

Celebrating On DVG's 10th!

TGSF's The Channel
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)



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

The Channel

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

ExCom 2001 - 2002 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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

Membership Report

Current Membership as of:

4/30/01	242
5/31/01	203
6/30/01	186

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

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

Newsletter Staff

Editor Ayme Michelle Kantz
 Advertising Ayme Kantz
 Contributing Photographers, this Issue: Telzey Adams

Ad Rates

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

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

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FROM THE EDITOR...



Of all the years I've attended the Gay Pride Parade and Festival, 2001 marked the first time I got to ride on the TGSF float. While I was not clad in gorgeous feathers, sequins and headdresses like Savannah, Tianna, Monica and Rachael, I did show a little "ahem" skin. I figured the Outrageous and Fabulous Miss Didi Mau got nothing on

this girl! So there I was in full view of countless watchers live and around the world via satellite, topless, waving my 40D Fredrick's bra over my head, blowing my whistle and having the time of my life. From the top of the truck, there was Market Street laid out before me, both sidewalks sporting a crowd at least a dozen deep, and all the way down the Parade route the response was fantastic. If you weren't able to be there, the Millennial Pride Celebration was a record-breaker. An estimated one million people attended this year's event and it seemed to me if they weren't picking their jaws off the ground, they all had a shiny happy smile on their face.

But whether it was misinformation, spotty planning or just apathy in general, I was disappointed at the turnout from TGSF members. With all the gains we made politically this year (Mark Leno is a God!), with all the positive (and negative) press, movies, television and videos generated about us this year - this was our year to stand up and be counted. We had the social momentum, we had a prestigious slot in the Parade contingent, and we were poised to impress. And the numbers were woeful indeed. Many of our members are deep in the closet (and I understand that - I really do), and just can't be associated publicly with gender variant people. But geez, you can't get much more anonymous than being one in a million. You can come out and be a Debutante at the Cotillion, but you can't march in the Parade? I just don't see the difference. (And speaking of the Cotillion, the Minutes reveal that changes are in the making, but in my opinion, if enacted they're going to take a big step backward. By removing the Talent aspect of the competition and adding a theme Costume segment, it now becomes all about the clothes. That doesn't say much about TGSF's attempt at inclusiveness, and reduces the title of Ms./Mr. TGSF to little more than a fashion plate).

That aside, coming from the East Bay, my friend and I didn't arrive at Embarcadero station until 10:30am, just in time to see the Dykes on Bikes thunder on out to start the show. We had just enough time to locate the group and hop on the truck. Being early in the lineup (the #10 entry!), the Float rumbled off of Spear Street and on to Market about 10:45am. But hey wait a sec, isn't this thing wired for sound? Sure enough, the gear was there, but no one had hooked it up! Thank the Goddess Jaime Fenton was there. We had traveled about a block, and realizing that no one else seemed inclined or capable of doing so, she hopped up into the bed and proceeded to figure the damn thing out and get the juice flowing. We did our best to get the crowd jazzed while Jaime was scrambling, and about half way down Market we finally got live and pumping. So thank you Jaime - you are a star!

It only took half an hour or so to travel the length of the route and then we were off to the Festival for dancing, drinking, eating, and shopping! My friend and I got lost in there for a solid three hours and found ourselves back at Market Street around 2:30pm, only to discover that the Parade was still rumbling on! The thing was immense! Absolutely amazing.

We were also among the fortunate to catch the live, and totally hot, performance of Dana International, who had just helped Tel Aviv celebrate their small (but burgeoning) celebration the day before in her home country of Israel. As many of you know, Dana

Continued on Page 3

LETTERS TO THE FAMILY

By Aiyana Eveningstar

Eventful June

This month has flown past and a lot has happened in it. I've decided to write these articles like I was writing a letter to the family. The thing that ties us together as a family is our ability to express our true personalities. We dare to be different in a world of conformity. As in all families there is sometimes dysfunction, apathy, and a bit of distancing one's self from problems that we wouldn't care about at all, except that they affect people we are close to. Whatever one might say about this organization, no matter how fleeting the time spent together, the one thing we all have in common is an ability to break the barriers of gender down.

The thing that makes us a family, even if it's only to receive the Channel, is our choice to see that there are other people like ourselves. This generates a certain amount of love, respect, and conflict. If I were to say what my thoughts were about what Mr. or Miss TGSF stands for, what they should be for the community, I would say they should be a person who cares about their family. They would like for it to prosper and see it grow. To that end they are ready to communicate with many different family members in order to bring the whole family together. They should be people who care and are calm under pressure, because life is full of the unknown.

I went to a fair for the development of non-profits this month, although I couldn't attend both days because of work. I did get some valuable information on the process of attaining funding. The most fundamental element needed is a statement of purpose. Which in this organization it is not easy to define. The social interaction part of the group is important. I know I wouldn't have joined without it. To create events where we can go out in new environments and have positive experiences is important in the process of becoming comfortable with ourselves. This organization should be part of the process of making people feel at ease with themselves and have fun while they're doing it. I feel this is an important part of outreach but to receive non-profit funding for this type of activity is highly unlikely. So then education, counseling, and providing information are aspects of our organization that have opportunity of receiving funding. In these areas we need sustainable goals and programs that can be defined clearly and that we are dedicated to pursuing for the duration of commitment or completion.

The "Dirty Blond" play night was a lot of fun. All who went really enjoyed it. It will continue to play until August at the Theatre On the Square with discount nights on Tuesdays through Thursdays. I enjoyed it even more the second time I saw it and would go again with anyone who wanted to, but I will be out of town most of next month. One final item - whenever it comes to my attention, I would like to pass along any mainstream films or videos that show we are just as much of the fabric of life as anyone else. I believe all these are on video now. They are *Just Like a Woman*, *Ed Wood*, and *Farewell My Concubine*. The last being an excellent film taking place in modern China about two young boys trained to be in Chinese opera, one trained to be King, the other his concubine. Check them out - they are films with merit.

Wendell Debele M.S. (T.C.M.) Dipl. L.Ac.

(aka Aiyanna Eveningstar)



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From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

is an out transsexual performer, with hit gold and platinum records all across Europe and the Middle- and Far-East. As you can imagine, she's caught a lot of shit for being who she is, particularly amidst the religious conservatives found in that region. Her stunning beauty, feminine voice and infectious good humor are testament to her popularity. Her last song, a powerful and totally jamming "Woman in Love" had the crowd in front of the main stage full of happy feet and throaty cheers. But as I looked around at the predominately gay males that made up the audience, I realized that most of them had absolutely no clue who Dana was and is. For all they knew, here was just another lesbian (or, god forbid, a straight chick!) with a good dance riff. But she won them over anyway - let them figure out she's a TS later. Certainly, she would have had more of an impact on the crowd (and the Celebration in general) had it been announced that she was transgendered. But in trying to put myself in her shoes (god I wish!), I can understand why she would prefer to be acknowledged as an artist first, and a transsexual artist second. But do be sure to check out her website at www.danainternational.com and drop her a note of support.

I face a similar struggle myself in my quest for connection and intimacy. I'd rather be viewed and accepted as a woman, as a human being first...and as a transsexual after that. But that's the gimmick, you see. It's *because* I'm transsexual that attracts the attention. Plus the fact that I'm quite open about my gender incongruity. I know I'll never be female - just ain't gonna happen. But I can damn sure live, and live well, as a woman - and be proud and happy about it.

