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Jodi Burchell, editor  
'Your SOFFA VOICE'  
PO Box 1916  
Smyrna, TN. 37167

*NOTE: 'Your SOFFA VOICE' is a quarterly newsletter produced in partnership with the American Boyz organization.*

# Your SOFFA VOICE

Volume 4, Issue 1

April 1st, 2001

*Coming soon...*

*An interview with  
Minnie Bruce Pratt*

*Famed activist and author of S/He and  
Walking Back Up Depot Street*

*Don't miss it!!*

FROM THE EDITOR

*Greetings!!*

*I realized a while back that this newsletter has covered many SO issues in the past...from handling chest surgery to hormones to identity issues to family issues to relationships and so on. But, one of the issues never discussed was dealing with or preparing for your partner's bottom surgery. However, we are in luck both with this issue as well as the next issue!! In this issue, Lynn recounts the trip with her husband to Portland. In the next issue, C, will tell us about her and her partner's journey and preparing physically, spiritually, and emotionally for his bottom surgery. I can hardly wait!! You can read C's sneak preview below.*

*Also, in the next issue, I am expecting to bring you a great interview with Minnie Bruce Pratt, author, activist, SO of author Leslie Feinburg, and one of my personal heroes. The interview will be done by Joell, co-editor of our media review column, View From The SOFFA.*

*All in all, some very exciting things happening! And hopefully this will make up for the fact that the first issue this year is a couple months late!*

*~jodi*

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### THE JOURNEY

By C

*Spring is here. The season of renewal and rebirth. This year it is particularly significant for J and myself as we embark on a journey to Portland for his lower surgery. It seems unreal that a year has gone by since we were given a date by Dr. Meltzer's office...but now it is here, and all the logistical and practical preparations are taken care of. How J and I take care of ourselves emotionally and spiritually throughout this journey and the impact it has on us as individuals and on our relationship will be in the next issue of this newsletter. It's a season of miracles, and we are about to experience one that has been eagerly anticipated, and yet somehow feels frightening and invasive now that it is almost here. Stay tuned.....*

## "A DEDICATION TO MELISSA"

~by Daniel J. L. Winkenhofer

*What I have learned in the past year on dealing with my #1 SOFFA*

First of all, I wouldn't be where I am today without my dearest Melissa, it was her who in the beginning helped me find resources, etc. on the web. She pushed me gently every step of the way. Now I must admit my darling and I met in a lesbian chatroom. I never ID'd as such, she did, its just I had no idea that one could transition. I told her how I felt prior to us physically meeting. This threw her for a loop as she had lesbian feelings, one of the reasons she left her husband. I just told her I felt like a man, again not knowing anyway to proceed with this.

We drove to Atlanta together for my first therapy session. When the Doc asked how she was getting along, I found out she had become extremely lonely. She had not told me this. All we ever discussed was me, we had not talked about her feelings and the effect on her. I point blank told the Doc, "I thought I was enough". The Doc laughed and said "sounds just like a man". We talked all the way home (7 hours) as to what we could do to include her. Best words I ever heard during transitioning, "SOFFAS get left out. Its all about him, him, him." This thought came from my Doc. And now part of my homework assignments were "how are you going to help Melissa?, how are you going to be tuned into her feelings?" This part of it has stayed with me ever since.

When I came out to our chatroom, we were torn apart by many of the lesbians, we didn't belong there, how could Danny do this to you? And many of the ladies knew us in person, not from just the computer. She bolted from chatting, I stayed and fought the issue. Night after night answering the same questions from different people. But gradually I am now accepted by them. This led to another problem, I needed validation from other lesbians, or straight ladies, just other ladies. Melissa thought she was enough, or better yet, she had done all this for me, research with and for me, deal with my mood swings and I didn't show her my appreciation. Of course, flirting occurred and she became extremely jealous and angry. I tried in my best voice over and over to explain this was something I needed at the time. No, I have never physically been unfaithful, nor verbally,

in my head, but she saw it as such. That, I see now, is enough. She saw it that way.

After the first Doc's visit I quit talking about transitioning to Melissa, I went the opposite way, talked to everyone else but her. I think in my head I thought this would make it all not about "ME". oh those roller coasters. But driving home from work from Louisville to Southern Indiana one night, something hit me. "Dan you are screwing this up. You have the best woman out there and you are really going to lose this one." I couldn't let this happen. Dr. Earhardt also taught me the need for patience. I had to learn this, I think in the beginning I wanted it so badly I overwhelmed everyone. I still do but realize it will be a long journey. Even my mom has seen a calmer me since Christmas, and I told her the week before. Good timing?? Welllll, it was a moment. Another story.

