm doing my best singing Alto II and providing a nice low end to our sound. Our target audience is the GLBT community of course, but all women who like to sing are encouraged to join. Quite refreshing.

Some of you know that I ultimately had to resign my membership with the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles because as I progressed with my transition, it ultimately came down to the fact that there was no place for a woman in a men's group. Yes it was discriminatory, even within the gay community. So as turnabout is fair play, I've found a second family and am dusting off an old gift and really enjoying the heck out of it. Our debut performance is at the first GLBT Arts Festival to be held in OKC this coming October.

Despite my travails at seeking meaningful work, I'm determined to stick to my guns and not compromise my principles, west-coast biased as they may be. I'm making friends and contributing in some small way to our community here, tryint to keep busy, make a little under-the-table money and maintain a positive outlook. I'll keep you apprised in next month's issue.

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!

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

August 1999

ExCom Meeting Minutes

by Janis Ryan, Treasurer, and acting Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the TGSF Executive Committee on Sunday, August 8, 1999 was held at the home of Vice President Lulu Blau in San Francisco, California. The notice given at the previous Executive Committee meeting on July 11, 1999 was that it would be held at 3:00 p.m. at a member's house in Mill Valley, California if that could be arranged, with the possibility of holding it at Lulu's if not. Notice of the change in location was attempted to ExCom members either by email or telephone. Secretary Roxanne later informed the ExCom she had not received notice of the new location. She had been informed at the last End-of-Month-Social that the meeting was to be at the home of President Leslie Bailey, after informing the President and Vice President that the meeting would not be in Mill Valley. Roxanne traveled to Albany to find no ExCom meeting and had no means to contact anyone about the new location.

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by President Leslie Bailey. Also present were Vice President Lulu Blau, Treasurer Janis Ryan, and Social Co-chairs Nicole Cook and Debbie Cook. Member Stephanie Ann was present as a guest. At 3:55 p.m. Outreach Co-chair Telzey Adams arrived, and a quorum was present. Not present were Secretary Roxanne, Education Co-chairs Tianna Marie and Nancy Cupps, and Outreach Co-chair Theresa Sparks.

Announcements

Lulu recommended the show *Hot Pants Homo,* which is playing at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. from August 3 through August 28, and on Wednesday August 4 and 11 at 8:00 p.m.

Old Business

Nicole inquired of Leslie about the status of awards. Leslie promised to have them done this month. Janis inquired of Leslie about the status of the final invoice for services by Randall Schiller at the 1999 Cotillion. It had still not been received. Leslie asked Janis to remind her to contact Mr. Schiller on Monday to try to obtain it, and would inform Janis of its status.

Nicole inquired of Lulu about the status of the Standing Rules for the Vice President. Both she and Lulu are working on versions of them. It was agreed that Nicole's set of rules would be voted on at next month's ExCom Meeting so that there would be rules in place, and that they could later be amended if needed with Lulu's proposals.

Nicole also inquired of Leslie about the status of the Standing Rules for President. Leslie agreed to have them prepared at next month's ExCom Meeting.

Nicole and Debbie presented sample laminated membership cards that they had developed, with the picture of the Golden Gate Bridge on a blue background on the left of the card, and the legend: TGSF A California Non-profit Corporation over it. On the card is the member's preferred name and membership number, with the statement that she or he "is a member in good standing as long as annual dues are paid." Also on the card is the mailing address, hotline telephone number and web site address of the organization. A version of the card also had a statement on the back stating: *The person named on this card is not cross-dressed for illegal or fraudulent purposes, but rather for self-expression and emotional fulfillment,* but Janis recommended that it not be included. A member could submit a digital picture of herself for inclusion on the card instead of the picture of the bridge. The total cost for all members would be approximately $70, or $0.35 per card. Janis moved and Nicole seconded that these cards be made for all of the current members. The motion passed unanimously. Janis agreed to send to Debbie a current file of the membership numbers and preferred names.

Telzey announced the death of Ginger 14, a.k.a. Bill Harrison, on July 29. Memorial services will be held on August 29. Telzey also announced the death of Bobby Bentley, a former Mr. ETVC. Memorial services were held on August 2.

Minutes

Leslie entertained a motion that the minutes of the previous ExCom meeting be approved. Janis noted that she had submitted some minor corrections to them. On a motion by Debbie, seconded by Nicole, the minutes as corrected were approved unanimously.

President's Report

Leslie will be getting around to people regarding participation in the ISE Coronation, which will be held on Saturday, September 5.

Leslie received a call from John Goodnight, who stated that there will be a planning meeting for the 2000 California Dreamin' conference on September 12 at the Holiday Inn on Van Ness in San Francisco, which is the conference hotel. Janis told that some of the vendors from the 1998 conference which she attended were not satisfied with their treatment that year, and did not participate in 1999. She feels that the vendors are an important part of the transgendered community, and that their concerns need to be considered. Nicole mentioned that in 1998 many of the announced session leaders did not appear, and that last-minute replacements for them needed to be found.

Vice President's Report

Lulu announced that it had been slack time for her after the Big Shew and Parade. She stated that the Cotillion Contestant Handbook and Standing Rules for the Vice President would be ready at the next ExCom meeting.

The Cotillion will be held on January 29, 2000, at the San Francisco Design Center. A planning meeting for the Cotillion will be held on Wednesday, August 11, at Lulu's home. She wants to involve ExCom members in this. The fire damage to the Design Center should not affect us, and ours will be the last event before the remodeling of the Atrium begins. We need to focus more media attention on the event, and to seek additional sponsorships.

Secretary's Report

In the absence of the Secretary, there was no report.

Treasurer's Report

At the request of Lulu, Janis had prepared a chart showing the most recent membership payment of each member from April 1996 through July 1999. A copy of this chart was sent by email to every ExCom member except Telzey, who was mailed a paper copy. It is posted on the TGSF Web Site at: http://www.tgsf.org/treasurer/membstat.html

Continued on Page 5

Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

Lulu requested a graph showing the number of members per month for this period, and Janis indicated that neither she nor Veronica had the data to generate this, but that the information was available in prior newsletters. Telzey has a set of past newsletters, and found membership figures of approximately 200 for July in several prior years, which is consistent with the membership of 199 for July 1999 as reported by Janis.

Janis presented the Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Report, and Net Income and Expense Function reports for July 1999. She had not yet made copies for everyone. The bank account balance was $17,190.17 with a carry over of $1,250.00 in other assets for a total of $18,440.17. A total of $1,759.92 in other liabilities was shown, yielding a net worth of $16,680.25. Income for the month exceeded expenses by $259.75. She also presented a Job/Project Report showing income and expenses for the period from April through July 1999 broken down by category, such as Postage and Delivery, and Project, such as Educational Committee and Operations. She will make copies available to all of the ExCom members for their information, and for suggestions regarding additional categories.

Janis requested the of the ExCom regarding her expenses for travel to meetings and other functions, since she generally relies on public transit and generally has to pay for tickets in advance. The consensus was that the amounts spent for attendance at meetings or other business of the organization should be allowed, but that that spent for such activities as reviewing events for the newsletter, which might be used to encourage advertising, be limited to $30.00 per month.

Janis announced that she had created a form on the TGSF Web Site which should be used to request payments from her. Tianna had been the first to use it to request the payment of an honorarium to CUAV for the upcoming Educational Seminar. Lulu and Telzey requested that Janis generate paper forms to request payments, and she agreed to do so.

Educational Committee Report

In the absence of the Educational Co-chairs, Lulu reported that the next Educational Seminar will be at Kimo's at 1:00 p.m. on August 14. It will be about safety while going out in public, and will feature speakers from Community United Against Violence (CUAV) and other groups.

Social Committee Report

Nicole presented the current 41-page draft of The 1999 TGSF Transgender Resources Catalog. She asked that ExCom members review it for possible corrections. One member noted that it currently lists under "Pyramid Brewery" that TGSF "will" hold a mid-month meeting there, and that the scheduled meeting there this Wednesday will be before the final publication. Nicole and Debbie indicated that this guide will also be available on the TGSF Web Site, and that readers there will be requested to send a donation if they download the entire guide from it.

Nicole stated that the September Mid-month Social will be held at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint. Janis indicated that there was limited parking on the street, but Nicole stated that there was a parking facility across the street. Nicole announced that the September End-of-month Social will be held at The Blue Muse, and will feature a Legs Contest.