Now if only I can find a masculine man who feels the same confidence about himself. I swear, if I get asked by a guy one more time if I'm "functional," I'm gonna scream! What is it with hetero men who are attracted to Tgrrls? I am not a sex therapist hanging out under a neon Open sign. Yet I can see these guys coming a mile away - like moths that flutter ever closer to the flame that compels them. They are so obsessed! They cannot honestly acknowledge their homosexual or bisexual feelings (and granted, many of them will never identify as "gay" per se), yet they see the soft femininity of a Tgrrl as safe middle ground in which to explore their desires. Safe for them maybe. They chew the girls up, spit them out and move on to the next one. They just want the thrill of getting a real live penis all wrapped up prettily and attached to a woman's body. But rarely will any of them date a woman like me. Maybe one in a thousand would introduce me to a friend. And I can assure you, none of them would want me to meet Mom and Dad.

We want to be free to live how we like, and love whom we wish. We want respect, a good job and a loving home and family. We want access to health care and social services. We want alliances with other communities - we want their understanding and acceptance. We want to be viewed as real people, not as freaks. So how do we get what we want?

Most of you would say education is the key to open those doors. But what has TGSF done lately in the way of educating the public (let alone our members)? July marks the ninth straight month without an Education Seminar, and I don't hold out much hope for them to resume in August. Why? Well, I don't think this is widely known, but both of our newly elected Education Chairs have had to bow out, leaving that vital services lynchpin vacant. Other ExCom members have volunteered to take those additional responsibilities on, but I'm afraid that will only stretch their commitment, and the job they were originally elected to perform will only suffer as a result. The question is, will any of you step up to fill the void? I certainly hope so.

ExCOM MEETING MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the TGSF Executive Committee (ExCom) was held in San Francisco at the office of the incoming President, Aiyana Eveningstar, on Sunday, June 3, 2001 at 4:00pm. Notice of the place and time of the meeting had been given to those present at the previous ExCom meeting, published in the TGSF Newsletter and posted on the TGSF web site.

The meeting was called to order at 4:27pm by President Aiyana Eveningstar, after the tardy arrival of Secretary Janis Ryan. Also present were Vice-President Rachael Janelle, Treasurer Stephanie Ann Blythe, Social Co-chair Tianna Marie DeVil, and Outreach Co-chair Ally Grillo, constituting a quorum. Outreach Co-chair Kalani Makanani arrived at 5:06pm., and Social Co-chair Savannah arrived at 5:19pm. Absent were Education Co-chairs LeChara Johnson and Annie. Present as guests were Jaimee and former Outreach Co-chair Telzey Adams.

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

Minutes

Janis presented the revised minutes of the ExCom Meeting of May 6, 2001 incorporating minor changes submitted by Stephanie Ann and Debbie Cook. On a motion by Rachael Janelle, seconded by Stephanie Ann, they were adopted by voice vote with no dissenting votes.

President's Report

- Information received regarding the San Francisco Pride Parade had been given to Rachael Janelle. She felt that the Pride Committee had been slow this year in their activities, and were late in canceling a float workshop.
- An East Bay Nonprofit Fair will be held on June 6 and 7 in Oakland. from 10:00 am to 4:30 p.m. Aiyana stated that she planned to attend on the first day. Janis indicated that she would try to attend on the second day.
- Telzey has the information regarding the information booth at the San Francisco Pride Festival, and will set it up. Stephanie Ann stated that Marla had volunteered to staff it while others were marching in the parade.
- The San Francisco AIDS Walk will be on July 15. It was announced in the June issue of *The Channel*. Aiyana had walked last year. Money from sponsors is collected in advance and turned in at check in.
- TGSF will not participate in the KQED Pledge Drive this year. Stephanie Ann had posted the information about this on the TGSF Email List, and it appeared in the June issue of *The Channel*. Only two people had volunteered to do this, and a minimum of five was required for us to be recognized as a group.

Vice President's Report

- Rachael Janelle provided several posters advertising the San Francisco Pride parade so that they could be posted at businesses. She stated that we still needed more contingent monitors to be trained and walk with our float, and that she will call people to try to get more volunteers.
- Regarding Cotillion 2002, after July she will place a call for interviews for candidates for Director. Jamie Fenton, Sharon, and two other people have expressed interest. She presented proposed changes to Cotillion judging poli-

cies and a draft Cotillion Handbook, which will be discussed during New Business. Aiyana and Tianna joined her in stating that changes need to be considered.

Secretary's Report

- Amendments to our Articles of Incorporation have been mailed to the California Secretary of State to change our name from Educational TV Channel to TransGender San Francisco. Janis is still waiting for a reply.
- Renewal notices have been sent to those members whose membership will expire in the next few months, as well as those whose last renewal date could not be determined from the membership database. So far relatively few membership renewals and new memberships have been returned. Tianna stated that she felt like a second-class citizen when she received a notice indicating that she was not a current member. Ally indicated that there was a lack of management. Janis related her frustrations regarding the information contained in the database that she had received, and affirmed that we have to work together.
- The June issue of *The Channel* was mailed on June 1. The responsibilities of the Secretary and other ExCom members for timely submission of reports and events for inclusion in the calendar need to be established. Rachael Janelle raised questions about the number of copies of *The Channel* that were sent to non-members.
- Janis spoke of the need for cooperation among ExCom members to notify members of meetings and collect and distribute agenda items beforehand.
- Janis stated that Jamie Fenton had agreed to assist her set up an Email server for domain name TGSF.ORG to allow easier communication with members of the ExCom.
- With Treasurer Stephanie Ann, Janis had reviewed the Federal tax filing for Fiscal Year 2000-2001 and found significant errors. In her judgment an amended return needs to be filed. Also, State tax and other reports for that period need to be prepared and filed.
- Janis has found on diskette ExCom Minutes from Veronica to April 1999. These need to be printed and incorporated into a Minutes book.

Treasurer's Report

- Stephanie Ann referred to the Monthly Income Statement for April 23 through May 21 published in the June issue of *The Channel*, showing Revenue of \$1,145.00 and Expenses of \$2,224.49, showing that \$1,079.49 more was spent than was taken in. This included a \$1,500.00 payment toward the amount still owed to the San Francisco Design Center for Cotillion 2001, leaving \$1,351.88 still due. The balance in the TGSF Checking account was \$1,507.50, and the total cash balance is \$1,864.98, including checks received but not yet deposited. Projected expenses for the coming month include \$541.48 for the newsletter, and \$80 for rental wireless microphones and \$100 for props and miscellaneous items for the *Transtastic* show at Diva's on June 21.
- Regarding the SF Pride Parade, the entry fees have already been paid. Stephanie Ann stated that there was no breakdown of the \$825 spent in the previous year. Telzey indicated that the expenses for the information booth were approximately \$135. Aiyana said that the rental of the truck would be approximately \$300 plus \$100 for each additional day. She plans to recycle some of the



Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

material used on the float in 2000, and indicated that if a 24-foot truck is rented it will cost less than the 30-foot truck used in previous years.

- In summary projected expenses for the month are \$1,681, but that amount may be reduced by \$300 to \$400 by the savings mentioned.
- Income is anticipated from the *Transtastic* show at Diva's and advertising in *The Channel*.