Anyway, every day I fall deeper in love with my wife. I forgot to add we are also raising a 5-year-old son and a 2-year-old daughter. I work full-time and she works 3rd shift and goes to classes in AM. There are so many stresses out there, as you all know.

When we went to True Sprit, I felt like I had finally come home. I think she did also. She saw others like her and we attended many separate workshops. I ended up in one SOFFA workshop by accident, but since it was a "fishbowl" type thing, I was allowed to stay. I just had to keep my big mouth shut. I heard my wife and other ladies speak, saying everything we both had in our minds. That's when I came up with the idea of proposing a workshop for next year. I really feel like the guys need to keep in mind, "Its not just about us". Its about those who love us, we are changing their lives also. Us guys need to know that if our SO is not acting in a way that we "deem" appropriate, that this journey is theirs as well, we in a weird sort of way do NOT

*continued on page 3*

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wear the pants all the time. I learned that I needed to do more to help, now when I get home at night I do laundry, dishes, get kids clothes together, make breakfast, lunch, etc. This does not make me less "manly." And my hard working wife does appreciate this, not having to come home and do everything.

She still sees me as her TRANSMAN. And now I find out I even like doing these things, because I am making her life just a little bit simpler. I cannot even begin to explain all that has happened this past year, bad and good; but we made it. When I suggested the workshop she became enthused, she even agreed to help with it. Just as our SOs are learning everything that we are and are becoming, we need to keep their thoughts and feelings in mind. Even though she often says to me, I know you'd rather see me barefoot and pregnant. Well, yea I would, but mostly I want to see her smile, that is what I live for as we continue this journey. ♥

*Fabulous story!!! If you are a transman or know of one who has story to tell about that special SOFFA or would like to share about SOFFA-related issues, email me at: [SOFFAUSA@yahoo.com](mailto:SOFFAUSA@yahoo.com) ~Jodi*

## This newsletter relies on your support!!

It's true!

This is an amateur publication and it's existence is made possible by SOFFAs and transmen who take the time to share their personal stories, essays, poetry, words of wisdom, announcements, resources, etc.

If you would like more information about submitting a writing....or announcements advertising your local support group, email list, conference, websight, etc., Send email to:

[SOFFAUSA@yahoo.com](mailto:SOFFAUSA@yahoo.com) or postal mail:

Jodi Burchell  
PO Box 1916  
Smyrna, TN. 37167

## SOFFA RESOURCES

### ~EMAIL LISTS

#### ◆ Support

**FTMSOS** – for any type of SO of FTMs, regardless of background, gender, or sexual orientation. For more information, go to: [www.egroups.com/FTMSOS](http://www.egroups.com/FTMSOS)

**Nytecafe** – a list for straight-identified wives/lovers/girlfriends of FTMs. Send email to: [Nyteflyer1@aol.com](mailto:Nyteflyer1@aol.com) or go to: [www.egroups.com/Nytecafe](http://www.egroups.com/Nytecafe)

**Trannyfags** – a list for gay-identified FTM/SOs. To join, go to [www.queernet.org](http://www.queernet.org) and search for trannyfags.

**Transgenderedcouples** is a list for TG people in relationships where all partners are transgendered and dealing with gender issues.  
[www.egroups.com/transgendercouples](http://www.egroups.com/transgendercouples)

**Transsensualfem** is an email list for femmes who are primarily attracted to tgbutches and/or FTMS. To join, go to [www.queernet.org](http://www.queernet.org) and search for transsensualfem.

#### ◆ Dating/social

**FTM\_Dating** is a list designed as a place where FTMs both gay, straight and bisexual can meet people (TG and non-TG) who are attracted to or open to the idea of dating or being a partner to an FTM.  
[www.egroups.com/ftm\\_dating](http://www.egroups.com/ftm_dating)

**TG\_leather** is a list focused on FTMs and their SOFFA's who are active in the leather/BDSM/fetish community. [www.egroups.com/tg\\_leather](http://www.egroups.com/tg_leather)

**FTM\_n\_WWLT** is an email list for FTMs and the women, who prefer their company ---and who are interested/concerned with today's FTM issues.  
[www.egroups.com/FTM\\_n\\_WWLT](http://www.egroups.com/FTM_n_WWLT)

### ~SOFFA WEBSIGHTS

**SOFFAUSA** is a resource websight for SOFFAs of any type of TG person. Go to: [www.aol.com/SOFFAUSA/index.html](http://www.aol.com/SOFFAUSA/index.html)

**FTMSOFAQ** is a dedicated to answering all those questions about being a SOFFA of a transman. Go to: <http://members.xoom.com/ftmsofaq/>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ~~SEEKING SUBMISSIONS

FTM International is seeking SOFFA's to submit columns for publication in our regular SOFFA column. Please send submissions and inquires to: PO Box 34500, Phila. PA 19101 or write: FTMIfemalebox@aol.com.