Nicole further announced that the October Mid-month Social will be a two-part event, with the second part at the Trannyshack event. The location of the first part had not yet been decided. Nicole also announced that the October End-of-month Social will be the Halloween Party at Carla's and the DeFrank Center in San Jose. Nicole stated that there will be a dinner outside of the regular meeting schedule in November. Finally, Nicole stated that member CJ has informed her of a Swing Dancing Class

New Business

Janis announced her intention to submit proposed changes to the TGSF Bylaws at the next ExCom meeting. These would include three separate sets of changes:

The name change from Educational TV Channel and ETVC to Transgender San Francisco and TGSF. This is required in order to change the corporate name with the Secretary of State, as had been approved by the membership.

A proposal for memberships to last for 12 months starting when the member initially joins, rather than making it coincide with the group's fiscal year. Janis felt that the large number of renewals which occurred just before and just after the terms of the new officers had caused a lot of problems, which were still being resolved. She felt that staggering the membership renewals would help alleviate this. Nicole raised questions about the treatment of late renewal payments.

[At 5:35 p.m. the ExCom entered a presentation and discussion of a confidential matter.]

Adjournment

President Leslie Bailey called a special ExCom meeting for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11 at her home in Albany, California. As acting Secretary, Janis will give notice of this meeting by email to the members of the ExCom, to the TGSF Mailing List, and will post it to the Calendar of the TGSF Web Site. On a motion by Debbie, seconded by Nicole, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

WAVE ELECTROLOGY
Permanent Hair Removal

Local Anesthetic
Available in a
Clinical Environment

Guy, Thu-Minh & Marilyin
1570 The Alameda, Suite 215
San Jose, CA 95126

(408) 292-1558
Email: wave1@flash.net
www.flash.net/-wave1

Seahorse Medical Clinic
Joy Diane Shaffer, MD

1570 THE ALAMEDA, SUITE 215 • SAN JOSE, CA 95126
(408) 292-1078

TGSF Events in September

Wednesday / September 8th / 8:00pm

Mid-Month Social

The mid-month social will be held once again at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint. They will be opened just for us since there are no shows or events scheduled that night, so we hope to see many more people there than there have been in the past !! Josie's is at 3583 16th Street in San Francisco. Parking on the street can be quite difficult, but we have discovered a parking area across the street on Market in the Tower Records building. The entrance to it is on Noe and I believe it closes at midnight. . .but don't take my word for it.

And lets not forget that this is also the day that the TransBay group meets at Quetzals. If you can't make it to Josie's for our gathering, try to make it to this event. Quetzals is located at 1234 Polk, between Sutter and Bush (right down the street from Kimo's). Park in the large parking structure and walk around the corner to where the coffee shop is located. This event starts at 7:00pm.

Friday / September 10th / 8:00pm

TGSF Library / Poker Night

Call Nancy Anne at (415) [redacted] for information and directions. Peruse our extensive archives or join in the game! Please call to confirm.

Sunday / September 12th / 3:00pm

ExCom Meeting

The end of the year is getting closer which means there will be events happening that we will need volunteers for. This is the time to come to the ExCom meeting and get involved. Come see how your organization works. . .come be heard !! If you want to get away from the city for a little while and visit the country, this is also your chance. The ExCom meeting will be held in beautiful Sebastopol. . .amongst oak and fruit trees. Take some fresh grown apples and pears home with you after the meeting too !! If you are considering coming, please call Nicole and Debbie at (707) [redacted] and we will be happy to give you directions.

Saturday / September 18th / 1:00pm

Education Seminar: A Painless Alternative for Permanent Hair Removal

If you've been considering permanent hair removal, but haven't wanted to go through the pain of electrology, or are one of many whose hair and skin color aren't suitable for laser hair removal, there is an alternative way to reach your goal. Guy Campo of Wave Electrology will explain the various types of electrology techniques in addition to the two types they provide: blend and thermolysis, and show diagrams of the structure beneath the surface of the skin and cycle of hair growth. Wave Electrology is located within the offices of Seahorse Medical Clinic in San Jose, the medical practice of Joy D. Shaffer, M.D., a graduate of Stanford University and the California Institute of Technology. Local anesthetic injections can be administered by Dr. Shaffer by making an appointment with her just before an electrology appointment, allowing hair removal to be done nearly pain free! Wave Electrology has several TGSF members as clients, as well as many other transgendered clients from outside the Bay Area. Those without a car in San Francisco will be pleased to know Wave Electrology is located only 5 blocks from the College Park CalTrain station. The clinic will be happy to provide a list of nearby motels and restaurants for out of town clients who arrange extended appointments over several days. Refer to the business card ads in the TGSF Channel newsletter from Wave Electrology and Seahorse Medical Clinic for address, phone, and web site information. Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk & Pine Sts, SF. Donations Appreciated.

Thursday / September 30th / 8:00pm

End of Month Social

The End of Month Social will be held at our usual end-of-month hangout, The Blue Muse. The theme this month is legs, legs and more legs. . .therefore, the Legs contest will be the highlight of the evening. There will be a prize for first and second runner up while the best legs in San Francisco winner will receive 2 complementary tickets to the Halloween party in San Jose this October 23rd, so be there for one of our most popular themes and join in the fun!! The Blue Muse is located at 409 Gough Street in San Francisco. Park in any of the local parking lots on either side of the restaurant.

New Members since August Issue:

Pam	Ellie
Gi Gi	Yuumi Awano
Sandy	Tracy Watkins
Linda	Carole Watkins

Welcome!

Now Available!

1999 Resource Guide

The 1998-99 TGSF Resource Guide is now available at cost to all TGSF members. You can bring $3.00 to the next social or we can mail it to you for $3.00 + $1.50 postage. If you are a service listed in the guide you can get copies for $5.00 each plus postage. The Resource Guide will be available to everyone else for $10.00 each.

The 1999 TGSF Resource Guide is your one source for virtually all the Transgender Resources in the Greater Bay Area (From San Jose to Sacramento to Santa Rosa to San Francisco). The Guide covers where to go to have a good time on the town, where to shop, where to get services like Make-up, Electrolysis and Beauty Salons, as well as where to stay in the San Francisco area (and Russian River Resort Area). You can also locate professional services such as Doctors, Psychologists, Lawyers, Voice Therapists and others. The Guide also contains information on other Gender Information and Education Groups. If you are going to visit the San Francisco area - This is the guide to have!

If you would like a guide by mail you can send a check for $4.50 (per copy) to: TGSF, Resource Guide, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA. 94142-6486. Please be sure to indicate on the check that it is for the Resource Guide.

Calendar of Events – September 1999

Other Groups

Pacific Center for Human Growth
A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-841-6224

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. Write to RGA, 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 Bc 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 or call 916-482-7SGA (7742) for meeting locations.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)
Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. 8:00pm Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo 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, 2637 Pleasant Hill Road (@ Taylor Blvd.) in Pleasant Hill. For more information call 925-937-8432.

FTM
A support group for Female-to-Male cross dressers ar transsexuals; 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 (TransGenderism Is Fun)
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. Spac is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane o Anne at 707[redacted]

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)
A new trangender support group meets at the Billy D Frank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd an 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 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance in Humboldt County. Meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00pm in the GLBTA Center at Fourth an "D" Streets in Eureka. For information call the Cente at 707-445-9760.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	3 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	4
5	6 8:00 PM DVG	7	8 7:00 PM TransBay 8:00 PM TGSF: MidMonth Social	9	10 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night	11 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
12 3:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	13	14	15	16 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	17 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	18 3:00 PM TGSF EduCom Seminar
19	20 8:00 PM DVG	21	22	23	24 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	25 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
26	27	28	29	30 8:00 PM TGSF: End Of Month Social		

TGSF Membership Application

Full Year Membership May 1 – April 30

Please Print / Check all that apply:

❑ New Member ❑ Renewal ❑ Member #_____ with ❑ Family Member

Member Birth Date _____ / _____ Family Member Birth Date _____ / _____

Preferred Name: _____

Mailing Name: _____

Family Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How did you hear about TGSF? _____

Your Email address: _____

I am enclosing a Check or Money order for:

❑ **$30.00 Full Year Membership** (Renewals)

❑ **$40.00 Full Year Family Membership** (Renewals; Note only one copy of the Channel will be sent to this address).