Social Committee Report

- Tianna announced that Jamie Fenton would direct the *Transtastic* show. It will have as a theme the movie *Moulin Rouge* as a theme. The plan is to have backdrops, as a parody of the theme which are sexy, not burlesque. We want to show the talent and encourage the participation of members in the show, and insure that each act is not too long. Ally asked about the number of acts each person could perform. Rachael Janelle stated that we need to bring in income from the event. Tianna indicated that the two shows during the previous year had made money.
- There is nothing planned yet for a mid-month event in July. There will be an end-of-month event. Tianna suggested that we stop calling the events "socials" and come up with a more upbeat newer name.

Education Committee Report

- Neither of the Education Committee Co-chairs was present. Rachael Janelle stated that she felt that this was an important function for TGSF. Aiyana will contact the co-chairs. Tianna and Stephanie Ann offered to share information from previous Educational Seminars.

Outreach Committee Report

- Kalani indicated that the Outreach event at Stanford had been attended by approximately 25 to 30 people, and that each participant would receive a \$50 honorarium from Stanford. Janis stated that the Outreach program makes money, and credited the work of Sandra Brewer and Diane Giles in past years. She stated that it was best if the money were paid directly to TGSF.

Announcements

- Telzey presented the announcement of a show titled *Intercourse* to be held at the SOMA Arts Gallery that evening at 7:00 p.m. It features spoken word performances by many transgendered artists. She and Kalani will have printed materials about TGSF available at a table there.
- Telzey requested a volunteer to help her with our booth at SF Pride starting at 8:30 am on Sunday June 24. It will be located on Larkin Street between Golden Gate and McAllister.

DRESS FOR DINNER ??

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

██████████@hotmail.com

(Paid Advertisement)

- The TGSF float in the Pride Parade is number 10 this year, and will stage near Market and Spear Streets by 9:30 am.

Old Business

- Janis has received a list of advertisers in *The Channel* and will coordinate with Newsletter Editor Ayme Kantz regarding renewals of their ads.
- About 30 to 50 flyers announcing the *Transtastic* show will be distributed citywide.

New Business

- Rachael Janelle presented two proposals regarding the Miss TGSF contest. One would give each contestant one point for each month that she had been a member of TGSF prior to the Cotillion to a maximum of 12 points. The second would replace the change the judged events from theme costume, talent and formal wear to active wear theme costume and formal wear, removing the talent competition. The judging criteria would be based on the costume meeting the format of the event and the presentation of the costume, for a total of 15 points for that category.
- Janis stated that she felt that there should be a requirement that a candidate for Miss TGSF be a member of the group for at least six months prior to the contest. In her view this would allow the candidate to become familiar with the organization and its events and allow others to get to know her. The Social Co-chairs, current Miss TGSF Savannah and former Miss TGSF Tianna stated that they agreed with this.
- Rachael mentioned the time and expense involved in making the costumes.
- Ally stated that she had seen compelling performances in the Cotillions that she had attended. She stated that being transgendered for her was more than just the clothing.
- Janis stressed what she believes are the key reasons for having the Cotillion:
 1. Providing the opportunity for us in the Transgendered community to show ourselves to the broader community through the media,
 2. Allowing the Transgendered community to get together and publicly affirm itself,
 3. Through the Debutante presentation allowing individuals who are "coming out" to affirm themselves within the community, and
 4. Providing the forum where members of the Transgendered community can take the chance of performing publicly, sometimes for the first time, without fear of intimidation.
- Aiyana said that she felt that the judging system needed to be fair, and that the right people had to be found as judges. The criteria for judging needs to be established in advance, and involve members of the Transgendered community. She felt that long-time Judging Coordinator Cheryl Shephard should be involved in discussions related to the judging.

Adjournment

The next ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday, July 1, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. at the office of President Aiyana at ██████████, San Francisco. The meeting was adjourned at 6:19pm.

Sunday / July 1st / 4:00pm

EXCOM MEETING

The next TGSF ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday, July 1, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. at the office of President Aiyana at [REDACTED] San Francisco. All TGSF members are welcome to attend.

Wednesday / July 11th / 8:00pm

TGSF MID-MONTH SOCIAL

HOLY COW, AGAIN? Okay, Okay, we tried Holy Cow last time and it was a bust! Let's Do It Again. This time your 'Resident Diva' will be in attendance. I heard a lot about this place during Pride and really would like to check it out for myself! Come, go with me and the other troopers of TGSF that like to take the city by storm.

Holy Cow hours of operation: Open Tues-Wed 9pm-2am Thurs-Sat 8pm-2am. I think the last time there was no one available, because of the above posted hours. If for some reason we find this place inaccessible again, I do have an alternative plan. So all hope won't be lost! Join us, won't you? Holy Cow is located at 1535 Folsom @11th.

Sunday / July 15th / 0:00?

AIDS WALK SAN FRANCISCO

We can't begin to tell you how important this event is to our City and our various communities. Come out in force and show the world that transgenders care and can make a difference! And if you've got the guts, you can raise a lot of money if you promise to walk the entire route in heels! (Any of you care to follow in Nancy Ann's footsteps? God rest her soul...). The SF AIDS Walk begins at 10:30am - sign up start at 8:30am! If you would like to walk with the TGSF group, call Rachael Janelle at 408 [REDACTED] or e-mail [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

Thursday / July 26th / 8:00pm

TGSF END OF MONTH SOCIAL - LEATHER AND LACE EXTRAVAGANZA

Hey Darlins, with July being the beginning of the Leather Season, our July EOM event will be a Leather and Lace Party. So Dom/mes and Dames, Bottoms and Tops polish up your finest leathers and fluff up your sexiest lace and strut your stuff! This, as all of our events, is open for all to attend - MTF, FTM, friends and family.

There will be a contest for the best overall, the sexiest and the Didi Mau Award for the most revealing (but must be tastefully done!) Come early and have a bite to eat or come later for the company and show. Come early and have a bite to eat, or come later for the company and show. At the Blue Muse @ Gough & Hayes.

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.

July's Birthdays...

7/4	Savannah	7/17	Joanne Wilson
7/8	Jessica Ames	7/17	Juliette Holiday
7/9	Ayme Kantz	7/18	Carmen Gomez
7/9	Leslie Ann Bailey	7/19	Katherin Schroeder
7/9	Teri Pack	7/22	Gwen Smith
7/10	Lorraine Hall	7/23	Felicia A. Elizondo
7/11	Daniella Sea Warrior	7/23	Marianne Tai
7/11	Jasmine	7/24	Kelli Wellington
7/13	Nepenthe	7/24	Roshelle Cunning
7/16	Lauren White	7/27	C. J. Wick
7/17	Ms. Bob	7/31	Erin Souza

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

New Members since June Issue:

Roshelle Cunning

Michelle Cowan

Welcome!

Cosmetics
Lingerie
Fem Fashions
Wigs
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Calendar of Events - July 2001

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. 510-548-8283

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

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

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

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

FTM

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

TGIF

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

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

Far West Women (FWW)

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

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

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

The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

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

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

288 Turk Street, SF. 415-749-2167. Facilitated TG discussion group every Monday, 5:00pm - 6:30pm.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	2 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	3	4 Independence Day!	5 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	6 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	7
8	9 5:00 PM CCHH	10	11 7:00 PM TransBay 7:30 PM MPTG 8:00 PM TGSF: MidMonth Social	12	13 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGSF: Game Night!	14 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
15 8:30 AM AIDS Walk SF!	16 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	17	18	19 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	20 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	21
22	23 5:00 PM CCHH	24	25	26 8:00 PM TGSF: End of Month Social	27 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	28 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
29	30 5:00 PM CCHH	31				

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

Your Email address: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Our Readers Respond

HRC Needs Your Input!

