

DRAFT

2-9-88

88 IFGE CONVENTION PREVIEWS

General announcement: The sessions are being taped, so that Convention Proceedings can be transcribed and published. Copies of last year's Proceedings are available for your inspection. We hope to make this year's transcribed Proceedings even better. This is a significant and important outcome of the Convention, needless to say. Your co-operation is requested: please listen to and follow the instructions of the moderator of each session regarding use of microphones. Please speak clearly, at reasonably slow pace and high volume, when asking questions or making comments that will go into the record. Please let a member of the Convention staff know if you wish not to be identified by name in the Proceedings.

Special Notices:

Wives, Significant Others: contact Marilyn Frank immediately, for information about special get-togethers, including Wednesday evening.

Transsexual Special Interest Group: contact Kim Hellman, to discuss 8-10 AM Special Sessions and other possible get-togethers.

San Francisco Convention Preview: ETVC will host a reception, 4-7 PM Thursday, to preview the 1989 IFGE Convention, which will be held in San Francisco.

Everyone: follow information in daily newsletter, and posted on Convention Bulletin Board for announcements of Special Programs and Events. See Convention staff if you wish to have a special program organized.

Previews of Non-Professional Sessions

(Note: for outlines of Helping Professional Programs see the Description writeup, available at the Registration table. Convention members who wish to attend one or more of these sessions, on an individual basis, should consult Convention staff; they should keep in mind that they will be present as an observer, not as a participant.)

Session 1 Thu 8-10 AM Special Programs TBA. Nothing scheduled yet. Please watch Bulletin Board, Daily Newsletter.

Session 2a,2b,2c Thu 10-11 AM, 11-12 AM and 2-3 PM How to Form an Organization. Moderator Gloria Peters, panel members \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

The logical lead-off for the conference, Session 2a, subtitled Creating and Maintaining, addresses the birth pains and survival issues that each of our community's organizations have confronted and that future groups must face. A long-term objective is the creation of a permanent reference on how to form and maintain an organization. Panel members will review the experience of their organizations, and respond

to questions from the audience. 10-11 AM.

Session 2b, subtitled Outreach, seeks to put together a list of all possible ways to reach potential new members. Outreach is naturally the major humanitarian goal of our organizations, but it is also a survival issue, as an organization must grow to above-critical size to achieve the resources it needs to survive. The panel will review what has worked and what has not worked for their organizations, and interact with the audience. 11-12 AM.

Thursday Lunch. Eat in fashionable surroundings in the company of beautiful people. Thursday's speaker is Merissa Sherrill Lynn, who has thought more about the need for IFGE and the mission of IFGE than any other of our community's leaders. Merissa will be introduced by Virginia Prince, to whom last year's Convention was dedicated, and who holds the all-time record for the most daughters (several hundred at last count). [Of the cost of these lunches to Convention members, \$10 is paid by a special fee and the remainder is financed by the Convention.]

Session 2c, subtitled Problem Solving Rap Groups, continues and concludes the How to Form an Organization sessions. Plan A will be to have only a single rap group, consisting of the panel interacting with the audience in a question/discussion period, terminated by a brief sum-up by the panel members. However if there is a demand, Plan B will be followed, under which a subgroup will split off to discuss one or more special issues. 2-3 PM Thursday.

Session 3 Crossdressing Panel is a logical early session to help define the central territory of the Convention; interesting to all, and a must for anyone inexperienced in the cross-dressing paraculture. The moderator will be Linda Frank, and the panel will include \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. The panel members will tell a little about themselves, and how crossdressing has impacted their lives, and will interact with the audience. 2-3 PM Thursday.

Session 4 Special Interest Rap Groups: (1): First session on D&S, moderated by Tara Tenille. This is an educational session for the general public rather than an in-group meeting. It was decided that more than the one #18 Saturday session is needed to develop this important, extensive and complicated subject. See Session #18 for further description. (2): [No other rap group scheduled at the time of this writing]. 3-4 PM Thursday.

Session 5 Religious Aspects. Moderated by Sister Mary Elizabeth, of the Community of Saint Elizabeth. Panel members Veronica Brown, Merissa Lynn, Diane Dixon (?), Sharry Taylor, \_\_\_\_\_. What religious problems arise for members of the TV/TG/TS community? How can they be dealt with? 3-4 PM Thursday.

Thursday Dinner, "On Your Own".

Session 6 Marketing. Moderated by Maureen Taylor. Panel members Yvonne Cooke, JoAnn Roberts, Brenda Atwater, Olivia Jensen. The merchandise in question includes our clubs and organizations; our meetings, fairs, conventions; our magazines, newsletters,

publications; our referral services, hotlines, peer support. The customers include all of us, all who need us, and all others who are potentially helpful in any way to our cause. How can we reach this market more effectively? 7-9 PM Thursday.

(Thursday evening social activities, 9-? PM)

Friday Feb. 26

Session 7 Special Programs: 1). TS Group, Kim Hellman organizer. The first of two special sessions for those interested in TS issues, this will focus on sharing information on therapists, hormones, legal issues, etc. 2). (no other special programs at this date). 8-10 AM Friday.

Session 8 Communications: Co-presentors Naomi Owens and Eve Burchert. Public speaking is the topic here, and long-term objectives include developing a manual on public speaking on cross-dressing issues, and the establishment of a National Speakers' Bureau. How can we best present ourselves on radio, television, to reporters, health-care professional meetings, to organizations, colleges? It's exciting, and our future dignity and well-being are at stake. Come and learn from a duo with fabulous depth of successful experience. 10-12 AM Friday.

