

ifge's Thread

Volume 7 Issue 1 & 2

Spring / Summer 2001

The International Foundation for Gender Education

First TSELF Scholarships Awarded at IFGE Convention

Next Round of Awards To Be Announced at Southern Comfort 2001

The TSELF awards committee is pleased to announce that six TSELF scholarships were awarded at the IFGE Convention, March 24, 2001.

Rosalynne Blumenstein, New York, NY: Chicago Gender Society Leadership Award for students who have been involved in community building activities, in the amount of \$2,000.

Veronika Cauley, San Francisco, CA: The HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Award for students who have been involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment activities, in the amount of \$1,500.

Rebecca A. Freund, Fridley, MN: The Lee Frances Heller Memorial Award for a Christian student who is attending a college, university or other institutions for religious studies, in the amount of \$1,500

Cory Nyamora, San Leandro, CA: A TSELF General Achievement Award, for students in the helping and caring professions, in the amount of \$1,500.

Christian Reifsteck, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA: The TSELF Youth Award for students under the age of 22 attending their first or second year of post-secondary education during the next academic year, in the amount of \$1,500.

Cole Thaler, Roxbury, MA: A TSELF General Achievement Award: for students in the helping and caring professions, in the amount of \$2,000.

Applications are now closed for the Fall 2001 TSELF scholarships. The deadline was August 1, 2001. Awards will be announced at the Southern Comfort Conference, in Atlanta, Georgia, September 19-22, 2001. This will be the second set of scholarships awarded by IFGE and TSELF for the year of 2001.

In addition to the usual TSELF scholarships, a special award will be made this fall in memory of community leader Penny Ashe Matz, who died earlier this year.

The International Foundation for Gender Education is providing these scholarships through its collaborative Transgender Scholarship and Education Legacy Fund (TSELF). TSELF scholarships are available for "out and proud" transgendered

students of any age for post-secondary educational needs in the helping and caring professions in the United States and Canada.

Each scholarship will provide supplemental funding for post-secondary students who have a demonstrated ability in and commitment to affecting change in the transgender communities through their commitment to working and being educated in the helping and caring professions. These include, but are not limited to, Social Services, Health Care, Religious Instruction (all denominations), Teaching and the Law.

CONTACT:

Carrie Davis, Project Director
carrie@tself.org or,

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Gill Foundation Issues Challenge to IFGE

Your Help Is Needed!

IFGE has been awarded a challenge grant by the Gill Foundations to help in increasing our membership base within the community. The Gill Foundation announced this spring that they will match up to \$10,000 of donations from new donors or existing donors who increase the amount of their donations over previous years.

This grant goes a long way to reducing IFGE's debt, but we can't get a penny of it without your support.

The Gill Foundation is a non profit organization dedicated to securing equal opportunity for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. It is based in Denver Colorado and has been supporting the transgender community for a number of years.

Grants totaling \$30,000 have been awarded to IFGE by the Gill Foundation over the past few years, and they have also supported other transgender organizations such as NTAC, the GIC, and GPAC.

George Bush Saves IFGE?

As strange as that headline may sound, you can make it a reality! Our fearless president is busy stimulating the economy by issuing tax refunds to every taxpayer in the country. At the same time he is also busy going backward on the issue of discrimination because of sexual orientation, as well as a number of other social issues.

This is your opportunity to use Dubya's tax refund to help our community instead. Contribute just one third, a \$100 dollars, and become a supporting member of IFGE. If you have increased to a higher membership level, or made any

Volunteers Needed

IFGE needs volunteers for a variety of projects, in and out of house. If you can help, please contact the IFGE office.

additional donation, the Gill Foundation will double the increase in your contribution!

IFGE has been working to foster acceptance of transgender people through education for many years now, and we have come a long way. Our work is far from done though. There are still too many senseless deaths, and too much discrimination.

This year has been a tough one here in the IFGE offices. The decline in the economy has resulted in reduced donations as our members feel the pinch. We are feeling this cutback in donations at the same time expenses are rising.

Rising rents in the Boston area have motivated us to reduce our office space once again. We now occupy just half of the floor space we did a year ago, and have had to make a number of cutbacks. This has made for an unsettling (and tired) feeling to

say the least. Please help us to help you. Donate what ever you can to IFGE. We can use many things besides money: Our computers need upgrading, our phone system needs voice mail. If you have something to donate you think we can use please contact us.