LOOKING FOR BATHROOM STORIES

Do you get harassed in bathrooms? Do you wish there were more bathroom options? Do you have suggestions for an ideal bathroom world?

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission is discussing possible changes to the Compliance Guidelines to Prohibit Gender Identity Discrimination. We want to be inclusive of genderqueer, intersex, transgender, and transsexual people, and anyone who in any way is discriminated against because of gender presentation or gender identity. If you or someone you know would be interested in sharing your experiences, regarding bathrooms and the like, we'd greatly appreciate it. Please complete the following and/or contact us (by July 6, 2001) Dylan Vade, dylan_vade@ci.sf.ca. San Francisco Human Rights Commission - LGBT-HIV Unit, 25 Van Ness, 8th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102 • (415) 252-2529.

Thanks!!!

Bathroom Questionnaire:

- 1) Name (optional) and 2) Best way to contact you (optional)
- 3) Gender identity
- 4) Please describe in detail any problems you have had in finding safe, harassment-free bathrooms. If you can, please give names of locations or type of locations (e.g., restaurant, clinic, gas station, etc.)
- 5) Please describe in detail any problems you have had in accessing other gendered spaces. Again, please give names of locations or types of locations.
- 6) How frequently do you run into these types of problems?
- 7) What would be the best way to solve these problems? (e.g., let everyone access the bathroom that fits their gender identity, have gender neutral bathrooms, etc.)
- 8) Other comments.

JULY AT BILLY DeFRANK

July 18 7 to 8:30 PM "Guided Imagery and Visualization Workshop" with Esther Johnson RN. Free!

July 25 11 AM to noon "Vintage Taste of San Jose" - a wonderful luncheon for "mature adults" followed by Playshop. Free!

July 25 Noon to 1 PM "Creative Tools for New Life Playshop" with Janet Childs. Free! And open to everyone!

July 26 7 to 9 PM "Color Light Therapies Workshop" with Tricia Chandler MA D.Hom. Free!

Seahorse Medical Clinic Joy Diane Shaffer, MD



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

DEAR TGSF:

Enclosed you will find another donation to support the work of your organization. After reading the last newsletter I wanted to pass along a few comments as well.

I was an attendee at the last Cotillion event in February. Since I live outside of your area, it is the only direct contact I've ever had with your organization.

I was also a participant in the debutante walk. For me, this was a very important moment since it was a major symbolic gesture that I had truly & totally accepted being a CD as a part of my being!

Anyway, to make a long story short (if its not too late for that already) the Cotillion inspired me to

- 1) Join your organization
- 2) Provide on-going financial support to you
- 3) Do business with your program advertisers (especially Jo-Ann & Carla)!

Thank you for all of the work that you do, and please be aware, that rewards will come back to you for your service, just not always in the way you think!

Blessings & light!
Jennifer Anderson

TRANSGENDER CIVIL RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION TASKFORCE OPENINGS

Want to help rid San Francisco of discrimination against transgender and genderqueer people? Want to have a say in how the recommendations of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission are implemented? Want to work on employment, hate violence, police contact, housing, public accommodation/social services, and healthcare/medicine?

Then become a member of the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Taskforce (TGCRITF). The TGCRITF is made up of members of the transgender/genderqueer communities, and its job is to help put into action the recommendations that came out of the Commission Report "Investigation into Discrimination against Transgendered People." The taskforce meets the first Thursday of every month from 5:30 - 7:30pm.

Right now, the TGCRITF has five openings. Youth, people of color, genderqueer people, and FTM's encouraged to apply. If you are interested, contact Marcus de Maria Arana at the SF Human Rights Commission at (415) 252-2519, marcus_arana@ci.sf.ca.us and/or Nathan Purkiss in Mark Leno's office at (415) 554-7737.

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Special Events This Month!

July 13-15

YOUNG, LOUD AND PROUD!

Dear Friends,

We at LYRIC are thrilled to announce that the sixth annual **Young, Loud, and Proud (YLP) Youth Leadership Conference** for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth will be held in San Francisco, California over the weekend of **July 13th-15th**. The YLP conference is organized and produced entirely by youth and is free for all youth participants. We are expecting hundreds of young people from all over the world to attend. YLP is an exciting opportunity for queer youth from all across the globe to come together to exchange ideas.

YLP's workshops and caucuses present rich resources and tools for queer youth to become leaders and activists. The workshops serve to educate and provide a space for dialogue on topics ranging from Communication and Empowerment to Gay/Straight Alliances 101 to Anti-Racism. The caucuses work to break down isolation and provide a chance for young people to connect with others who identify in similar ways.

This year YLP will furnish an all-new adult track for service providers and parents that will include workshops on topics like LGBTQ youth/adult partnership, youth development, and an adult ally caucus. The conference promises to provide an outstanding opportunity for young people to network, socialize, and build coalitions and allies. Also included is a dance at the Columbia Boys and Girls Club, a newly renovated building with pool tables, movies, music, and more!

If you would like printed copies of our material or want more information about the conference please visit www.lyric.org, or contact Lena Turner at 415.703.6150 x25 or ylp@lyric.org. Thanks so much and we hope to see you there!

YLP Steering Committee

July 25

SF INTERSEX EDUCATION PROGRAM

Dear Friends,

A few months ago, I proposed the following program to The James Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center staff at the San Francisco Public Library. It was enthusiastically accepted and Thea, Taylor and I had a productive brainstorm with them Center staff. Together we have scheduled an Intersex Public Education Program called: *Intersexuality: Redefining Sex | A Dialogue*.

This event will be held on **July 25, 2001 at 5:30pm in the Latino Community Rooms on the Lower Level of the Main Library.**

We plan to have a reception at 5:30pm and an Intro. and video screening of *Intersexuality: Redefining Sex* at 6pm. At 6:30pm there will be a panel of 5 Intersex persons (Howard, Hida, Soli, Taylor and myself) speaking about one's own personal history prior to a Questions and Answers period. A staff person of the Hormel Center will moderate the program.

So far, PFLAG-SF, IGLHRC, Harvey Milk Institute, and ISNA have agreed to co-sponsor the program. They will be spreading the word and the Hormel Center will be sending out press releases by mid May.

I hope you will join us for this event.

**Love and Peace,
David**

SUNDAY, July 15

SF AIDS WALK

AIDS Walk San Francisco is a 10K walkathon in Golden Gate Park benefiting San Francisco AIDS Foundation and 38 other Bay Area organizations. This year's walk is on Sunday, July 15, 2001! Please be a part of it and show that TG's are here, proud and a force Sign-In Opens at 8:30 a.m., Opening Ceremony Begins at 9:15 a.m. REMEMBER, THE WALK IS ON, RAIN OR SHINE!

The AIDS Walk begins at 10:30am. Since thousands of people will be participating, we suggest you arrive promptly at 9:00am. Most people will take about 2.5 hours to walk the 10 kilometers (6.2 miles). After the first few kilometers, you will probably begin to get warm. We recommend dressing in layers. It is also a good idea to wear sturdy shoes in good condition. Sandals are not recommended. Water and restroom facilities will be provided at checkpoints along the route. Sign up for a great cause - call Racheal Janelle at 408-██████████ for sponsor forms and information.