❑ **Pro Rate $** _____ beginning Month: _____

New Members only; See Chart at right)

Send Check or Money Order to
TGSF
PO Box 426486
San Francisco, CA
94142-6486

IF PAID IN	THEN SINGLE PAY	THEN FAMILY PAY
MAY	30	40
JUN	27.5	37
JUL	25	33
AUG	22.5	30
SEP	20	27
OCT	17.5	23
NOV	15	20
DEC	12.5	17
JAN	10	13
FEB	7.5	10
MAR	5	7
APR	2.5	3

Our Readers Respond...

En Drag
A Female Impersonation Revue

by Janis Ryan

Friday the thirteenth. Alfred Hitchcock's one-hundredth birthday. What a better way to spend it than with a friend and go to a drag show!

En Drag had been one of the shows formerly playing at Kimo's every weekend. But that club recently they changed formats, and now have live music there Thursday through Sunday. So the act found a new home at what they advertise as "The very TG-friendly Club Tango Tango" a few blocks away at 1550 California Street. This club is considerably larger than Kimo's. During the week it is a dance club, and has a combined dance floor and performance area. And it was a very friendly place.

The ad in our newsletter doesn't specify the time for the show, so I verified that the starting time was 10:00 p.m. by calling the club at (415) 775-0442. Stephanie Ann met me at my home at 9:00 p.m., and we drove across the bay, arriving at the club at about 9:30 p.m. Things were running on "Tranny Time," and it turns out that one of the performers hadn't show up, so there was one last minute replacement.

At 10:15 Alexandra, the Mistress of Ceremonies, announced that the show would start in 10 minutes. Then just before 10:30 she stepped out, wearing a black tuxedo, and had her long blond hair in a pony tail. She announced the rules of the evening:

1. Each performer was to receive a large round of applause on being introduced, and
2. Since it takes a lot for the girls to look like they do, with costumes, wigs, false eyelashes, and makeup, it would be appreciated if they were given a dollar as a tip by audience members as they were performing.

The first performer was Miss Karen Kelly, a last-minute substitution. She had long brown hair, and was wearing a little black dress, a silver head band, and silver glitter blended with her makeup.

I felt right at home, wearing my shortest black skirt and the black mohair blend cowl sweater that I was pictured in the newsletter wearing at our end-of-month meeting several months ago, also with silver jewelry. Her dance act was to a song "Beautiful Baby—Work that Body!" And she was, and did!

The next performer was our cocktail waitress of the evening, Victoria Secret. She was also dressed in black and silver, with long, auburn hair. Her routine was to a song "It's an Art to be a Fine Waitress," and she used her drinks tray as a prop during it.

Vicky Bowles was the next performer, also wearing a little black dress. She had a black feather boa, a red beaded necklace, and a huge bouffant hairdo. Her act was to a country version of "Delta Dawn."

Silvona was next, wearing a black sequined dress covered with a pale green cape. She had long, auburn hair. Her dance act to the song "It's All Coming Back to Me" was especially energetic, and she played to the audience, working back into the seating area beside the long bar.

Gabby DeLuxe, from Australia, was next, a big blonde (like me!), wearing a long, black dress with a slit on the side and a black feather boa. Her act was to the song "You Got to See Momma Every Night." Then came Nummi Moore, wearing a knee-length, strapless black dress, with long brown hair down her back. She performed to the song "With Every Beat of My Heart."

Cocoa Volare then performed a very acrobatic act, wearing a *very* short dark green dress and long brown hair. Then came our MC's turn to perform. She had opened her shirt, revealing a black bra. Her song was "I'm going to Make it Anyway."

Karen Kelly was next, doing an act from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show,* "I'm a Sweet Transvestite, from Transsexual Transylvania." She had very short hair, and was wearing a black bustier with black fishnet stockings.

Victoria Secret came back, this time with a *big* bouffant blond hairdo! Her number, to which I relate of course, was "I'm a Blonde!" Then Vicki Baubles did a number to "Harper Valley PTA," followed by Sofonda Boyes dancing so energetically that she lost her wig while she was out in the audience.

Daphne DeLuxe did an act to "Goldfinger," wearing a lack and silver pants outfit with *big* bushy brown hair. Cocoa Volare and Victoria Secret then did numbers from *Gypsy,* with Cocoa first doing "Let Me Entertain You" as the young Gypsy Rose Lee, and Victoria doing a moving presentation of "Ya Either got it—or Ya ain't."

Our MC again appeared, this time wearing a silver top and black tights, and performed to "If You Want to be with Me." Then Vicki Bowes came back, and performed to "Go Ask Alice. Sofonda Boyes was next, performing to "Everlasting Love." Daphne DeLuxe returned, and performed to "Now I'm Strong Enough." then Nola Moore came back, performing to "I Touch Myself."

Cocoa Volare's next number, to "You're the Only One—My Desire for You" was exciting, and even ended up with one audience member on the floor! Then Alexandria, the MC, performed a special request to "Won't You Dance with Me?" One of the audience members got involved in the dance, to the extent that his tee shirt became ripped in the process! Then Alexandria introduced the cast and crew, and at about 12:30 a.m. the floor was turned over to the audience for dancing.

For this show, Tango Tango has a $6.00 cover charge, and two drink minimum. I had my usual non-alcohol beer. There are several house specialty drinks, including "The Last Tango" for $5.50. It was very warm in the club, and the ventilation wasn't great but was at least adequate. Of course, many of the patrons ignored the "no smoking" signs.

Even though we couldn't stay for the dancing afterwards, since we both had a busy day planned for Saturday, we had a great time.

Marga's
ELECTROLYSIS &
PERMANENT MAKE-UP

Permanent Hair Removal for Men & Women
Permanent Make-Up
- All Methods Used
- Disposable Probes
- Topical Desensitizer (Available)
- Days, Eves., & Weekends
- By Appointment
Free Consultation
Marga Myers, RE, MPS
510
278-1809
18345 Crest Ave. Castro Valley

Our Readers Respond...

Ms. TGSF, Margo DuVal, Resigns

by Lulu Blau, V.P.

It is with sadness that I have to announce Margo's withdrawal from her position as Miss TGSF. Her letter of resignation, tendered a week ago, was not a surprise. We have had discussions over the last month regarding this eventuality. However, though I understand her decision, those discussions and her letter reveal strengths of character and sacrifice which make it heavier to bear.

The following is an extract from her letter to the Executive Committee:

> "I have enjoyed my period as representative of one of the country's leading transgender organizations and held great hopes that I and you could find new effective ways of reaching out, not only to members of our community, but to the public at large. I had hoped that we would be able to educate, to sensitize, to make known to an uncaring and sometimes hostile world not only who we are, but to instill some awareness of us as people and human beings and as legitimate members of a diverse society....I wish....all the members of TGSF well in the coming months, and would like you to know that I will endeavor to assist you in whatever way we might mutually find appropriate."

It's embarrassing for me to sense Margo's frustration at not often receiving a leading hand in addressing the hopes & responsibilities articulated here. I know that frustration, too—having the energy and direction but still reaching for guidance—and I'm sorry for having missed my cues. It's both humbling and reassuring to find that, even so, TGSF has not lost a caring, committed friend. Thank you, Margo.

The position and title of Ms. TGSF will now fall to Serena, our 1st Runner-up at Cotillion '99, who will represent us at the Imperial Star Empire / Alameda Court Coronation on September 4th and, then, for the remainder of her term up to and including Cotillion 2000. Members, friends, and contributors please rally to the call, join to welcome and support Serena, Ms. TGSF, 1999!

SF TG Activists Produce TV Show

by Rosalyne S. Montgomery
Founder and Executive Director, TRansgenders United for Equality

Local San Francisco activists Kitty Kastro and Rosalyne Montgomery are co-producers of a transgender-oriented TV show on San Francisco's public access channel.

The show is named Tranny Talk, and will be aired monthly. Producer and Director Deena Boyer stated that if the show is a success, it will become a regular biweekly show.

The show will feature news and discussion of issues important to the TG community and will also feature guest interviews of noted activists and other personalities.