## ~~TRANNY FEST

Tranny Fest: Transgender & Transgenre Cinema, in San Francisco, is calling for entries for films and videos. There is no entry fee and our deadline is August 1, 01.

Tranny Fest will be held Mid-November, TBA. Entries must be submitted with our official entry form. 2001 Guidelines and entry form can be downloaded from our website: <http://members.aol.com/trannyfest>

We are also looking for donations and volunteers. Our volunteer form is also on our website.

Tranny Fest is a weeklong celebration of the sweet complexities of the Transgender experience. Our festival theme this year will be Tranny Fest 2001 "Gender Armageddon!" Trans and fan will participate in our Multi-galaxy of performance, panels and parties ending in a glamorous marathon of "Finger-Snappin, groin-bumpin, tear-jerkin, heartwarming, gut-bustin mix of experimental, documentary, drama & pornographic films!" Our event proudly boasts diversity and an array of cultures. We have as many genres and we do genders. Please come join us.

## ~~BISEXUAL CONFERENCE

BECAUSE 2001: A Bisexual Odyssey

May 4-6, 2001 in Milwaukee, WI at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd

### Theme

Odyssey: After the Odyssey, a Homeric epic recounting the wanderings of Odysseus after the fall of Troy 1. An extended adventurous wandering. 2. A spiritual or intellectual quest.

Webster's dictionary defines the word odyssey as, . . . any long, adventurous journey. Back in the 20th

century, Stanley Kubrick directed a very popular science fiction movie about a long, adventurous journey into the future titled 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Many bisexuals today are traveling odysseys of our own. Some of us are questioning our orientation. Some of us are first discovering dual attractions after many years of identifying as gay/lesbian or straight. Some bisexuals have been aware of our orientation since early childhood and may be considering alternative relationships. And many of us wouldn't want any orientation except our bisexuality, but would like support regarding bi-prejudice in our lives.

Your personal journey may reflect one or more of the above, or may be entirely unique. BECAUSE 2001: A Bisexual Odyssey will strive to meet your needs no matter where you are on your personal journey.

We invite you to BECAUSE 2001 as it comes to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the first time. Come join us as your journey continues . . .

### Mission Statement

BECAUSE (Bisexual Empowerment Conference: A Uniting, Supportive Experience), an annual conference held in the Midwest region of the United States, shall exist to provide opportunities of support, education, resources, entertainment and a sense of community for those who self-identify as bisexual, persons questioning their orientation, those who dislike labels, transgender persons and our allies.

## ~~FTM CONFERENCE

FTM 2001: A Gender Odyssey  
To Be Held May 25th - 28th, 2001 in Seattle, WA.

Contact Rory Gould at [ftmconference@yahoo.com](mailto:ftmconference@yahoo.com) or leave a voicemail message for the organizing committee at 206-527-7433 for further information.

(Seattle, WA) FTM 2001: A Gender Odyssey is the fifth conference organized under the auspices of FTM International for female to male transsexuals and anyone interested in gender issues, or the people who love them. It will be held in Seattle, WA.

*Continued page 10*

## “Southern Comfort”

A film review By Joell Smith

My partner saw “Southern Comfort” while he was at a conference, and had this to say about the movie:

*...I was able to see this movie while I was in New York City. I highly recommend it if it comes to [your town] or you are traveling to a city that is showing it. It won at Sundance for the best documentary. It's the story of Robert Eads who transitioned rather late in life (after having 2 children) and ends up being diagnosed with ovarian cancer. While they do not directly show doctors refusing to treat him, that seems to be the case, and he ends up dying by the end of the film. It's set in Georgia and very eloquently filmed.*