Sunday, July 29, 1 to 6 PM

SUMMER PICNIC AND BARBEQUE

Sponsored By TGSB

It's that time again—and we want to make sure that you save the date. Another announcement will be sent out in early July. Here are the details—please share them with your friends and families—this is an inclusive event, including kids. A flye

Sanborn County Park, Saratoga, Costanoan Group Site

Fun, food, friends, games, sun

The TG community and family and friends

BYOB-bring your own drinks and a Picnic side dish to share (potato chips to yummy salads to non-melting deserts)

Hot dogs, chicken and hamburgers Provided!

Suggested donation is \$10 to cover location costs and food; parking is \$4 per car

RSVP - For count purposes, please email RSVP to Jayni Butterfield at ██████████@earthlink.net (but come anyway, even if you don't RSVP)

HELP: We need a small group (4-5) to help get set up, buy food, etc. Contact Carolyn Noel if you can help: 408-██████████

It's time to have some fun in the sun and fresh air with a summer picnic and barbeque! We have a beautiful site, larger than last years' site, with grass and sun, at a new location (see directions below). Questions: ██████████@eldil.com or 408-██████████

Getting There

From Hwy 85, take the Saratoga Avenue exit South (toward the hills) and go straight several miles, through the small town of Saratoga and into the hills (Saratoga Ave turns into Big Basin Way at Saratoga town). Continue until you pass Saratoga Springs Campground on your right, and just before the bridge turn left (there is a sign for Sanborn). Go a couple miles until you see the entrance to the park on the right. Our campsite is Costanoan, past the entrance booth, around to the right and up the hill.

See you all there!

IT'S OFFICIAL!

The proposal to change the corporate name of Educational TV Channel (ETVC) to another reflecting was raised during my first year of membership in the group in 1998. The name that was selected by the membership was TransGender San Francisco, or TGSF. After that, a Fictitious Business Name statement was filed in San Francisco allowing us to use the name TGSF as well our corporate name.

In January 2000 we held the required Special Meeting to amend both our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws with the new name, and those changes passed by margins of over 90%. Finally, in May 2001, after I became Secretary, I filed the amendments to our Articles of Incorporation with the California Secretary of State. On June 19 we received written confirmation, and their online database now shows that we are officially TransGender San Francisco. My next steps will be to file Fictitious Business Name statements to allow us to use our former name and the initials ETVC and TGSF as well. Then comes the task of updating the records at our bank and the many other vendors, government agencies, and organizations that we deal with, and the directories where we are listed.

Any major change is always controversial. Some members threatened to quit if the name were changed, others threatened to quit if it wasn't. Over 15 years of history had developed under our former name. Personally I agreed with those that felt that the new name more accurately reflects what has *always* been the case—that our group is open to all members of the Transgender community and their friends.

The lessons learned from the protracted period of change are that we *must* learn to work together, mend our differences after a vote is taken, and seek and accept the help of people who understand the legal procedures to bring these changes about.

Membership

Monday, June 4, the morning after the ExCom meeting. I awoke feeling hurt, not by something done to me but what I had inadvertently done to a friend.

When I became Treasurer in May 1999 I inherited the membership database from Sandra Brewer, who had maintained it both while she and later Veronica held the office of Secretary. I received it as an Excel spreadsheet, and added fields to it to allow me to generate the various membership reports for *The Channel* as well as to generate mailing envelopes. The spreadsheet included several key fields, including the date of last payment, to which I added fields for the check number and date, and expiration date, which I expanded to include the month and year after the change in membership term was approved in January 2000. The expiration date was printed on all mailings to members.

Throughout the Fiscal Year there was a group of members who contacted me stating that they had mailed their renewal forms and dues, but I had no record of them. It turns out that there was one batch of checks that wasn't discovered until *after* the next ExCom assumed office! One of those apparently was that of current Social Co-chair Tianna.

During Fiscal Year 2000-2001 the expiration date was removed from mailings, and I'm only aware of one renewal notice, without individual information, that was sent in March 2001. As a result, members had no way of determining when they should renew their memberships.

At the ExCom meeting in April 2001 I was given a disk with a compressed ZIP file containing the then current membership database. When uncompressed it exceeded 10 MB and was in a different format. I finally found a computer that had the program necessary to process it, and pieced together the multiple files back into a single, much smaller, Excel spreadsheet. All of the payment dates had been altered to no longer reflect when the payments were actually made, making it very difficult to determine each membership expiration date. When I referred back to the membership renewal forms, none of them had the dates that they were received or the amounts paid for dues on them.

As a result, I've had to undertake the task of rebuilding the membership information. I sent out several renewal forms with the information that I had. I have received many of these back, with members questioning how we managed to lose the data concerning them.

One such person was Social Co-chair Tianna, who at the ExCom meeting expressed her hurt at having received a "form letter" indicating that her membership had expired. She and I had worked together at several Educational Seminars while I was Treasurer, and I shared her frustration at the low turnouts for them. And I also shared her frustration when we were "evicted" from the Blue Muse restaurant at our December 2000 meeting, when she was trying to conduct a gift exchange.

At the ExCom meeting, after I explained what had happened, Tianna walked over and hugged me. Again, we need to work together and to establish and maintain communications channels among ourselves on the ExCom and the membership. I'm trying to do that through these Notebook entries and with the renewal notices that I have sent out.

Membership has historically dropped at the beginning of the new Fiscal Year as memberships lapse. As of today, this newsletter will be sent to 182 members, and an additional 32 members will have their memberships expire on July 31. I've sent out customized renewal notices to those members.

If TransGender San Francisco is to continue, and be a meaningful organization in the future of the Transgender community, we need to put aside our past differences and work together to revitalize it and provide reasons for people to join and participate.

Activities

There has been an incredible number of events involving the Transgender community in the San Francisco area in the past month and a half. I was fortunate to have been able to attend many of them.

First was **Trans-Art 2001** (www.trans-art.org), co-sponsored by the Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Historical Society of Northern California and the James Hormel Center of the San

Continued on Page 11

Barbara F. Anderson

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

Clinical Sexologist
Certified Sex Therapist

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

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

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rachael Janelle

Good morning. I'm starting to write this at 5:00am on a Friday, June 15, 2001. So I hope everyone have a great time at all the Pride events. Last year I was in a wheelchair with a broken foot and viewed the parade from the grandstands, it was pretty awesome. I'm looking forward to marching in the parade this year with TGSF. I am still looking for walkers for the SF AIDS Walk July 15, 2001. The walk starts at 10:30am. If interested please e-mail or call.

Regarding Cotillion 2002. Yes this event is already in the planning stages. The ExCom would like to extend an invitation to any interested party to present a theme and direct the cotillion 2002. If interested, please contract me. Also if you are interested in any other part of the cotillion a want to get involved please doesn't hesitate to contact me. We will be starting the cotillion planning committee in August.

Already I have proposed two major changes for Cotillion 2002 to the ExCom Board:

- 1) Add a TGSF membership credit to the point system already in place. A contestant would receive 1-point for each complete month as a member in good standing from February 2001 to January 2002, and
- 2) Removing talent from the Cotillion 2002 and replacing it with a category called Theme Costume. So the Cotillion 2002 night performance would be: Active wear – Theme Costume—Formal Wear. We are also looking at the possibility on moving the Cotillion date to coincide with Cal-Dreamin'.