For more information, contact Rosalyne Montgomery at (415) [redacted]

Halloween Just Around the Corner

Well it is not long now before the 1999 TGSF Halloween party. On October 23rd we are going to use the same great venue for the Halloween Party that we used last year. This Year we will be going once again to Carla's in San Jose. If you have been looking for tha easy chance to get out, this is it doesn't get any easier than t Carla's has parking and is one of the TG friendliest places around. Carla's is about 1/4 mile from the San Jose Cal. Train Station, and we are in the process of making arrangements with the 2 hotels around the corner from Carla's for group room rates.

Of course the best way to make this a memorable experience is to volunteer to help. We need volunteers in a few different categories:

Food Preparation - 12 noon until the party starts the day of the event; **Decorations** - It takes about 4 hours, plan to start at 2pm; **Bar Tending** - We would like to run 3 shifts of 1.5 hours each; **Cleanup** - About 1 hour after the party and a few hours the next day

If you are interested in one or more of these positions, please give Debbie or me a call (707) [redacted] or email us [redacted]@tgforum.com and let us know. Remember in order to make this a great event we need your help.

Movie Review

Better Than Chocolate

By Nicole

Tianna, Debbie and I had the chance this weekend to get out and see the new movie "Better Than Chocolate". We had heard that one of the central characters was a Male to Female Transsexual with a sexual preference for females. Since this representation of a TG person is not that common in movies, I was anxious to see the movie.

The movie was quite well done, it is essentially the story of a lesbian couple and follows a segment of the lesbian culture in Canada. The Transgendered person was probably the 3rd most frequent character in the film and ends up getting with the target of her affection, who was another lesbian in the film.

The movie is a light comedy, which revolves around one of the central characters mother coming to stay with her. The mother, who has no idea of her daughters sexual preference brings her son as well after catching her husband with another woman. I highly recommend this movie, it is currently in limited release in San Francisco and the surrounding area. We saw it at the Embarcadero Center which was quite nice.

TGSF Financial Reports

July 1 through July 31, 1999

TGSF Balance Sheet
As of 7/31/99

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts TGSF	17190.17
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	17190.17
Other Assets	
Computers	0.00
Event Equipment	1200.00
Office Supplies	50.00
TOTAL Other Assets	1250.00
TOTAL ASSETS	**18440.17**

LIABILITIES

Other Liabilities	
Insurance	1512.00
Taxes	109.69
Utilities	138.23
TOTAL Other Liabilities	1759.92
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**1759.92**
OVERALL TOTAL	16680.25

TGSF Cash Flow Report
6/1/99 Through 6/30/99

INFLOWS

Donations	110.00
Honorariums	300.00
Meeting Donation	125.00
Memberships	1643.00
Other Inc, Bus:	0.00
Resource Guides	23.50
TOTAL Other Inc, Bus	23.50
TOTAL INFLOWS	**2201.50**

OUTFLOWS

Corporate Filing Fees	4.00
Food	78.86
Miscellaneous, Bus	153.41
Office	1.07
Postage and Delivery	423.39
Printing and Reproduction	770.89
Prize 20.00	
Rent Paid	345.00
Supplies, Bus	87.30
Transportation	56.08
Utilities, Bus:	0.00
Telephone, Bus	1.75
TOTAL Utilities, Bus	1.75
Uncategorized Outflows	0.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	**1941.75**
OVERALL TOTAL	259.75

TGSF Net Income and Expense by Function
7/1/99 Through 7/31/99

Educational	-8.00
Membership	1683.15
Newsletter	-1048.34
Operations	-81.60
Outreach	274.48
Parade	-166.16
Resource Guides	-69.84
Social	-240.38
Unclassified Transactions	-83.56
OVERALL TOTAL	259.75

Notes to Financial Statements

Membership Revenue on statements for periods prior to May 1, 1999 includes all income which was otherwise uncategorized. Beginning with May 1, 1999 it includes only revenue received as membership payments.

The Asset values for Decorations, Food Service, and Office Supplies have been carried forward from the April 30, 1999 Balance Sheet. There is no documentation supporting these values, and no procedure to depreciate or otherwise adjust them.

The Liability values for Taxes, Insurance, and Utilities have been carried forward from the April 30, 1999 Balance Sheet. There is no documentation supporting these values, and no record of them being paid.

Honorariums received have been recategorized from "Educational" to "Outreach" in the June and July Cash Flow Reports . The amounts were $350 in June and $300 in July.

Lavender Law 1999

Lavender Law 1999 will be in Seattle, 22-24 October. SAVE THE DATE! For information, contact Spencer Bergstedt at LavLaw99@jmslaw.com.

Email TGSF:

President, Leslie Bailey ..... [redacted]@slip.net
Vice President, Lulu Blau ..... [redacted]@aol.com
Secretary, Roxanne ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com
Treasurer, Janis Ryan ..... [redacted]@hisnhers.com
Education, Nancy Cupps ..... [redacted]@ix.netcom.com
Education, Tianna Marie ..... [redacted]@hotmail.com
Outreach, Theresa Sparks ..... [redacted]@aol.com
Social, Nicole Cook ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com
Social, Debbie Cook ..... [redacted]@yahoo.com
Editor, Ayme Kantz ..... [redacted]@aol.com

October 8-10. 1999

FTM Conference - Forward Motion

Over 500 individuals are expected to attend Forward Motion: Celebrating Cultures, Advocacy, and FTM Lives, a fall conference for female-to-male transgender people. This conference will be held on October 8 - 10, 1999 in Los Angeles at the Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center. The international conference is for people who were assigned female at birth or in childhood and who have masculine self-identification some or all of the time. Significant others, spouses, family members, health care providers, friends and supporters, as well as those questioning their gender identity are welcome to attend.

Forward Motion will offer three days of programs covering a variety of topics including relationships, family issues, spirituality, health and medical matters, sexualities, FTM history, political activism, the arts, FTM / MTF tensions and alliances, legal issues, body-building and fitness, as well as issues of youth, aging, race and ethnicity. This conference will also include an art exhibit, vendors, book signings and social events.

The list of confirmed guests includes the following:

- Kate Bornstein, performance artist, actress, and author of Gender Outlaw and My Gender Workbook, will host "The Dating Game" at the Friday night party.
- Jamison Green, FTM International President, will present the award-winning photographs of Loren Cameron, author of Body Alchemy.
- Susan Stryker, Ph.D. and Percy Wise will present a session on the life of Louis G. Sullivan, founder of FTM International.
- Jordy Jones, artist, filmmaker, and writer, is curating TransArt 99, a visual art show which will be open throughout the conference.
- Marci Bowers, M.D. discussing OB/GYN issues
- Mary Boenke, editor of TransForming Families: Real Stories about Transgendered Love Ones.
- Jed Bell, editor of the FTM Newsletter.

Registration forms are available by writing to FTMCLA, P.O. Box 922342, Sylmar, CA 92392-2342, or by e-mailing "Forward Motion" at CONF99FTM@aol.com. The registration form can be downloaded at http://hometown.aol.com/conf99ftm. Register before September 15, 1999 and the registration fee is $90. After September 15, 1999 the fee is $125. People with lower incomes may apply for scholarships on a first-come, first-serve basis. Media Contact: Nick Adams, 323-658-6775 x11, FM99Media@aol.com

July - August Socials in Review

By Nicole and Debbie

On July 24th Debbie and I once again embarked on the trek to our sister organization in Sacramento. The SGA Social was held at Joseph's and there were quite a few girls there, even a few new faces. As is usual in this very nice TG friendly restaurant we began gathering in the bar around 7pm and moved to the dining room around 8. As I recall we ended up with about 15-20 girls at dinner. This included Monika and Heidi from way up North, (it is always good to see them and we had not seen then since the parade). Michelle was also there so we got into some Moody Blues conversations. Also attending were Roxanne (also from Sebastopol) and Josie. After a good dinner and some conversation, Roxanne, Josie, Debbie and I headed for Faces. Faces was fun as usual and we danced for a while before getting back in the car to make the trek home.

Well the Red-White and Blue day actually had enough participants to award a prize. The July End of Month was held on July 29th at the Blue Muse. About 30 or so people were in attendance. After dinner a number of ladies displayed their Red White & Blue outfits. The outfits ranged from completely in theme (Susie's outfit) to barely qualifying (Lulu's hat). After the votes were collected we had a clear winner, Susie and her clearly in-theme outfit won by a wide margin with Roxanne and Lulu tying for second place.