*I thought Robert was a natural actor and the Kate Davis, the film's director, does a creative job of showing the life of a FTM struggling with the death process. Robert's partner, Lola (an MTF) is also very articulate and "a natural" in front of the camera. Robert has 2 close FTM friends and the film documents their lives as well. Footage from the Southern Comfort Conference is shown towards the end with Robert being honored as he presents a short speech. The closing banquet of Southern Comfort and the "prom" is also nicely filmed.*

*This film is very different from "Boys Don't Cry" but equally compelling. Robert is probably more typical of a lot our experiences and easier to relate to than Brandon Teena. Robert does have the struggle (and stereotypes) of living in a rural area with unsympathetic family members and a less than posh home but there are elements of his life that almost anyone can relate to, especially a TG/TS person. I hope you all get a chance to see it. It's not getting the publicity and "excitement" of "Boys Don't Cry" but in my opinion, it's a better film.*

After hearing his enthusiastic recommendation, and knowing that it will be quite a while before the movie gets to Indianapolis, I decided to do some research, and learn more about the film and the people involved.

One thing I found pretty cool is that Lola Cola, Eads' partner, was at Sundance and accepted the award for Best Documentary with Davis. As part of her acceptance speech, she said, "This is so cool. I really am glad people are starting to appreciate that human beings come in all flavors, some of them fruity."

According to the Sundance website, Davis met Eads at an FTM conference in Maryland in 1998 while she was working on "Transgender Revolution," another film she did about the gender community's fight for civil rights. "Davis' commitment to this film took precisely one conversation over coffee with Robert Eads, as he spoke about his ovarian cancer, how he was denied treatment, how he felt like a traitor to his body while giving birth to two sons. Davis called him a week later, and he agreed to go public for the first time in his life."

The article closes with these lines: Davis grew to love Robert, and it stretched her to the limit to watch him die while still acting as the film producer. In the end, a large part of what drew Davis to make “Southern Comfort” was the mystery at the core of Robert's story. How can a person with so much to offer be condemned throughout his life simply because his very existence challenges gender norms? Gender: an elusive concept at best. Merely physical, yet deeply existential. Something assigned at birth according to a few body parts, which then grows into a seemingly immutable sense of identity.

But as Robert once told Davis, "If this film helps one other trans-man go to a doctor or changes the heart of one straight person, then it's worth it."

Check out the rest of this great article at:

[www.sundanceonlineresourcecenter.org/search/sorc\\_search-profile.asp?method=view&fid=1256&cid=10107&ft=Southern%20Comfort](http://www.sundanceonlineresourcecenter.org/search/sorc_search-profile.asp?method=view&fid=1256&cid=10107&ft=Southern%20Comfort).

Or if you don't want to try typing all that in, go to [www.sundanceonlineresourcecenter.org](http://www.sundanceonlineresourcecenter.org), click on the Film Search link, and type in Southern Comfort. There is a blurb about the film, and the article I have been referring to is at the “Filmmaker's Viewpoint” link. You can also see the trailer and some photos from the production at this site.

Check out SOUTHERN COMFORT on HBO this coming November. ♥

## Journey to Portland

Written by: Lynn (wife of Aaron)

*My husband, Aaron decided to have genital surgery, and chose to have the metadoioplasty with Dr. Toby Meltzer in Portland, Oregon. We made the appointment in January 2000 with an initial payment of \$500 to hold a surgery date in November. We made our first visit to meet Dr. Meltzer in July. He requires two letters, one from a psychiatrist, one from a psychologist. In October, we made another payment of \$8,362. There will be one more payment of \$4,500, which we will take care of when we return for the permanent testicular implants in approximately four months.*

*Three weeks before surgery, Aaron was told to stop taking any blood-thinning medications. We left Los Angeles on November 15th. We were picked up at the airport by Dr. Meltzer's driver who took us to the office for a pre-op visit. We were then escorted to our motel, not far from Eastmoreland Hospital. The next morning, we went to Eastmoreland, a rather small hospital that we were to find out provides excellent service and care.*

*Aaron's surgery started at 8am and ended at about noon. I got to see him at about 2pm. At this point we had the option of returning to our hotel or making use of their VIP Service. We chose the VIP, and are happy we did. We stayed at the hospital for the three or four days after surgery, checked in on every day by Dr. Meltzer, as well as a nurse or other member of his staff, but were left alone unless we had a medical need. We wound up not having any medical needs, but it was reassuring to be there anyway. I don't think it's wise to return to a hotel room, just in case.*