In next month channel I will share how the Cotillion changed my life and fulfilled a life-long dream. Only 238 days left to Cotillion 2002.

Transcending Transgender Support Group

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

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

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Secretary's Notebook

Continued from Page 10

Francisco Public Library. It was curated and organized by Jordy Jones, in association with Terrance Kissack of GLBTHS and Jim Van Buskirk and Jim Mitulski of the James Hormel Center. It received funding from the California Council of the Humanities and the S. O. P. I. grants program.

The opening reception, entitled **Looking Trans**, was on May 4 at the GLBTHS, and provided the opportunity to view selected works of visual artists in the Transgender community, and meet several of them. Other art works were on display at the Hormel Center. Featured artists were Loren Cameron, Saimon Li, Tobaron Waxman, Erin O'Neill, Del La Grace Volcano, Annie Sprinkle, Cooper Lee Bombardier, Jordy Jones, Chloe Atkins, Steven Douglas, Hans Sheirl, Svar Simpson, and Kaspar Jivan.

On May 8 a roundtable discussion of transspiritualities entitled **Feels Like Trans Spirit** was held at the Hormel Center. Panelists were Cecilia Chung, Rev. Justin Tanis of the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, Rev. Vicky Kolakowski of the Metropolitan Community Church of Walnut Creek, T. J. Michaels from the Jewish Bulletin and Sha'ar Zahav, and Annie Ogborne, who had been a member of the house of Hajafgarh hegira community in India. Each panelist discussed the evolution of his or her spirituality as he or she also dealt with being transgendered.

The first of several performances that I attended was **Performing Gender** on May 16, which was held at the Koret Auditorium of the San Francisco Public Library. It featured Fairy Butch and Sister Kitty as MC's. The performers were Ms. Bob Davis, James Green, Veronica Klaus, Solidad La Costa, Jacob Hale, Thea Hillman, Ilya Pearlman, Ashley Moore, Shawna Virago, Tobaron Waxman, Max Wolf Valerio, and House of Gallo. Due to technical problems a scheduled video feature *Texas Tomboy* was not shown. The performances spanned many forms of music, dance, and spoken word. The auditorium was packed with an audience of all ages from the broad spectrum of the Transgender community.

The final event of the series was **Complications** on May 20, which brought together a panel of scholars, writers, and culture-bearers to examine the history and culture of the Transgender community. The panelists were Dr. Judith "Jack" Halberstam, Jordy Jones, Dr. Joan Roughgarden, and Ben Singer. Judith and Ben dealt mainly with literary works, Jordy with visual art, and Joan, a professor at Stanford, gave a presentation of her studies of different methods of reproduction and gender presentation and roles in the animal kingdom.

The next event that I attended was part of **National Queer Arts Festival 2001** (www.queerculturalcenter.org), which has a large number of events scheduled during Pride Month. The event, on June 3, was titled **Intercourse** and featured spoken word performances by many authors and others in the Transgender community, reflecting a wide spectrum and age range. Over 220 people were in the audience. Representing TGSF with printed information were Telzey, Kalani, and myself.

The next event that I attended was **Gender Art: A Performance by Transgendered Artists**, which was held on June 9 at the Pro Arts Gallery in Oakland. This was the fourth event, organized and hosted by Patricia Kevena (P.K.) Fili of AIDS Project East Bay and The Butterfly Project, which targets the Transgender community with AIDS awareness and testing services. It featured many artists from the Transgender community, and included spoken word, song, music, visual art, and concluded with a movement number by P. K herself.

THE GIRL IN A BOTTLE

By Lynnea Stuart

e-mail=[REDACTED]@hotmail.com

A painting sometimes comes to my mind when talking to TG's. It doesn't show a girl but it could just as well be one. In it a beautiful world of snow capped mountains and golden clouds basks in surreal light. An amber bottle appears at an odd angle to this scene, maybe anchored to a tree limb or held by some unseen hand. It's corked at the top like many bottles are. But instead of liquor inside, a man desperately tries to cram himself into the neck of the bottle to push the cork loose so he can escape.

A transgender person often feels trapped like that. She knows a beautiful world awaits her whenever she can get out en femme. But she doesn't dare. Then one day the cork somehow comes loose. It's a perfect analogy for the TG just coming out of the closet, right?

It's more than that. That fact grabbed me unexpectedly this month.

A sister on TG Forum proposed a question to other sisters. "If there was a pill you could take that would get rid of all desire to live in the gender other than the one you were born in, would you take it? Note...if you do you are not a TG." I declined to answer.

I know what the answer would be for me. But the divisiveness of such a question was off-putting to me. I sometimes hear sisters quibble over who is a transgender, a transsexual, a transvestite, a drag queen, or whatever expression; as if only a certain pecking order had any validity. What I observed in this backward corner of the Midwest speaks louder than any of those scruples.

I recently visited a couple of sisters, both transsexuals. Both had been on HRT for years when I met them. One looked at my sundress disapprovingly. For her, fitting in as a woman meant wearing pants. She wouldn't imagine in a lifetime that she could show a little leg let alone how much I'm known to show. Her hair was in tight curls, every bit a granny of a tranny, and her ideas didn't flow either.

The 2 talked about what they could do to revitalize their support group. They had few options for venues. They formerly had a café at a local gay club but it had burned to the ground the previous year at the hand of an arsonist. Ideas like shopping or arranging for a special booth at a restaurant was out of the question for newcomers in a redneck town that would easily recognize their neighbor in a wig.

Their conversation also turned to a girl who had moved to Florida and now was out of work. She had been found out by the others and terminated. One who had just returned from a trip to Kansas City remarked how she couldn't even wear her wig to work. Both agreed that they had to keep wearing oversize shirts at work to obscure their developed breasts.

My mouth dropped wide open. I had expected that they had been cross-living since they had been assessed with the Harry Benjamin Standards Test and approved for HRT. But neither transsexual had actually made the move 24/7. I know some would brazenly say that they are not transsexuals. But wait a minute...

Both of them viewed themselves as women and carried themselves as women. Clearly the TS issues are there with both even though they have chosen not to out themselves at work at that point. It wasn't that they didn't want to. They were simply forced by the bigotry of the local society to maintain themselves as men at work. Fitting in was more important to them than being themselves. It's a kind of transvestism in reverse.

That painting came to my mind again. Like the closet TG they longed to experience life as they were truly meant to be. Yet like that barely reachable landscape, that reality remained elusive. Those who manage to achieve shouldn't shun those who haven't. After all, we've all been that girl in a bottle.

July 2001

TGSF BALANCE SHEET

(May 22, 2001 through June 17, 2001)

Assets

Cash	\$1,857.64
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Total Assets	\$3,107.64

Liabilities

Accounts Payable (Cotillion Expense)	\$1,351.88
Educational Fund	\$100.00
Taxes	\$0.00
Insurance	\$0.00
Utilities	\$0.00
Operations	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,451.88
Equity	\$1,655.76
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$3,107.64

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue	
Membership	\$968.09
Advertising	\$0.00
Cotillion	\$0.00
Donations Received	\$265.00
Social	\$62.52
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$210.00
.....	\$1,505.61
Expenses	
Cotillion	\$0.00
Halloween Party	\$0.00
Big Shew	\$0.00
Pride Parade	\$0.00
Social	\$0.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$442.57
Operations	\$115.28
Donations Paid	\$0.00
.....	\$557.85
Net Income	\$947.76

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!