The August Mid Month August 12th was supposed to be at the Pyramid Brewery in Berkeley, however they experience a power outage sometime before we arrived and had closed the restaurant & bar for the day. So around 8:30 we were among the other people who had planned to meet there, waiting for people out front. Fortunately a couple of people knew an alternate location in the area. So we all went to The Triple Rock Brewery about 2 or 3 miles away. I wrote directions on the "We are Closed" sign and Nancy drew a map. So off we went. The Triple Rock Brewery started out with an average crowd, but was packed by the time we left. Only about 8 people were in attendance, we all had something to eat. I had Louisiana Hot links, while being tasty they were as hot as fire, so I ended up helping Debbie with her pizza.

KIM HRACA, M.A. MFCC

PSYCHOTHERAPY • CONSULTATION

Helping you find the path that's right for you.

Berkeley

MFC #27252 (510) 601-1859

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.

Edging Into Normal Society

Written by Daniela Altimari, (c) 1999, The Hartford Courant, Connecticut
Provided by Kara Russell ([redacted]@aol.com)

When he was 6 years old, Gerard Liesegang began dreaming of becoming a girl. As a teenager, he would sneak off and slip into women's clothing. As an adult, he continued to struggle with his identity, despite marrying a woman and becoming the father of two adopted children. Then, about two years ago, the Woodbury resident stopped dressing as a man, began taking female hormones and changed his name to Jeri Marie. The journey will be complete in February, when Liesegang's genitals are surgically altered. "I feel much more at ease with myself," said Liesegang, 49, who has a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Utah. "I may have been anatomically a male, but that wasn't my gender."

Just a few years ago, "gender variant" people such as Liesegang were consigned to secluded lives on society's margins. But increasingly they are summoning the strength to demand rights and respect, despite the risk of ridicule, harassment and even violence. "We're not some strange group," said transgender activist Riki Anne Wilchins, executive director of GenderPAC, a Washington-based advocacy group. "We're the people next door."

The transgender-rights movement encompasses the broad spectrum of people who live in the space between male and female: transsexuals, cross-dressers, intersexuals, even men who are scorned as "effeminate" and women who are derided as "mannish." Like gays and lesbians, transgender people say they don't choose their identity - they're born with it.

The size of the transgender community is impossible to discern. Tens of thousands of Americans have undergone sex-reassignment surgery over the past four decades, and countless more have chosen to live as members of the opposite sex without entering the operating room. The Gender Identity Clinic of New England, based in Manchester, counsels about 35 people each year, most of whom undergo surgery. But those numbers do not include an incalculable number of people who bend gender rules in private. Wilchins believes the discussion should focus on civil rights, "not what we wear or what's between our legs."

Borrowing tactics from feminists and gay rights advocates, transgender activists are demanding action. Dozens of the movement's leaders trekked to Washington in May. They lobbied Congress on a host of issues, including a measure that would include them in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which now covers only gay and lesbian workers.

Transgender activists also are making their presence known on the state level, going beyond the longtime underground web of groups that offer help as varied as support and makeup tips. Liesegang, for instance, recently formed "It's Time, Connecticut!," a political advocacy organization. The nascent movement also has notched a number of victories throughout the nation. Dozens of cities, including Lexington, Ky.; Toledo, Ohio; and Ann Arbor, Mich., prohibit discrimination on the basis of "gender identity." Companies such as Lucent Technologies and Apple Computer, and institutions such as Rutgers University all have non-bias policies for their transgender employees.

The blurring of traditional gender roles is reflected in popular culture, as well: Dennis Rodman cavorting in a dress, flamboyant cross-dresser Ru Paul selling lipstick and singer k.d. Lang crooning to an audience in a man's suit.

The Last Minority

Despite the recent strides, members of the movement say much more needs to be done. Celebrities can cross gender boundaries, but for others, such action is risky. "Gender is the last frontier that no one really wants to deal with," Wilchins said. "We need to get people talking about what it means to express one's gender without paying the price with your job, your family or your life."

Gender variant people are perhaps the last minority, one of the few groups that still elicit stares and snickers from a confused public. Religious conservatives view them as deviants. Tabloid television programs treat them like freaks. And, activists say, politicians such as Gov. John G. Rowland reinforce negative stereotypes. Rowland has repeatedly refused to sign a gay pride proclamation because it included a reference to transgender people. The governor said he would have trouble reading such a proclamation to a second-grade class.

"People have this image of Ru Paul," said Kara Russell, 38, an engineer and executive director of the Connecticut Outreach Society, a transgender support group. "We're much more mainstream than that. Some of the most conservative people I know are cross-dressers." Even transgender activists' natural allies within the gay and lesbian community have sometimes shunned them. "The gay movement was started by drag queens and butchy lesbians," Wilchins said. "But now, mainstream gay rights groups are turning away. They've adopted an assimilationist strategy that says, 'We're just like straight people, except we sleep with [members of] the same sex.' "

Publicly, gay rights groups say they support the transgender political agenda. But some gay and lesbian activists quietly concede that they are not willing to risk their hard-won gains for the much smaller transgender community. Never mind cross-dressers and transsexuals: America, they assert, is still struggling to accept gays and lesbians.

Continued on Page 15

September 14

Special Benefit!

Show at San Francisco's Trannyshack Nightclub To Benefit Gay and Lesbian Historical Society

San Francisco's Trannyshack, a dance club and late-night showcase for avant garde drag performance, will haul a "Trunkful of Trannies" into the spotlight on Tuesday, September 14, to benefit the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California (GLHS).

Trannyshack MC Heklina, a noted personality of San Francisco's queer nightlife, will be joined by incendiary drag artiste Timmy Spence in presenting a theatrical parade of cutting-edge gender stylists. Before and after the show, DJ Flynn DeMarco will spin a hip and eclectic mix of dance sounds.

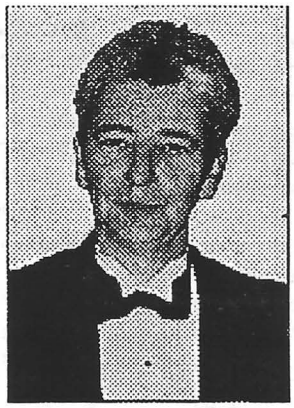
Partial proceeds of the door will support the Center for the History of Sexual Diversity of GLHS, a San Francisco-based nonprofit that documents the history of sexual minorities in Northern California and that educates the public through exhibits, lectures and other activities.

Admission is $5.00; open to those 21 and older. The doors open at 10 p.m.; performances start at midnight. Trannyshack takes place weekly at the Stud Bar, located at 399 Ninth St. at Harrison St. in San Francisco. For more information, call GLHS at (415) 777-5455 or visit www.glhs.org.

Bobbie Bentley - In Memoriam

By Francis Vavra

Bobbie Bentley, who represented TGSF in 1996 as "Mr. ETVC," passed away in San Francisco on July 9, 1999, after a seven month battle with ovarian cancer, just before turning 51. Although male identified, Bobbie lived as a butch lesbian woman and preferred the female pronoun, which I will use hereafter. Bobbie spent her last five years with partner Katherine Collins, who hosted an inspiring memorial at Metropolitan Community Church (Golden Gate Chapter), San Francisco, at which Roxanna and I attended. A diverse group of friends gathered to share memories, and look at pictures of Bobbie through the years. Especially poignant was the adorable assortment of stuffed animals, large and small, that Katherine placed on a piano, referred to as "the Kids," who traveled everywhere with them. I had wanted to know Bobbie better, but our paths didn't often cross. We did have much in common, however, Bobbie being only 6 months older than myself, and both love horses, femmes, dapper menswear and leather (not necessarily in that order).



Bobbie lived in the Bay Area since 1979, but was originally from Pennsylvania, growing up on a horse-breeding ranch. She served in the Navy at Camp Pendelton for three years in the ICU ward, nursing the injured men who returned from Vietnam. In Pennsylvania, she became a medical doctor, then moved to California where she was a pathogenecist, working at Kaiser for many years. In 1992, Bobbie suffered a stroke and brain damage as a result of a car accident. Many who since met Bobbie did not realize the enormous struggle she endured re-learning how to walk, read, write, and start new careers as a disabled person who could no longer practice medicine. Bobbie worked as a property maintenance engineer and electrologist, and recently discovered an aptitude for computers, enrolling in Heald College at age 50. Several fellow students attending her memorial attested to her inspiration.