*During this time, Aaron was shown how to infuse the liquid used to inflate the bags inserted into his new scrotum (the expanders) which he'll be doing for the next four months or so. After that time, we'll return to Portland and Meltzer will remove the expanders and replace them with permanent testicular implants. After about four days, Paul takes us back to the airport and we return to Los Angeles. Aaron had arranged to take two weeks off from work, and I couldn't help a chuckle. Once we got back, he arranged another*

*week off, and will likely go back to work after six weeks (in part due to the setback when he split a few stitches and bled pretty heavily, resulting in a trip to the emergency room).*

*In the meantime, he will start to inject the liquid into his expanders, a painful process. Meltzer's timeline is four to six months, but Aaron is taking it gradually, so it might more realistically be six months or a little more before our return to Portland. We were concerned that Aaron might be considered too 'portly,' but Meltzer did not have any problem with this.*

*I was concerned that I wouldn't be strong enough for him. Aaron doesn't take anesthesia or pain very well. I was there when he came out of the anesthesia and stood there as he threw up and was in terrific pain. I was there to calm him and stay by his side almost constantly for the first 24 hours. Just going back to the hotel to sleep. On the second day, when he was sort of comfortable I took a day for myself and "saw the sights" of beautiful Portland. Oh, oh those one way streets. Now that was stressful. However, Portland is a beautiful city, and Eastmoreland Hospital is set in a rural part of town near a beautiful college. So I went running and walking and enjoying the crisp clear air. I went to a movie and took time for myself. On the third day, Aaron went VIP and I brought him some stuff from Trader Joes. We left on the fourth day. ♥*

*Dr. Toby Meltzer can be reached at:*

*1500 SW First Avenue  
Suite #1120  
Crown Plaza  
Portland, Oregon 97201  
(503) 525-9323 or  
(503) 525-0370 (FAX)*

*Eastmoreland Hospital  
2900 SE Steele St.  
Portland, Oregon 97202  
(503) 234-0411*

*I was thinking the other day about this article. I wanted to share my True Spirit Conference 2001 experience with all of you, but wasn't quite sure how to do that, or what to include. What thoughts, feelings, emotions, experiences could I describe that would most thoroughly convey my total experience? Actually, that's a pretty tall order. I could go on for days about the wonders of TSC, but it dawned on me that what most grabbed my attention were the things I had forgotten by not attending last year's conference. That is what I decided to share with all of you.*

*~jodi*

## I HAD FORGOTTEN WHAT IT FELT LIKE...

*...to be around over 500 people who really do understand..*

*...to see so many different variations of gender, race, sexuality, age, etc. in one place at the same time.*

*...to feel the acceptance as part of a larger, more diverse community.*

*...to volunteer and be a part of the success story that True Spirit Conference is.*

*..to feel incredibly old surrounded by so many young gender-variant persons donning mohawks and brightly colored hair.*

*...to see the newly transitioning and their SOs struggling with their issues.*

*....to hear the pain in an SOs voice as she described feeling like her lover was someone else when he hugged her from behind one day after his chest surgery.*

*...to hear the pain in an SOs voice as she described feeling one morning like she had woken up with a stranger in her bed.*

*...to hear the delight in an SOs voice as she described discovering that she liked actually whiskers on her guy.*

*..to hear an SO tell everyone how alone and isolated she felt...and see the smile on her face when 2 other SOs make it a point to mention that they live in the same state as her.*

*...to feel and see so much masculinity oozing out everywhere.*

*...to see heavy cruising going on everywhere.*

*...to see people soaking up the acceptance, understanding, and recognition that they don't get anywhere else in their lives.*

*...to see so many SOs realize that they aren't alone, that there are other couples like them...couples who have made it through transition with their relationship intact.*

*...to see newly transitioning guys excited about the possibilities...the future....the prospect of passing 100%...and being the man they need to be.*

*...to see people connecting with others from everywhere, sharing bits and pieces of their lives.*

*...to see SOFFAs excited about the number of workshops available for them...and realizing that True Spirit REALLY isn't just for the transmen.*

*...to get barely any sleep and eat hotel food for days.*

*...to lead or be a part of workshops where SOs share about themselves...some their fears, frustrations, and pain...and some about their success and hope.*

*..to see the femmes in their full glory....putting on their feathers, sparkles, leopard print, stilettos, and/or corsets and strutting around.*

*...to finally get to meet people face to face who I've know for a long time, but by reading their words only.*

*...to say goodbye to it all again, until next year.*

*Note: The following words we're printed in the True Spirit 2001 Conference booklet. I liked them so much and thought that they were incredibly profound, so I decided to share them with everyone here as well. Enjoy! ~Jodi*