Of Particular Interest...

Over 400 in Attendance!

FTM 2001 CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE A SUCCESS

by Phyllis Frye

Last week in Seattle, I attended and keynoted the FTM-2001 convention. I have been to many TG events over the decades. Although I will not dispute that they have occurred, I personally have never attended a TG event that had over 400 paid registrants.

It was so very exciting to see so many handsome Transmen. And I was especially pleased to rub shoulders with so many Transmen leaders in the same building. It was exciting and gives credence to what I have preached for over a decade — when our men come out and get active, we will see much progress in the transgender rights movement.

It was also very exciting to see so many people of color. Until we make people of color feel truly welcome and a part of the movement, we will continue to be deprived of another large part of our community.

I wish to thank the organizers of the event for their hard work and for allowing me to be a part of it.

FTM Health Care Survey to Inform HBIGDA Gatekeepers

There is a new health care survey. It is for the US only because the US health care system is so much different that other nations. It is for the FTM community.

The results of this survey will be used in a report to the gatekeepers at the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA) convention this October in Galveston, Texas.

- I personally support this survey.
- And I personally endorse ALL work of Jamison Green!
- I beg of you who are MTF, and who have complained that FTM's do not participate in your group, to publish this newsclip in your group's newsletter as a demonstration of your group's inclusivity.
- I beg those of you who are FTM to contact the authors (below) and to share the survey with your friends and to return a completed survey.
- WE CANNOT STAND UP TO THE GATEKEEPERS WITHOUT DATA!

FTM Survey

Hi Phyllis,

It was great to see you in Seattle, and (as always) great to work with you. Thanks for offering to help distribute this survey.

Kit Rachlin and I (James Green) are trying to gather general information about Healthcare Access and Utilization for FTMs in the United States (sorry, we can't include Canadians or other foreign nationals because of different healthcare and insurance systems). We plan to present our analysis of the data at the HBIGDA (Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association) Conference in Galveston, TX this fall. The questionnaires are completely anonymous, and take about 10 minutes to fill out. We are trying to keep it as basic as possible, and the data we collect may be useful to others who are doing research on healthcare access for FTM-identified people.

I can send an RTF version of the file, which I hope will be easy to download and print, to anyone who so requests. We would prefer to have the forms returned to us physically rather than electronically. The return address is given at the end of the downloadable questionnaire. If any FTM-identified people on your list could help us by printing this form out, filling it in, and mailing it back to us, we'd sure appreciate it. We would like to have all the data collected by the end of June. We'll share our analysis with anyone who is interested when it's ready in November. If anyone has questions about this study they can contact me ([redacted]@aol.com) or Dr. Rachlin ([redacted]@aol.com).

Thanks, again, for your help. And congratulations on a great keynote (and the other workshops you participated in) at the FTM conference this year!

**Best,
James Green**

COTILLION 2002

TGSF Ex-Com would like to extend an invitation to any interested individual or contingent that would like to present a theme for cotillion 2002 and direct the event.

Please contact Rachael Janelle at

408-[redacted]

or e-mail [redacted]@hotmail.com

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THIS COLUMN STINKS

I don't get it. There's a perfume, Obsession—have you heard of it? - That doesn't discriminate on the basis of gender. "Obsession. For men. For women." For sale. For this we're deconstructing gender? The models in the ads look skinny and haunted, like mad scientists who have lost their beakers. Yeah, that's the look for me. Skinny. Haunted. And a lumberjack.

How, I wonder, will the competition answer, with "Ennui, The Fragrance for...What-eh-verrrr?" Or, "Compulsion, Gotta' Have It?"

Like sex, obsession sells. I guess. But sex makes us feel good, or so I've been told. What's the attraction of obsession? It can't be that it's fun. Obsession is six cups of double espressos and a snootfull of speed in a blackout; a feast that turns to sawdust on the tongue.

Perhaps, given a choice, most of us would trade our "lives of quiet desperation" for the "engagé" experience of obsession. Not me. I don't even want it smelling pretty in a designer bottle. I lived with it for years, not realizing what it was until it was gone.

My obsession was born as a secret. Nobody knew but me. I couldn't tell anybody and I couldn't tell you why but I knew that my obsession was exactly what one should not be obsessed about.

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Obsession: "The domination of one's thoughts or feelings, a persistent thought, image or desire, etc." Well, there are obsessions and then there are obsessions. It depends who and what you are. Go without water for a couple of days and you'll think of nothing else. The diaries of doomed Antarctic explorers report obsession with food. The Middle Ages, obsessed with faith, left us magnificent cathedrals. Hitler, obsessed with hate, showed us the demons that lurk beneath our veneer of civility.

One is obsessed because one can't obtain the thing desired or, even after obtained, cannot get enough of it. Which elicits the question: Is the object of your obsession what you really need? The thirsty athlete drinks a coke, which exacerbates dehydration, so he drinks another.

Obsession perfume doesn't sell to old fogies like me who want resolution, not conflict. The target is young people tortured by nameless dreads and craving a channel for their already conflicted demons.

What about you, dear reader, are you obsessed? Do you wear the perfume to prove it? Do you have "the Look?" Or are you as obsessed with not looking obsessed as you are with being obsessed? Do you fear that, like Cassius, you will be betrayed by your "lean and hungry look?" Do you avoid wearing even after-shave lotion for fear that any odor other than feet or armpits will reveal your true self as if you were standing in front of an x-ray machine? Or can you look back on your adult obsessions the way you regard your childhood infatuation with baseball statistics: as a passing (ahem) phase.

Enough questions. Mistress Editor is tapping her palm with a riding crop, which tells me it's time to wrap this fish before it smells. OK, smells worse. Here's Shirley's First Hypothesis: Obsession should not be confused with desire. Example: Two people are beset with persistent thoughts and feelings about crossdressing. One crossdresses and the feelings subside, but later reappear. The other crossdresses, but dissatisfaction only intensifies. Ergo: If your crossdressing urges are satisfied by crossdressing, even if temporarily, thank your lucky stars; crossdress as often as you can and enjoy it, as you would sex.

If, however, crossdressing is like trying to satisfy your thirst by eating a boiled egg, oy, are you in for trouble. You definitely have an obsession, but it isn't to crossdress. Not all the time. Not ever.

Note: You made it to the end of the column! Congratulations. Now you're angry because all that time could've been productively spent shopping for new eye shadow. You want to rage. You want to stamp your dainty little feet and scream in a high pitched wail that breaks glass. Do it. Do it. Do it! You can tell Shirley herself just what an oaf she is by e-mailing her at ShirleyFaire@aol.com. Right after your nails dry.

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HELP WANTED!