I was personally responsible for encouraging Bobbie to compete in the annual Cotillion for Mr. ETVC two years after I began the new tradition of adding "Mr." to "Miss" ETVC. I was a cross-dresser, my successor, Dillon, was T.S, and Bobbie as a "gentleman dyke" was a perfect successor to both of us, with a love of formal wear, snappy male attire and gallantry with the ladies. A few days after winning, I got a phone call from Bobbie who plaintively asked, "What have you gotten me into?" I told Bobbie the title was an opportunity to make new friendships, continue consciousness raising about the transgender community in all its variety, and that it meant as much or as little as she wanted it to represent. With her assertive and no-nonsense attitude, Bobbie created new alliances between ETVC/TGSF and other groups. Bobbie loved the S.F. Court community, and truly sparkled with co-reigning Ms. ETVC Valerie Genalo. Bobbie also brought more understanding between the lesbian community and ETVC/TGSF, doing speaking engagements with Katherine. After attending her memorial, I finally understood Bobbie's Cotillion talent act, which I still remember. It was a capsule summary of Bobbie's life, done in an artistic way. Walking on stage dressed in leather pants, handcuffs dangling at the waist, Bobbie placed a western saddle on stage, and recited a long poem she had written. Upon completing the poem, Bobbie presented a red rose to Katherine. Bobbie, you will be missed.

Quality Women's Jewelry at Wholesale Prices

Introducing the (XL)ent Jewelry Line in Extended Sizes

The (XL)ent Jewelry Line features watches, bracelets, rings, necklaces and ankle chains in hard to find sizes. As with clothes and shoes, sizing is important for proper fit and appearance, the same is true for jewelry. We offer personalized consultations to determine your jewelry sizes and designs to fit your lifestyle. If needed, our style designer can custom style jewelry while you wait, and tailor it to suit your exact vogue.

Selections from the (XL)ent Jewelry Line are available at Carla's Boutique in San Jose and other hip and cool retailers in the Bay Area...Tell 'em you're a friend of Tina Valentine!

All Friends of TGSF are invited to a private showing of the (XL)ent Jewelry Line and complimentary jewelry sizing consultation.

When: Saturday, September 18, 1999 / 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Where: Carla's Salon, Boutique and Club / 195 Stockton St, San Jose (near SJ Arena); www.carlas.com, 408-298-6900

Bring a copy of this ad to register to win a 22 carat electro-gold plated 24" French rope chain necklace and matching bracelet. (a $75 value)

Outreach

TGSF Speakers Bureau/Outreach Information Sheet

(Please fill out this form and mail it to Theresa Sparks care of the TGSF PO Box. The Outreach Committee needs you!)

Speaker Name: _____

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Date: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Work Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

TGSF Member: Yes ___ No ___

Gender Identification: (CD/TS/FTM/MTF/other) _____

Can you get yourself to speaking engagements: _____

Do you have a partner or relative willing to speak with you: ___

_____

What is the best time/method to contact you about speaking: _

_____

Are you available to speak during the day:

Sometimes ___ Never ___

What days of the week or hours are you available for speaking:

_____

In what areas of the Bay area would you prefer to speak: _____

_____

Where would you prefer not to speak: _____

_____

What type of engagements interest you (colleges, civic, youth, clubs etc.): _____

_____

Do you have previous speaking experience: _____

_____

Would you be interested in Speaker's training or orientation, if so, what kind: _____

_____

What do you most hope to accomplish by participating on the Speakers Bureau: _____

_____

Do you use any special qualities or speaking style to enhance communication: _____

_____

Are there topics (sexuality, history, family, job, etc.) you prefer to avoid: _____

_____

What other information do you think is important for the TGSF Speakers Bureau: _____

_____

How else would you like to participate in TGSF Outreach efforts:

_____

What would you like to see accomplished through TGSF Outreach efforts: _____

_____

What should be the objectives of TGSF Outreach: _____

_____

Presentation Tips and Advice

- Try to communicate inner feelings and motives for our behavior and lifestyle.
- Encourage participation; listen carefully to questions and answer directly.
- Don't lose track of time; get to the point and never make a short story long.
- Keep a sense of humor, but skip petty details that consume precious time.
- Just explain; don't defend or boast, and honestly admit what you don't know.
- Look dignified and natural; it helps if you pass, but just don't look like a slut.
- Be considerate of other speakers; they all have something important to share, and don't forget our speaking teams are diverse by their design.

If you only seek the limelight, call Jerry Springer; or better yet consider being a contestant for the Cotillion or similar event where this is part of the show. Our goal is to inform, not to impress; and above all to leave a positive image.

A general introduction of no more than ten minutes should include a brief description of the transgender spectrum, that includes drag queens, fetishistic transvestites, crossdressers, and transsexuals. A description of motives and the variations of sexual behavior is needed for a complete picture. The attitudes and tolerance of partners and families should be described for all the players; the effects of hormones and surgery needs to be outlined for both male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals. Our communication can be greatly enhanced with a short discussion of our assessment of the reactions we observe towards us from various segments of society.

After about a five minute background report from each presenter, an effective presentation leaves the bulk of the session open for questions.

You Want It? We'll Find It!

510-797-5066

120 J Street / Niles District
Fremont, CA 94536

Enormous Moving Sale!
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE!

- Designer, Ready to Wear & Vintage Clothing
- Leather, Spandex & Vinyl
- Costumes & Theatrical
- Personalized Service
- Evening Appointments / Minor Alterations Available
- Wardrobe Coordination

Let us help you be all the things you dream!

Edging Into Normal Society...

Continued from Page 12

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who is gay, put it bluntly last month when he explained why there is no support in Congress for including transgender people in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. "I've talked with transgender activists," Frank told Bay Windows, a newspaper for Boston's gay community, "and what they want . . . is for people with penises who identify as women to be able to shower with other women. There are no votes for that."

The Restroom Quandary

Transgender activists say they hope their quest for civil rights will give the public a better understanding of who they are. "If people never meet a transgender person, the whole idea becomes kind of scary," Russell said. "We just want to it to be a little less alien, a little more comfortable." But those who choose to go public face daily struggles - from job discrimination to hassles over using a public restroom. They are frequent targets of harassment, violence and even murder, advocates say. GenderPAC's Web site (www.gpac.org) contains a list of dozens of people killed because of their gender identity.

In a sense, Liesegang is lucky. She's a self-employed consultant, so she doesn't have to worry about job discrimination. And she has never been physically attacked. But that doesn't mean life in transition is easy. At 6 feet 1, with shoulder-length brown hair, perfectly manicured, shell-pink nails and a sweet smile, Liesegang cuts a distinctive figure. She acknowledges that she doesn't quite "pass" as a woman: Her voice gives her away. "I hear the snickers when I go grocery shopping at Shaw's in Waterbury," she said. "There are other places I just don't go."

Liesegang and another transsexual recently stopped for a late meal at a Bristol diner. A group of seven or eight people walked in and immediately began to hassle Liesegang and her dining partner. "I hate fags," they jeered. Liesegang and her friend ignored the hateful words and finished their meal in silence. They waited more than an hour after the angry crowd left because they feared the mob might be waiting in the parking lot. Calling the police wasn't an option. "A lot of officers are sensitive, but you just don't know," Liesegang said. Besides, she added, "In Connecticut, my legal protection is pretty minimal." Even using a public restroom can be an ordeal. Tired of being hassled, Liesegang now carries a thick dossier containing her medical records, which she shows when people question her right to use the women's room. She also brings her driver's license, which identifies her as a female.

But the most painful struggles have unfolded in private. Her mother and her sister don't understand her. And during the transition from male to female, Liesegang agreed to step out of her children's lives. She made the difficult decision to spare them embarrassment after her 11-year-old son was pestered and provoked by his baseball teammates. The boy eventually quit the team. "I love those kids more than anything," said Liesegang, who speaks with her sons every day. "But I have to do this."

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]

Wife and Times of A Cross Dresser: The Question of Sexuality

by Juana Smith

"Is he gay?" she asked me. This was not the first time I had heard the question raised by a wife whose husband had recently told her he was a crossdresser. It was also a question I have seen addressed by psychologists, psychiatrists and other partners of transgendered individuals. And yet as common a question as it is, I never like the answers offered, which typically sound like hand-patting with a little, "It'll be alright." The question is also one I am never prepared to answer myself. Until recently I didn't know why the question and the proffered answers disturbed me, not until I sat down to write an essay about sex and gender in the transgender community.