## **A Time Comes In Your Life.....**

*A time comes in your life when you finally get it ... when, in the midst of all your fears and insanity, you stop dead in your tracks and somewhere the voice inside your head cries out - ENOUGH!*

*Enough fighting and crying or struggling to hold on. And, like a child quieting down after a blind tantrum, your sobs begin to subside, you shudder once or twice, you blink back your tears and begin to look at the world through new eyes.*

*This is your awakening.*

*You realize it's time to stop hoping and waiting for something to change ...or for happiness, safety and security to come galloping over the next horizon.*

*You come to terms with the fact that neither of you is Prince Charming or Cinderella and that in the real world there aren't always fairy tale endings (or beginnings for that matter) and that any guarantee of "happily ever after" must begin with you ... and in the process a sense of serenity is born of acceptance.*

*You awaken to the fact that you are not perfect and that not everyone will always love, appreciate or approve of who or what you are ... and that's OK. They are entitled to their own views and opinions.*

*And you learn the importance of loving and championing yourself...and in the process a sense of new found confidence is born of self-approval. You stop complaining and blaming other people for the things they did to you (or didn't do for you) and you learn that the only thing you can really count on is the unexpected.*

*You learn that people don't always say what they mean or mean what they say and that not everyone will always be there for you and that it's not always about you.*

*So, you learn to stand on your own and to take care of yourself...and in the process a sense of safety and security is born of self-reliance.*

*You stop judging and pointing fingers and you begin to accept people as they are and to overlook their shortcomings and human frailties...and in the process a sense of peace and contentment is born of forgiveness.*

*You realize that much of the way you view yourself, and the world around you, is as a result of all the messages and opinions that have been ingrained into your psyche.*

*And you begin to sift through all the junk you've been fed about how you should behave, how you should look, how much you should weigh, what you should wear, what you should do for a living, how much money you should make, what you should drive, how and where you should live, who you should marry, the importance of having and raising children, and what you owe your parents, family, and friends.*

*You learn to open up to new worlds and different points of view. And you begin reassessing and redefining who you are and what you really stand for.*

*You learn the difference between wanting and needing and you begin to discard the doctrines and values you've outgrown, or should never have bought into to begin with ... and in the process you learn to go with your instincts.*

*You learn that it is truly in giving that we receive. And that there is power and glory in creating and contributing and you stop maneuvering through life merely as a "consumer" looking for your next fix.*

*You learn that principles such as honesty and integrity are not the outdated ideals of a bygone era but the mortar that holds together the foundation upon which you must build a life.*

*You learn that you don't know everything, it's not your job to save the world and that you can't teach a pig to sing.*

*You learn to distinguish between guilt and responsibility and the importance of setting boundaries and learning to say NO.*

*You learn that the only cross to bear is the one you choose to carry and that martyrs get burned at the stake.*

*Then you learn about love. How to love, how much to give in love, when to stop giving and when to walk away.*

*You learn to look at relationships as they really are and not as you would have them be.*

*You stop trying to control people, situations and outcomes.*

*And you learn that alone does not mean lonely.*

*You also stop working so hard at putting your feelings aside, smoothing things over and ignoring your needs.*

*You learn that feelings of entitlement are perfectly OK....and that it is your right to want things and to ask for the things you want ... and that sometimes it is necessary to make demands.*

*You come to the realization that you deserve to be treated with love, kindness, sensitivity and respect and you won't settle for less. And you learn that your body really is your temple.*

*And you begin to care for it and treat it with respect. You begin to eat a balanced diet, drink more water, and take more time to exercise.*

*You learn that being tired fuels doubt, fear, and uncertainty and so you take more time to rest.*

*And, just as food fuels the body, laughter fuels our soul. So you take more time to laugh and to play.*

*You learn that, for the most part, you get in life what you believe you deserve...and that much of life truly is a self-fulfilling prophecy.*

*You learn that anything worth achieving is worth working for and that wishing for something to happen is different than working toward making it happen.*

*More importantly, you learn that in order to achieve success you need direction, discipline and perseverance.*

*You also learn that no one can do it all alone...and that it's OK to risk asking for help.*

*You learn the only thing you must truly fear is the greatest robber baron of all: FEAR itself.*

*You learn to step right into and through your fears because you know that whatever happens you can handle it and to give in to fear is to give away the right to live life on your own terms.*

*And you learn to fight for your life and not to squander it living under a cloud of impending doom.*