TSELF Awards

(Continued from page 1)

Julie Johnson, Chairperson IFGE
julie@tself.org

Complete information and applications may be found at

<http://www.tself.org>

or through the IFGE web site at

<http://www.ifge.org>

In addition, you may contact TSELF directly at the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE)

IFGE

TSELF Awards Committee
P.O. Box 540229
Waltham, Ma 02454-0229

ifge's THREAD

The quarterly newsletter of the International Foundation for Gender Education

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New Jersey Court Rules: Transsexualism A Handicap

"It is incomprehensible to us that our legislature ... would condone discrimination against men or women who seek to change anatomical sex because they suffer from a gender-identity disorder"

In a unanimous ruling, a New Jersey Appeals Court has held that transsexualism is a handicap under existing state antidiscrimination law.

The court was ruling to reinstate a lawsuit by Carla Enriquez, for wrongful termination from her position as medical director of West Jersey Health Systems in 1997. She was fired about a year into her transition.

The court also distinguished transsexualism from other disorders excluded from the Americans With Disabilities Act because it does not involve unlawful behavior such as pedophilia, exhibitionism, or voyeurism.

J'Noel Gardiner Case Overturned, Sent Back To Lower Courts

"We can no longer be permitted to conclude who is male or who is female by the amount of facial hair one has or the size of ones feet."

The Kansas Court of Appeals remanded the J'Noel Gardiner case back to lower court this May. The lower court had ruled earlier that Ms Gardiner was male and therefore could not have been legally married to her husband Marshall Gardiner. As a result Ms Gardiner had lost any rights to the estate of her deceased husband.

The ruling came as the result of a suit brought by Marshall's son Joe, contesting Ms. Gardiner's inheritance.

Editor Gets Life!

Joann Prinzevalli has retired as editor of the *Thread*. A real job has left her without the free time to devote to the newsletter. Joann has done a super job and her talent and professionalism will be sorely missed.

IFGE's Denise Leclair has agreed to fill in meanwhile. When approached about editing the newsletter, Denise replied "Sure, its not like I have a life..."

Denise welcomes your comments and suggestions, as long as you say she's doing a great job. If you have material for the newsletter please send it to her at IFGE or e-mail it to newsletter@ifge.org.

TG's Protected in Rhode Island

Rhode Island passed a law on June 28 this summer, banning discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression in housing, public accommodations, credit or housing. Governor Lincoln Almond allowed the bill to become law without his signature

Rhode Island is now the second state to pass such a law. Minnesota was the first in 1993. Connecticut also includes protections through a ruling by their Human Rights Commission, according to Kate Monteiro, President of the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Providence RI.

Our thanks go out to RI Senator Rhode Perry and Representative Edie Ajello who have been instrumental in passing this legislation as well as other bills such as the passage of the sexual orientation civil rights law, and getting the sodomy law repealed. State Senator William Irons, the majority leader in the RI Senate, went out of his way to support this

bill too. Thanks as well to Rhode Island activists Tina Wood and Gwen Howard who lobbied and testified in support of this bill.

Site Needed for 2003 IFGE Convention

Yes you read right; we are already looking for a host site for the 17th Annual IFGE Conference for the late winter or early spring of the year 2003. With the competition and the lead time needed in evaluation and selecting the best possible hotel plus the need for good planning and event promotion, it is important that the city and date for a future convention be set at least eighteen months in advance.

We were blessed with wonderful help from the local groups and their leadership in last year's conference in Chicago. We are currently receiving help from the local folks in Nashville in planning for the next year's conference there. The hosting organization can do as little or as much as they want within limits. But most importantly, they usually help with the social activities, local arrangements, finding special local speakers and vendors as well as with local PR and in a myriad of small tasks that are done best by those who know the area.

Over the last four years the convention has been in Louisville, KY, Arlington, VA, Chicago (Arlington), IL and now Nashville TN, all in the central part of the U.S. In keeping with the tradition of moving the convention around, proposals from the western, southern and eastern areas will be especially welcome.

For more information contact:

S. Kristine James at:

SkristineJ@aol.com

Or Alison Laing at:

Alison@LNG.com

From Houston Texas:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS, BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BY THE CITY IN EMPLOYMENT, CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES, FACILITIES USE, AND SERVICES DELIVERY; CONTAINING FINDINGS AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE FOREGOING SUBJECT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Houston seeks to provide an environment that is free of any type of discrimination by the City based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, marital status, gender, sexual orientation and *gender identity*, disability, military service or any other status; and

WHEREAS, a discrimination free environment is necessary to effectively serve the public by enabling the City to recruit and retain qualified employees and to procure and provide services to the public; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a non-discriminatory environment within City government is important to the economy and strength of the City; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOUSTON, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the findings contained in the preamble of this Ordinance are determined to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as a part of this Ordinance.