Although we live in a time when there is a great deal of discussion about sex and gender, all of this information seems to vanish from the mind of a wife who has recently discovered the alternate personality of her spouse. Many of us are educated and have on occasion seen a talk show about sex and gender, and we know that sex has to do with physical attraction to others, while gender is a socially constructed idea based on a reproductive model. Yet most of us, when newly confronted with the concept of transgenderism, fail to acknowledge these definitions.

The feelings aroused by a husband's confession of wanting to dress like a female cause most wives to ask questions such as, "What will the neighbors think?" or "What will my family think?" Because crossdressing is seen as socially unacceptable, these questions have a root, if you will, a legitimacy. However, the social unacceptance of crossdressing does not answer my discomfort with

Continued on Page 17

We Hit the Internet with a GLAM SLAM!

Go to www.piedmontsf.com and you'll find all of our fabulous custom made clothing, sexy lingeré, glamourous feather boas and hats, opera length gloves, over-the-top rhinestone jewelry, affordable accessories, wigs, makeup, hosiery, shoes, EVERYTHING... ONLINE!

Now you can shop and make secure online purchases from the comfort and privacy of your own home.!

San Francisco's most outrageous shopping experience is now ONLINE! VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT:

www.piedmontsf.com

PIEDMONT Boutique

VISIT OUR STORE!

a funfilled, comfortable, unperdictable shopping experience awaits...

open 7 days a week, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

1452 Haight S[redacted]4117 • 415.864.8075 • email: glitz@piedmontsf.com

Three Quarters of Gays and Lesbians Dumped by ENDA

by Angie Bolin, Staff Writer, QUILL

[Columbus, OH, August 7, 1999] The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D, Mass.) make little secret of their opposition to inclusion of protections for transgendered people under the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). If passed, ENDA would outlaw employment discrimination against gays, lesbians and bisexuals (GLBs) on the basis of sexual orientation but not gender expression. Many proponents of transgender civil rights have argued that some GLB people need the same coverages as transgendered people — protection from discrimination based on their failure to behave, dress, and present themselves in a manner conforming with societal norms for men and women. The assumption in Washington seems to be that not many GLB people would be affected by this hole in ENDA's coverage, but transgender activists have long suspected otherwise.

The heaviest challenge to this view may exist in a paper just submitted to the International Journal of Transgenderism by transsexual activist and neurobiologist Dr. Sarah Fox. The paper summarizes the findings of a survey conducted recently by the transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay (TBLG) education and advocacy organization It's Time, Ohio! (ITOH!). According to the study, transgendered and GLB people may have more similarities than they once thought.

The ITOH! study was motivated by an earlier survey by the NGLTF, the NCLR and GenderPAC, which was conducted at the Creating Change conference in Pittsburgh. That survey found that of the 58% of GLB respondents who had suffered employment discrimination, 37% reported one basis of that discrimination to be gender expression, irrespective of sexual orientation. Said Fox, "We were quite impressed with the Pittsburgh results, and we had to wonder whether the same was true here in Columbus. We conducted our own survey, and we were stunned at what we found!"

ITOH! activists had good reason to be stunned. According to Fox's statistical analyses, 76% of all GLB respondents who reported a history of employment discrimination indicated that the discrimination was based in part upon gender expression. "What this means," explained Fox, "is that employers would continue to discriminate against at least 76% of the GLB population even under ENDA. Even if 'Bob' can't be fired for being gay, he can easily be fired for having effeminate mannerisms, and so he would remain unprotected."

ITOH! was quick to act on Dr. Fox's survey results. At its last meeting, the membership of ITOH! unanimously passed a resolution not to endorse the Federal ENDA unless it is amended to include protections based on gender expression. "The current version of ENDA has been a complete non- starter for us from the beginning," said ITOH! chairperson Susan Davis. "Not only does it leave transgendered and other gender-variant people unprotected, but it also abandons the vast majority of gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals." Ms. Davis added, "We look forward to working with other LGBT groups to bring about an employment discrimination bill that protects everyone."

The resolution by ITOH! came only weeks after the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) withdrew its support from ENDA. The NGLTF based their decision on the failure of the bill to include protections based on gender identity, citing that transgendered people are excluded from the bill entirely. BiNet USA, the world's largest national bisexual organization, has now added its voice of nonsupport towards ENDA, until transgendered people are written back into the bill. The NGLTF's and BiNet's show of solidarity is not without precedent. African American activists in many states have shown solidarity with the GLBT community by refusing to move forward on civil rights legislation that includes protections based on race and not on sexual orientation. These stances reflect the current emphasis on coalition building, which has long been effective in the passage of civil rights legislation.

Dr. Fox has already heard from activist groups throughout the country who have requested her collaboration on similar surveys of their own. These surveys will likely be modified from the original. Says Fox, "No survey is perfect, and we might have asked our questions a bit differently in hind-sight. This survey only tells us how many GLB people are affected by discrimination based on gender expression, but future surveys will tell us how frequently they encounter this type of discrimination. They will also explore the basis of discrimination towards the transgender community."

Transgender activists are excited that there is now objective evidence for what they have always known. "This changes everything," said Cathy Platine, Director of the Midwest Transsexual Alliance. "HRC can continue fighting against transgender interests behind closed doors, because they don't claim to represent us. They can even justify sacrificing the interests of a small minority of GLB people when promoting something of presumed benefit to the lion's share of their GL constituents. However, they cannot in good conscience justify selling out the interests of over three quarters of their own people in the pursuit of civil rights for their most privileged Mattachine quartile. That won't feed the cat! If I were GL, I'd be demanding some changes, and if those changes didn't happen fast, I'd be demanding heads on a platter!"

En Drag

The City's Finest Female Impersonation Revue
Every Friday night at our exciting new location:
The very TG-friendly Club Tango Tango

1550 California Street at Polk
San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 775-0442

September's Birthdays...

0901	Tina Louise Vincent	0917	Michelle Gordon
0902	Lauren Olsen	0923	Frances Frinak
0903	Terri Turner	0923	Sandy
0905	Betty Byrne	0924	Juana Smith
0908	Melanie Hildebrand	0924	Milton Miskel
0913	Julia Debeque	0930	Misty Ford
0914	Jenny Cotton	0930	Valerie Genalo
0917	Alice	0930	Sylvia Hakansson

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

The Question of Sexuality...

Continued from Page 15

the question "Is my partner gay?" Why do we wives of crossdressers, as intelligent and educated as we are, raise this question? What thought process overrides our understandings of sex and gender? For an answer to this, I look toward bigotry and how its works in our society and on ourselves.

I've never been robbed by an African-American male (now, European-American female roommates are another question), and yet I was conditioned to regard him as a threat. If I walked along the street and saw an African American male, regardless of age, I hesitated, clutched my purse close to me and walked a little faster – and it didn't matter if was on a crowded street at high noon! The conditioning/training I received was as subtle as walking with a European-American friend whose mother warned her and whose mother before her warned her in the same way to watch out for the "Black Man." I remember how it was in my teens when I first started window-shopping with my friends, how as an African American male would approach, my friends' bodies would tighten and a look of fear would flash across their faces. Those reactions would be followed by similar ones I mention above as my own. As soon as the man would pass and safety was ours, the reactions which followed were a sign of relief, a relaxation of their bodies and a glance my way assuring me we had survived this time. There was no verbal communication between us, and yet I had learned to be afraid.

My husband and I laugh now over another example of this silent conditioning. Once he walked into a wine shop and saw two young clerks wearing blue aprons. My husband approached one of the young men and asked for assistance in selecting a bottle. Raising his head and looking puzzled, the youth said, "Hey Man, I just stock the bins. Ask him." My husband was now surprised, not by the answer, but by his own stereotyping. Why would a young Californian man of European descent know less than a young Californian man of Asian descent? (As an added note, in later conversations, my husband learned the Japanese-American youth studied wine-making at UCDavis and traveled to France every year to bring in the grapes. His family had been making wine for 100 years.) These stories, while one is disturbing and the other appears humorous, both reflect a conditioning based on difference. They also make me wonder if here is the root/danger of the question, "Is my spouse gay?"