*You learn that life isn't always fair, you don't always get what you think you deserve and that sometimes bad things happen to unsuspecting, good people.*

*On these occasions you learn not to personalize things.*

*You learn that God isn't punishing you or failing to answer your prayers. It's just life happening.*

*And you learn to deal with evil in its most primal state - the ego.*

*You learn that negative feelings such as anger, envy and resentment must be understood and redirected or they will suffocate the life out of you and poison the universe that surrounds you.*

*You learn to admit when you are wrong and to build bridges instead of walls.*

*You learn to be thankful and to take comfort in many of the simple things we take for granted, things that millions of people upon the earth can only dream about: a full refrigerator, clean running water, a soft warm bed, a long hot shower.*

*Slowly, you begin to take responsibility for yourself by yourself and you make yourself a promise to never betray yourself and to never, ever settle for less than your heart's desire.*

*And you hang a wind chime outside your window so you can listen to the wind. And you make it a point to keep smiling, to keep trusting, and to stay open to every wonderful possibility.*

*Finally, with courage in your heart and God by your side you take a stand, you take a deep breath, and you begin to design the life you want to live as best you can.*

*-- Author Unknown*

Memorial Day weekend, May 25th - 28th, 2001.

This is the follow-up to the very successful Forward Motions conference held in Burbank, CA. in October 1999. Local organizers for FTM 2001: A Gender Odyssey expect as many as 500 participants from around the world, across the nation, and all walks of life.

The featured speakers will be Phyllis Randolph Frye, Houston attorney for Christie Lee Littleton and transgender activist extraordinaire, and noted author Patrick Califia-Rice. There will also be numerous workshops, "town meeting" plenaries, social activities, and information sources.

Topics will include gender theory, cultures, and politics; all aspects of transitioning from female to male; relationships with family, friends, partners, and lovers; and their relationships with FTMs and others who were born with female bodies but have a masculine gender identity.

Special early registration rates are available until Feb. 15th, and there are a limited number of scholarships, especially for youth. Registration information can be found at the conference web site [www.ftm2001.org](http://www.ftm2001.org) or can be requested via voicemail at 206-527-7433 or in writing to PO Box 23157 Seattle, WA. 98102. There are also advertising and vendor opportunities at the conference. That information is also available at those contact sources.

If you have a web site that you would like to link to the conference's, please inform us; or if you know of other people or organizations who should be getting these announcements, please forward them and/or send us the necessary contact information to do so.

### ~~ GenderBenderRevue IV

You're invited to join Gender MOSAIC Q&A for

GenderBenderRevue IV:  
GENERATIONS OF GENDER

Saturday, October 6, 2001 at 7 pm  
University of Michigan  
Piedmont Commons  
(North Campus)  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
GenderBenderRevue, an evening of performances celebrating gender diversity, is the premiere event sponsored by Gender MOSAIC Q&A, a UM student organization for

transgender, transsexual, and genderqueer people, other members of the gender community, our friends and allies.

GenderBenderRevue IV: GENERATIONS OF GENDER is the kickoff event for the UM campus's National Coming Out Week, and is specially themed to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the University of Michigan Office of Lesbian Gay Bisexual & Transgender Affairs. The show will be presented in cabaret style, and will feature performers from the UM community as well as throughout the Southeast Michigan region. A special presentation of trans/gender/queer art will also be on display in the Piedmont Commons throughout the weeks of October 1-14, 2001, to coincide with the Revue.

If you are interested in attending, or perhaps in performing, or simply want more information, please contact [genderbenderproductions@usa.com](mailto:genderbenderproductions@usa.com) or call the UM Office of Lesbian Gay Bisexual & Transgender Affairs at (734)763-4186.

### ~~GenderPac Conference

GenderPAC  
[www.gpac.org](http://www.gpac.org)

Register now for the First National Conference on Gender (May 18-20) and 6th Annual Lobby Day (May 21) at [www.gpac.org/ngc/index.html](http://www.gpac.org/ngc/index.html)

#### FEATURED SPEAKERS

- \* Patricia Ireland, President, National Organization for Women
- \* Peter Oiler, Cross-Dresser fired by Winn-Dixie
- \* James Dale, Plaintiff in NJ Boy Scouts Case
- \* Angela Moreno Lippert, Intersex Society of North America
- \* Chai Feldblum, Professor, Georgetown University Law Center

#### SCHOLARSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE!

Want to come to our conference, but don't have the funds? Don't worry, GenderPAC can help. Scholarships are available but the deadline is rapidly approaching. So apply today!