Section 2. That Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is hereby amended by redesignating existing Article XIV as Article XV and adding a new Article XIV to read as follows:

ARTICLE XIV

NON-DISCRIMINATION IN CITY EMPLOYMENT, CITY SERVICES AND CONTRACTING PRACTICES.

Sec. 2-451. Definitions

As used in this article, the following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, unless the context of their usage clearly indicates another meaning:

City employment and employment opportunities ----

shall include city job application procedures, recruitment, referrals for employment, selection and hiring, placements, compensation, promotions, demotions, transfers, layoffs, recalls, training, educational opportunities, and all forms of discipline, including indefinite suspensions/terminations.

Discriminate, discriminates, discrimination ----

shall mean to distinguish, differentiate, separate, or segregate, to either the advantage or disadvantage of any person, on the basis of race, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, *gender*, *sexual orientation and gender identity*, disability, military service, except as required by federal or state law or court order.

Sexual orientation and gender identity ----

shall mean having or being perceived as having an emotional, physical, or sexual attachment to another person without regard to the sex of that person or having or being perceived as having an orientation for such attachment, or having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness.

Sexual orientation and gender identity does not include pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, or any unlawful conduct.

Sec 2-452. Prohibition against discrimination in employment.

It is the policy of the city that the city will not discriminate in city employment and employment opportunities.

Sec. 2-453. Prohibition against discrimination in awarding contracts.

It is the policy of the city that the city will not discriminate in the consideration, award, or administration of any contract entered into between the city and any person (including, but not limited to, any contractor, vendor, supplier, lessee, or lessor) for the provision of any works, goods, or services of any type to the city.

Sec. 2-454. Prohibition against discrimination in city services.

It is the policy of the city that the city will not discriminate in authorizing or making available the use of city facilities or in the delivery of city services.

Sec. 2-455. Enforcement.

(a) It is the policy of the city that no employee or officer of the city shall engage in any act or practice prohibited by this article.

(b) An employee or officer found in violation of this article shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including indefinite suspension /termination or removal from office pursuant to applicable city ordinances, city charter provisions, executive orders, administrative procedures, laws, and policies.

(c) The provisions of this article shall be enforced pursuant to applicable city ordinances, city charter provisions, executive orders, administrative procedures, ...

Nominations Sought for 2002 Awards

The IFGE awards Committee is seeking your help in searching for candidates for the 2002 Virginia Prince Award, the Trinity Award, and the Partners in Diversity Award. These awards will be presented during the 16th Annual IFGE Convention to be held in Nashville Tennessee in April 2002.

The **Virginia Prince Award** is the transgender community's highest award and is given to a person who has made a significant lifetime contribution to our community

The **Trinity Awards** honor our heroes and heroines, people who have performed extraordinary acts of courage and love.

The **Partners in Diversity Award** recognizes a company, corporation or government agency that has adopted comprehensive policies of diversity regarding employment and service to customers or clients.

Your participation in the awards process by nominating worthy candidates is very important. You will find information and forms to guide you in your consideration of candidates for these awards. Please read the guidelines below carefully, and fill out the nomination form enclosed with this newsletter and return it by October 30, 2001.

Please send your completed form to:

IFGE Awards Committee
PO Box 540229
Waltham, MA 02454-0229

Or Fax Your Nomination to:
781 899-5703

Or e-mail your nomination to:
office@ifge.org

(please include "Awards Nomination" in the Subject Field)

The nomination form enclosed with this newsletter may be copied for anyone who wishes to make a nomination. We appreciate your participation, and hope to see at the awards ceremony at our 2002 convention!

The IFGE 2001-2002 Awards Committee

Partners in Diversity Award Recipients:

2000	Apple Computer, Inc	1997	Xerox Corporation
1999	Lucent Technology	1996	American Airlines &
1998	MAC Corporation (Canada)		The State of Minnesota

Virginia Prince Recipients:

2000	Mary Frances & Jane Ellen Fairfax
1999	Phyllis Frye
1998	Jamison Green
1997	Eve Buchert
1996	Sheila Kirk M.D.
1995	Yvonne Cook-Riley
1994	Ellen Summers
1993	Carol Beecroft
1992	Naomi Owen
1990	Sister Mary Elizabeth
1989	Ariadne Kane
1988	Merissa Sherrill Lynn
1987	Virginia Prince

Trinity Award Recipients:

2000	Anthony Barreto-Neto, Dawn Wilson, Mary Boenke
1999	Kate Bornstein, JoAnne Law, Maxwell Anderson
1998	Sharon & Abbey Saypen, Judy Osborne, Holly Boswell
1997	Nancy Nangeroni, Linda Buten, Vern Bullough Ph.D.
1996	Sandra Cole, Jane Fee, Joan Sheldon
1995	Laura Caldwell, Dallas Denny, Leslie Feinberg, Jamison Green, Sharon Ann Stuart, Linda Peacock
1994	Marsha Botzer, Marilyn Irving, Ginny Knuth, Alison Laing, JoAnn Roberts, Wendy Parker
1993	Holly Cross, Jane Ellen Fairfax, Phyllis Frye, Rev. Canon, Clinton Jones, Peggy Rudd, Christina Young
1992	Eve Burchert, Richard Doctor Ph.D., Wendi Pierce, Jennifer Richards, Janice Van Cleve, The Be-All Convention
1991	Mariette Pathy Allen, Stanley Biber M.D., Yvonne Cook- Riley, Ellen Summers, Sheila Kirk M.D., The Boulton & Park Society

Call for Presenters

The 16th Annual IFGE Convention will be held in Nashville Tennessee, April 3-6, 2002. Proposals for presentations are being sought at this time. New ideas, new topics and new faces are of particular interest.

Topics for the mini-themes of Community Building, Enhancing the Effectiveness of Local Support Groups, and Understanding the TG Phenomena are especially desirable. If you are interested, please submit your proposal to:

Alison Laing
Program Chair IFGE Conf.
P.O. Box 473-0473
Portsmouth, RI 02871

or e-mail Alison@LNG.com

For more information regarding the convention, you may write:

IFGE Conf. Management Team
c/o Cioe Enterprises
P. O. Box 61
Easton, PA, 18044-0061

Or contact S. Kristine James at:
(610) 759-1761

or e-mail: SkristineJ@aol.com

Upcoming Events:

Fantasia Fair 2001

October 14 – 21

Fabulous, inexpensive week-long gender event.

Go to www.fantasiafair.org or contact

Registrar
PO Box 33724
Decatur, GA 30033-0724

Voice Mail:
(770) 686-3477

Lavender Law 2001

October 25-27

Le Meridan Hotel
650 N Pearl Street
Dallas TX 75201-2877

Fall Harvest

November 2 – 4

Iowa Artistry, a TG support group and Maggie affiliate is hosting Fall Harvest Renaissance this year. It is a regional weekend conference being held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Everyone is welcome. Write to:

Iowa Artistry
PO Box 11093
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52410

Or email:
IowaArtistry@TGForum.com

On the web at:
www.transgender.org/ioar/fhr.html

NGLTF Creating Change Conference

November 7 – 8

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

www.nglftf.org/cc/index.cfm

Correspondence to:
1700 Kalorama Road NW
Washington, DC 20009-2624
Tel: (202)-332-6483

Sex & Gender Retreat

November 8 – 11

The BodhiTree House, Black Mountain, NC

Frank, non-experiential sharing and exploration of the uncharted sexuality that results from gender-shifting beyond sex-role

expectations. See "Trans Sexuality" in Issue #94) Singles, partners & couples welcome.

Contact: Holly Boswell

828-669-3889

HollyFairy@juno.com

Kindred Spirits Winter Circle

DEC. 29 - JAN. 1

The BodhiTree House, Black Mountain, NC

After the fever pitch of commercialized holidays, you are invited to retreat in quiet reverence and festive comradery with kindred spirits.

Bring a log for our mountaintop bonfire under the full moon, and start your year in Yule Circle.

Contact Holly Boswell:

(828) 669-3889

HollyFairy@juno.com

\$\$\$ Reward \$\$\$

Advertisers Wanted

Transgender Tapestry is currently without an advertising manager, so we're offering you the commission! Advertising in *Tapestry* reaches thousands of readers, and helps your business and the TG community at the same time.

If you know a business that could benefit from advertising with us, have them contact us and we will pay you the commission on the first run of their ad! Please contact the IFGE office for more information and advertising rates.

Nominations Open for IFGE Board of Directors

It's Your Organization, Make It Work for You!

Each year IFGE members have the opportunity to nominate individuals, including yourself, for the IFGE Board of Directors. You have the ability to directly influence your organization's policy, as well as the services it provides to the TG community, through nominating and voting for qualified individuals who you feel best represent your constituency, perspective and desires for IFGE's present and future course. If you are qualified individual interested in running, don't be shy, nominate yourself!

Board members are elected to a three year term and must be members of IFGE. They serve without compensation. The Board oversees and directs IFGE's affairs, establishes policy and provides for overall operation and management of the organization.

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

IFGE holds two board meetings each year, one at our annual convention in April, and one at the Southern Comfort Convention in September. Board members are expected to be able to attend these board meetings at their own expense.