In today's American society, crossdressing is associated with homosexuality, and both homosexuality and transgenderism represent violations of socially defined norms. Negative stereotyping and bigotry against homosexuals has led us to think that a man in a dress is gay. I can recall countless times while growing up and maturing into my late 20s when friends would touch me with an elbow and indicate I should follow their eyes. I can see the facial expressions now, the looks that said, "Faggot," "Sissy," or "Get a load of this." These physical reactions might be directed at a man who had an effeminate walk, spoke a slightly affected lisp, or was trying to inconspicuously walk through the women's wear at Macy's, sporting a modest dress and heels.

Although, from my mid-teens to today the majority of my male friends are gay, it wasn't until I was almost 30 that I questioned my acceptance of this negative stereotyping . However, I still did not distinguish the difference between sex and gender. It was only when I returned to college and began to read modern theory and feminist writings that I began to understand the difference in the two words. However, I also continued to accept the way some of my friends reacted to crossdressers.

That is until I was married for six years to one of the most wonderful and loving individuals I had ever known. And he told me he was a crossdresser. Since then I have learned that the transgender community is widely defined and includes both hetero- and homosexual individuals. I have learned to watch for my own stereotyping and bigoted expressions. I have also come to realize how damaging bigotry against any one group is destructive to all of us. I see women struggling to come to terms with crossdressing while simultaneously fighting to understand how it affects their sexual ideas about their husbands. And the question of sexuality is always more fearful then what the neighbors will think. It is the inherent bigotry against homosexuals, and especially when portrayed as crossdressing buffoons, that causes one of the greatest dangers to the solidity of marriage to a transgendered person. As a community, we must learn not only to accept differences but to identify what negative stereotyping does to us as individuals and how it affects our relationships. Until we can come to terms with our fear of the Gay Man and his threat to the biological definitions of who we are, we will have fear of each other, fear of our transgendered spouses.

Learning About The Trans Community

Written by Abigail Garner
Originally from Lavender Magazine
(Vol. 5, Issue 109)
Provided by Katrina C. Rose ([redacted]@aol.com)

A waitress comes to our table to take our order. She is six feet tall, with a falsetto-sounding voice and very large hands. I am not fazed, but my friend clearly is, because she forgets what she planned to order. Finally, she stammers her way through it. After the waitress leaves our table, my friend leans forward and asks me, "Is that a guy in drag, or what?!"

"I don't know for sure, but I'm guessing she's a transwoman," I say, testing out a vocabulary word I recently picked up at a PFLAG presentation.

"What exactly does that mean?"

"It means her gender identity is female," I say. (More new vocabulary.) My friend is still not satisfied. "I just need to know: Is that person male or female?"

A few years ago, I would have been right there with my friend, trying to figure out this person's biological sex. But these days, I think less about that kind of gender identity, because learning about transgender people has meant letting go of my "need to know."

During the "It's Time, Minnesota" campaign in 1993, I bristled when I found out the proposed legislation to protect gay, lesbian, and bisexual people also included transgender people. My reaction is not an uncommon one among allies who support their friends and family who are gay, lesbian, and bisexual, yet resist inclusion of gender identity in their support of the community.

The root of this resistance is transphobia. Fear. Fear that transgender people are so far on the spectrum of acceptance that it will halt societal acceptance of GLBT people altogether. Having had this fear in 1993, I believed that asking for trans rights would be asking Minnesota politicians to stretch their tolerance impossibly far, decreasing the chances of my two dads being assured basic rights because of their sexual orientation.

Continued on Page 18

Trinidad Ignores Phelps

Written by Pam Pemberton, (c) 1999 The Chieftain, Pueblo, Colorado

Provided by Brenda Lana Smith R.af D. (Brenda-[redacted]freeserve.co.uk)

The protest by the Westboro Baptist Church against Trinidad surgeon Dr. Stanley Biber and three churches was pretty much ignored by local residents. With the exception of a few mild confrontations, the 10 members of Westboro who made the trek from their home in Topeka, Kan., held just exactly what they said they would: A peaceful protest.

Westboro, led by Pastor Fred Phelps, is known throughout the United States for its protests of any and everything related to homosexual activity. It became well known last year when it protested the funeral of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, who was killed in an alleged gay-bashing murder. Westboro turned its attention to Trinidad this week because of Dr. Biber, known worldwide for his performance of transsexual surgeries.

Phelps and his followers started their protest early Sunday morning at Mount San Rafael Hospital, where Biber performs the surgeries, as well as numerous other surgeries and medical procedures. Protesting in cordoned-off areas designated by the Trinidad Police Department and carrying signs that called Dr. Biber "Dr. Sin," calling Trinidad the anteroom to hell, using the term "fag" continuously and graphically depicting what it believes to be a homosexual act, the Westboro group found its first stop a little quiet. Other than a car or a bicycle coming by occasionally, the picketers mostly went unnoticed.

At the picketers' second stop, Holy Trinity Catholic Church which was getting ready for Mass there was a bit more reaction. But, confined again in a cordoned area, the Westboros held up their signs. Other than a few people looking their way and two young women making an obvious gesture to walk in front of them while holding hands, those heading into church ignored the picketing. The most reaction received by the Westboro pickets was at the site designated across the street from the Trinidad Episcopal Church but not from churchgoers. The only reason there was more passersby at the Episcopal church is because its sits at the corner of two of Trinidad's busiest streets. People drove by, some honking (no one knew whether it was a sign of support or opposition with Westboro). One man stood across the street and repeatedly yelled "hate mongerers" at the picketers, and one woman approached the group to challenge their beliefs. As the woman left, she said to the picketers, "I'll be praying for you." A picketer replied, "Don't pray for me, because you don't pray to the God of the Bible."

Westboro Pastor Phelps also got stirred up a bit at the Episcopal church site when asked a few questions. His answers quickly resembled a fire and brimstone sermon, saying Trinidad is the capital of transgenderism. "Every fag in the world pines be more of a woman," Phelps said. "It's a monstrous sin against God what Biber is doing . . .what fags are doing."

The final stop on the Westboro picket tour of Trinidad was the United Methodist Church. As church members began to arrive for the 11 a.m. service, they walked by without looking at the pickets. The Westboro protest ended as quietly and unnoticed it had started.

Dr. Biber had said earlier that he intended to ignore the Westboro Baptist Church protest and was encouraging everyone else to do the same. It seems the majority of the Trinidad community agreed.

Trans Community...

Continued from Page 17

While talking recently among a handful of straight allies, we all agreed that our participation in gay and lesbian advocacy was highly influenced by knowing people who are gay and lesbian. We have put a face to the community. So it is for advocating for trans issues as well.

Carolyn Thomas is a longtime member of the open and affirming St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Wayzata, MN. She encountered two transgender people while she and a friend staffed the church's booth at Pride. At first she did not acknowledge the two people, describing them as "loud and flamboyant. Kind of in-your-face scary." Her perception changed when her friend initiated a conversation with them.

Thomas explained, "It turns out one of them is a nuclear physicist. That kind of put a whole new slant on the subject for me. I felt myself crossing another invisible line I had set up for myself."

I, too, will continue to be challenged by the invisible lines I have unknowingly set up for myself when it comes to the "T" in GLBT. I acknowledge that I have made progress, however, and I am grateful to transgender people and their family members who are willing to share their stories that help me put a face to the community. Meeting them has meant learning what that fourth letter really means instead of letting "G-L-B-T" roll off my tongue without thinking.

Last month, a friend on the East Coast called and mentioned that her dad, who is transgender, had just moved to the Twin Cities. Thanks to all I have been taught over the past few years, I felt comfortable saying, "I look forward to meeting her."

New Membership Cards on the Way!

We are about to send out new membership cards. They are intended to be permanent cards that you keep as long as you are a member. We have created two styles, one with a picture and one without.

It is up to you if you want a picture on your card. However, if you want a picture you must get a 105 by 105 pixel .GIF or .JPG image to us **before September 18th**. Scanned photos should be attached in an email and sent to Nicole Cook at [redacted]@tgforum.com.

There are no guarantees on how the pictures will look, and if we do not get a picture from you before September 18th you will receive a no-picture card. Sorry we can not use hard copy pictures. I is up to you to get it scanned in and sized. Each card will be laminated and indicate your femme name and membership number.

TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give

as of August, 1999

Carol E. Hastings..... $70.00

A. Matthews $50.00

Bless you for caring and thank you!