Friday Lunch. Eat and socialize graciously, and hear an address by Dr. Richard F. Docter, Professor of Psychology, Director of the National Gender Project, and author of Transvestism and Transsexualism: A Social-Cognitive View. Doctor Docter will speak on models for the development of gender identities. He will be introduced by Linda McKim, editor of CHIC Diary.

Session 9 Networking. Moderated by Linda McKim, with panel members JoAnne Roberts, Kim Hellman, Olivia Jensen and Gloria Peters. How can our various groups help each other, and, by working together and sharing information and resources, do a better job of serving our community as a whole? What role can new technologies (eg. computer bulletin boards) play? How can plain old-fashioned communication and co-operation be fostered? What role should IFGE, as an umbrella organization, play? It is envisioned that ideas developed in this session will turn into action items at the final Open Forum, session 20. 2-4 PM, Friday.

Session 10 Significant Others. Moderator Marilyn Frank, panel members \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. This articulate group will tell a little about themselves, their histories and experience, and interact with the audience. How can we express how important the underlying issues are to us, and how much we depend on, value and appreciate the help and support of our loved ones? How can we serve both our own needs and the needs of those closest to us? 2-4 PM Friday.

(Session 11 Drag, FI Panel has been canceled).

Friday Dinner, "on Your Own".

Session 12 Newsletter Production. Moderator JoAnn Roberts, panel members Gloria Peters, Linda McKim, Jan Rupard and \_\_\_\_\_. The Newsletter is the basic promotion and communication instrument within an organization, and in addition has important possibilities for inter-group networking. This session brings together experienced newsletter producers and editors, who will not only review the functions and values of newsletters, but also lead us through the technical matters involved in newsletter design and production. 7-9 PM Friday.

Session 13 Peer Support. Moderator Ginny Knuth, panel members Heather Peerson, Kim Hellman, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. How should first contacts with newcomers and potential new members be handled? What support is needed after a newcomer becomes a member ("inreach")? What outside services can and should an organization maintain? How about Significant Others? Lining up retail establishments? Activities out there in the world? Outreach? How can the necessary personnel be recruited, trained and kept enthusiastic? What types of services should not be attempted? Come and find out 7-9 PM Friday.

(Friday evening social activities, 9-? PM)

#### Saturday Feb. 27

Session 14 Special Programs: 1). TS Group, Kim Hellman organizer. The second of two special sessions for those interested in TS issues, this will be a rap session with the participants doing most of the talking. As a special, the E.T.V.C. Article Library, which contains a wide variety of relevant articles and can provide reprints at nominal cost, will be made available to participants. 8-10 AM Saturday.

Session 15 Counseling Techniques. Moderator \_\_\_\_\_, Panel members \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. What can counseling provide, and who can benefit from it? What different sorts of counselors and styles of counseling are available out there? How can one find a counselor or therapist with experience and a good track record in working with the TV/TG/TS community? Is finding a counselor or therapist necessarily a game of "blind man's bluff", or are there ways to shop around, assess alternatives and select knowingly? Can one gracefully "try out" a counselor, and when should one consider terminating? These issues, rather than any attempt to train lay counselors, will be the focus of this session. 10-12 AM Saturday.

Session 16 Positive Action. Moderator Alison Laing, panel members Jan Rupard, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. How can we, individually and working together in our groups, better project a positive image in our interactions with society, and especially with the media? How should we react on the one hand to compliments, on the other hand to negative criticism? How should we handle ourselves when we go public? How can we influence society to regard us favorably? What allies should we seek? What role can IFGE play? 10-12 AM Saturday.

Saturday Lunch. An unforgettable occasion, crowned by an address by Christine Jorgensen. Christine will be introduced by Sister Mary Elizabeth.

Session 17 Transsexual Panel. Moderator Kim Hellman, panel members Sister Mary Elizabeth, Veronica Brown, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. The purpose of this session is to have some articulate people of this group tell a little about themselves, and interact with the audience. What are the special needs of transsexuals, how do they fit into our total community, and how can our total community better relate to those needs? 2-3 PM Saturday.

Session 18 Dominance and Submission (D&S). Moderator Tara Tenille, panel members Aurelia, Linda Mitchell, Alicia Lichy and Merissa Lynn. No one (not even the panel!) knows whether to call this D&S, B&D, or S&M, but it refers to threads that run through all of our lives. The purpose of the session is educational - continuing the introduction that was begun in Thursday afternoon's Session #4. A group for whom D&S has been an important part of life will tell a little about this extensive and complicated subject, and interact with the audience. A valuable chance to learn about this important and little-understood area of human behavior, about which all of us should be knowledgeable. 3-4 PM Saturday.

Saturday AWARDS DINNER - beginning at 7 PM, with a receiving line to meet and greet our guests of honor, and cash bar. Dinner at 8 PM. Awards Ceremony starting at 9:15, Naomi Owens presiding, to honor the second recipient of the Virginia Prince Distinguished Service award. Festivities will continue until 11 PM, following which you are "on your own" - have fun, darling!

### Sunday Feb. 28

Session 19 Special Programs. 8-10 AM Saturday. None scheduled to date, please consult daily newsletter and bulletin board. However: we need volunteers to assist participants of the Helping Professionals program, who are to appear at least partially cross-dressed and made up at their Saturday morning session. This should be fun, and in a good cause! Let a Convention staff member know if you are willing to assist.

Session 20 Open Forum. Moderated by our IFGE Founder and Managing Director Merissa Lynn. The objects of this final session are to consolidate any new insights and directions coming out of the Convention, and especially to give direction to IFGE - to instruct IFGE how to serve our community, what to do, how to play a role of umbrella organization most effectively and productively. How can IFGE help you, help your local organization? How can IFGE help build dignity for our community, for us, for all humankind? And, of course, how can next year's Convention be even better than this year's? On to San Francisco!