The person you nominate should be someone you know to endorse their ability to work constructively within IFGE. When reviewing potential nominees, please consider whether they meet the following qualifications:

- A. Be a member in good standing of IFGE.
- B. Have experience and/or competency in managing the policies of a growing not-for profit organization.
- C. Have a commitment to the welfare of and service to the transgender community, without consideration for personal gain.
- D. Have a pro-diversity attitude and a commitment to serving the community without bias.
- E. Be willing to learn, have sufficient self-awareness to recognize and avoid personal agendas.
- F. Have the ability to exercise patience and diplomacy in the forming of consensus.

Once you have determined the person you wish to nominate is qualified:

1. Fill out the nomination form completely. Include the information on how we can contact the nominee.
2. State why you feel the candidate(s) is qualified.
3. Send the nomination form to the IFGE Nominations Committee at the address below.

Nominations must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2001. Nominations without contact information for the nominee will not be eligible for inclusion on the ballot as we must confirm the candidates acceptance of the nomination. Remember, persons who represent your views and interests can't be elected to next years board if you don't nominate them.

Please send your nominations to:

IFGE Board Nominations Committee
PO Box 540229
Waltham, MA 02454-0229

You may also fax your nomination to:

(781) 899-5703

or e-mail it to

office@ifge.org

"...Protection from abuse remained elusive for lesbians, gay men, and bisexual and transgender people in 2000.

... In virtually every country in the world, people suffered from de jure and de facto discrimination based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Sexual minorities were persecuted in a significant number of countries and in many ways, including the application of the death penalty or long prison sentences for private sexual acts between consenting adults. In some countries, sexual minorities were targeted for extrajudicial execution. In many countries, police actively participated in the persecution. Pervasive bias within the criminal justice system in many countries effectively precluded members of sexual minorities from seeking redress."

-- from Human Rights Watch's World Report 2001.

The Last Word...

New England winters seem to go on for ever. The picnic table in my backyard had disappeared sometime last November. It was submerged beneath a sea of snow, and still had not been sighted by the end of March. I had begun to wonder if I would be able to start a new tradition; the Fourth of July snowball fight.

One of the first signs of spring here comes a long time before the snow has disappeared. As the rivers and ponds thick with ice begin to break up, you sometimes hear a low rumbling sound as great cracks appear in the icelayer. Once these cracks start to appear, it is only a matter of time before the ice is carried away by warmer currents. Warmer weather is just around the corner.

At the end of April, longing for some warmer weather, I boarded a plane from Boston to San Francisco to attend the California Dreamin' Convention, with snow still covering a large portion of my yard.

Mark Leno, a member of the board of supervisors of San Francisco was the Saturday lunchtime speaker at the California Dreamin' conference. He

was sponsoring a proposition to remove the exclusion for treatment of gender dysphoria from the city health benefits.

Supervisor Leno explained how he had come to realize that transgendered people were being discriminated against by the city itself because they denied all forms of medical treatment for gender dysphoria. Although he himself is not transgendered, he felt it was important to correct this discrimination, and sponsored the new health care benefit changes.

The Board of Supervisors was scheduled to vote on the amendment the Monday after the conference. After lunch on Saturday, a number of conference attendees including myself, James Green, Julie Johnson, Janice Walcott and twenty or thirty other activated people went downtown to picket in support of the proposed changes.

I stayed behind in San Francisco after the conference to see the city (and get a cheaper flight home), so I decided to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting which was only a few blocks from my hotel. After hours of delay and lengthy debates, the vote was finally taken late Monday afternoon.

A great rumble was felt as the results came in; the measure had passed!

San Francisco would become the first municipality in the US to cover transgender health care benefits. A huge crack had just appeared in the thick wall of ice excluding transgender people from equal rights.

A recent study indicated that almost half of the companies in this country which provide domestic partner benefits, do so, because San Francisco made it a requirement for companies doing business in the city. Some people may say "Only in San Francisco!" but it is often the harbinger of the way much of the rest of the country will eventually go.

Our community owes a debt of gratitude to Mark Leno and the courageous members of San Francisco Board of Supervisors who voted for this proposal. They have opened a door which may eventually bring transgendered people in out of the cold.

Over the next few months other similar rumblings have been heard from New Jersey, Rhode Island, Kansas, and (yes) even Texas.

These rumblings are being heard as state after state declares that it is no longer acceptable to discriminate against people for failing to adhere to gender stereotypes. These cracks in the wall of exclusion are appearing at an ever increasing pace, which hopefully indicates that discrimination against transgendered people will one day be a thing of the past...

Denise Leclair