GROUP RATES, HOUSING, SCHOLARSHIPS  
Can't afford the hotel? GenderPAC can help.

Got Friends?

- \* Our group discounts can help.

Need Housing?

- \* Our RoomShare and Alternative Housing can help.

Unemployed, Youth or Student?

- \* Gender Scholarships are available.

# Amboyz SOFFA CONTACTS

## National SOFFA Coordinator:

Scott

FTM SOFFA FAQ web page: <http://members.xoom.com/ftmsofaq/>

Email: [AnXYGuy@sprynet.com](mailto:AnXYGuy@sprynet.com).

## Local SOFFA Coordinators:

-New York City: Natalie: Email: [natalie@everest.hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:natalie@everest.hunter.cuny.edu)

-Tennessee: Tracy: 615-431-9540; Email: [WrkingGal@aol.com](mailto:WrkingGal@aol.com)

-Minnesota: Beth: 612-376-7648; Email: [kent0021@maroon.tc.umn.edu](mailto:kent0021@maroon.tc.umn.edu)

-Arizona: Debra: 520-903-1421; Email: [debra@hwr.arizona.edu](mailto:debra@hwr.arizona.edu)

-Toronto: Kaia Kruus, 416-466-0235; FAX: 416-466-8812 ; Email: [kaia@ca.ibm.com](mailto:kaia@ca.ibm.com)

-San Antonio, TX: Debra: 210-434-6044; (leave msg on answering machine);

Email: [debra@mac.hwr.arizona.edu](mailto:debra@mac.hwr.arizona.edu)

-Richard Brown in Delaware, (gay man, tg ally): 302-366-1805;

Email: [horned@sprintmail.com](mailto:horned@sprintmail.com)

## We also have SOFFAs serving in regular positions:

-Lee Smith, Midsouth Coordinator, is a SOFFA and also the Online Outreach Coordinator:  
PO Box 118, New Haven, KY, 40051 Email: [STHRNBOYZZ@aol.com](mailto:STHRNBOYZZ@aol.com) or [Alphavamp@aol.com](mailto:Alphavamp@aol.com) Phone:  
502-549-3846

-Arlene Sandoval-Guerra is the Southeast Region Spanish-speaking Liason(ally):  
Latino/a Issues: (Se Habla Español) Email: [sandoval@aol.com](mailto:sandoval@aol.com)

## The following special contacts are also SOFFAs:

-Legal Issues: Phyllis Randolph Frye, Esq: [PRFrye@aol.com](mailto:PRFrye@aol.com) (lawyer and transwoman)

-Medical Issues: Dr Kathryn Thomas, Phd, RN: 410-625-1095; Email: [katesx@juno.com](mailto:katesx@juno.com)  
(gender therapist)

-Family Issues: Mary Boenke; Email: [MaryBoenke@aol.com](mailto:MaryBoenke@aol.com) (parent of tg)

-Official Jewish Mother: Leslie Ann Alpert: Email: [fluffy@access.digex.net](mailto:fluffy@access.digex.net) (ally)

If you think you'd like to be an AmBoyz local, regional, or SOFFA contact, see the American Boyz website, <http://www.netgsi.com/~listwrangler> for a "job description" and then contact national SOFFA coordinator, Scott at: [AnXYGuy@sprynet.com](mailto:AnXYGuy@sprynet.com) or American Boyz's Coordinator-in-Chief, Gary Bowen, at: [transman@netgsi.com](mailto:transman@netgsi.com).

## *American Boyz*

*American Boyz is a support and social group for people who were born female but who feel that is not a complete or accurate assessment of who they are and our significant others, friends, family, and allies (SOFFAs). Our membership includes Butches, FTMs, Transmen, FTV's, Gender Outlaws, Transexals, Drag Kings, Boychicks, She-Bears, Shapeshifters, Tomboys, Passing Women, Amazons, Intersexuals, Female Guys, Boss Girls, Transgenderists, Sirs, and our SOFFAs. We provide education, support, social events, newsletters, online forums, local meetings, political action, and a national conference.*

To learn more about The American Boyz, send email to [amboyz@iximd.com](mailto:amboyz@iximd.com) or check out the websight at <http://office.iximd.com/mailman>

Or send SASE to: The American Boyz, 212A S. Bridge St., Suite 131, Elkton, MD, 21922 FAX: 410-620-2024