Newsletter Editor Ayme Kantz has encouraged members to volunteer to help TGSF, I have advocated defining tasks that individuals can do to help us on the ExCom. Listed below are tasks that will help me with some of my responsibilities as Secretary:

- **Newsletter Reporter** - The June issue of *The Channel* had many news articles and features contributed by members. You can join the ranks of volunteer reporters. We welcome articles dealing with issues and events in the Transgender community. Contact either me [redacted]@tgforum.com, or Ayme (tgsfeditor@yahoo.com).
- **Newsletter Advertising** - Do you know businesses with goods or services which are of interest to those of us in the Transgender community? *The Channel* provides an advertising medium targeted to us. We will be happy to provide sample copies and further information. Again, contact either me or Ayme.
- **Newsletter Distribution** - No, we don't have paper routes or newsstands on Market Street. What we do have is the monthly crunch to retrieve the box of newsletters from the printer and fold, stuff, and mail them. Typically I will print and stamp the envelopes the night before. If you have the time and place, preferably near a post office in San Francisco or Oakland, please contact me.
- **Events Calendars** - There is an incredible number of groups and events going on in the Transgender community. I have reported on many that I have attended myself. If you know of any that should be listed on the Calendar here in *The Channel* and on the TGSF Web Site, please email me with a press release describing the what, where, who, and when of the event, including an email or telephone contact for further information. The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the event. If you would like to take over the role of coordinator of the calendars and publicity, please contact me.

School Daze

The past few months have seen your Secretary assume the role of a schoolgirl.

First, in April, I attended the training classes to become a peer facilitator at the **Pacific Center** in Berkeley. I had been attending the Transgender Support Group there for about a year, and several of us "regulars" responded to the call from some long-time facilitators to help out. Since completing the class I have been facilitator for that group a few times. It meets every Friday starting at 8:00 p.m., and everyone in the Transgender community is welcome. Further information is on the Calendar page.

At the request of President Aiyana, I attended portions of a conference titled: **MISSION: POSSIBLE Uncovering the Secrets to Nonprofit Success**. It was target primarily to larger groups with paid Executive Directors and staffs and Boards of Directors composed of outside donors and funders. I attended the *New Solutions Panel*, featuring leaders of three non-profit organizations and a former mayor of Berkeley, who has worked in several government and non-profit organizations.

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]

The other sessions that I attended were *Getting Your House in Order for Funding* and *Nuts & Bolts Part of Running a Non-profit Business: Reporting and Recording Requirements*. The most important part of the conference for me was being able to meet and share information with other participants.

I attended a training session for safety monitors for the **San Francisco Pride Parade**. Each contingent is required to have a number of monitors marching with it, with four detailed to walk along each wheel. Since our float will be near the beginning of the parade this year, after we have marched I will don a Safety Monitor tee shirt and help out with the remainder of the parade.

I am currently attending a series of training classes at **Community United Against Violence (CUAV)** in San Francisco. CUAV is the country's longest standing organization devoted to preventing and responding to violence against and within lesbian, gay, transgender, queer, and questioning communities. It is a multicultural, multilingual anti-oppression agency, empowering survivors of hate violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and police violence. It works towards building communities free of violence and oppression.

I was first introduced to CUAV when they gave an Educational Seminar on safety for TGSF in 1999, and still carry a whistle with their 24-hour crisis line telephone number, 415 333-HELP, stamped on it. The classes that I am taking will allow me to be a volunteer counselor on that crisis line. In keeping with the mission of the organization, the attendees in the class reflect a broad spectrum of the target community.

The training has been intense, and has forced me to relive some of the violence and hate incidents that have been directed against me and members of my family. We have seen a graphic video, *Licensed to Kill*, which featured interviews with men who had murdered gay men and others out of hate, along with the actual crime scene videos showing the victims. Other topics have included domestic violence, state abuse, working with survivors, hate violence, criminal justice, advanced counseling skills, mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, and sexual assault.

Two of the staff members, Pablo Espinoza and Shawna Virago, presented a session titled *TG101* to introduce the other members of the class to transgendered people and the issues that we face. There was a session where we were introduced to members of the San Francisco Police Department Hate Crime Unit, and the Assistant District Attorney who handles these cases. There will also be a session on *Working With Queer Youth*, presented by Anne of CUAV and Sierra of LYRIC.

Even in a "safe" area such as San Francisco there is a strong need for programs to prevent hate violence and provide support for survivors. I hope that by participating in this effort I can both be there to help people in times of crisis as well as further the goal of reducing violence against and within our communities. I also hope to help build bridges and lines of communication between TGSF and the larger community.

Email Call!

During the entire time that I have been involved with the ExCom we have had problems with sending and receiving email messages and attachments. With the help of Jamie Fenton, one of my predecessors as Secretary, a tireless contributor to ours and other transgender organizations, webmistress of **TG Forum**, and dancer extraordinaire, we will be setting up a simplified system to allow email communications to and within TGSF.

Instead of having to look up the individual email addresses of ExCom members and our newsletter editor, we will use the tgsf.org domain and allow email addressed to president@tgsf.org, editor@tgsf.org, info@tgsf.org, etc. Stay tuned for further information.

3RD SAME-SEX COUPLE GET LEGAL LICENSE TO MARRY IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

The following story appeared on page 2B of the "San Antonio Express-News" dated June 12, 2001, in the "News Roundup — Local." It was also broadcast on the KABB-TV (local San Antonio FOX affiliate) on June 11, and my interview about it will be on the WOAI Radio (San Antonio) during the afternoon of June 12.

I hope that the transmen and their gay male lovers that I met in Seattle at the FTM2001 Convention last week will consider doing the same thing.

I await same-sex marriage advocates to bring gay male couples and lesbian couples and same-sex bisexual couples to San Antonio who will also seek marriage licenses saying, in effect, "You have allowed other matching-genital folks to get legally married — why can't we?" And then file equal protection lawsuits when it does not happen.

REMEMBER: The TG community has set this up for our LGB community friends. Please take advantage of it!

Enjoy and share.

Phyllis Randolph Frye
<http://transgenderlegal.com>

Lesbian Couple Get Marriage License

A Fort Wayne, Ind., couple became the third lesbian pair to receive a marriage license in Bexar County on Monday, taking advantage of a 1999 appellate court decision that created a loophole for transgender people.

Dawn Heilpap, 49, and JoEllen Comment, 46, exchanged glances and smiles as they produced birth certificates and filled out paperwork before receiving the license at the Bexar County Courthouse.

"It's so much more than a piece of paper," said Comment, who plans to change her name to Heilpap. "We're one now."

The couple are planning a private civil ceremony Thursday in San Antonio. They have both been married previously and have four children and five grandchildren between them.

Although same-sex marriages are illegal in Texas, the union is legitimate in the eyes of the law because Heilpap, whose legal first name was Donald, was born a male.

The precedent was set by a decision by the Texas 4th Court of Appeals to reject a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Christie Lee Littleton, a San Antonio transsexual, after her husband died.

The court ruled that she wasn't entitled to damages from a malpractice lawsuit involving her husband because she was formerly a man and same-sex marriages are not legal in Texas.

Phyllis Frye, a Houston lawyer who worked on Littleton's appeal, said the ruling effectively means that a person's legal sex is determined at birth, regardless of any future medical procedures.

Frye hopes Monday's events will be "the avalanche breaker" and lead to more transgender couples taking advantage of the loophole.

(Phyllis here with a few additional comments:

1. The details of the Littleton case and the language of the 4th Court's decision and of the appeals that Alyson Meiselman and I made to the Texas Supreme Court and to the United States Supreme Court, plus two law review articles that discuss the 4th Court's ruling are available — at no cost — at <http://transgenderlegal.com>.

2. Examine the logic of the 4th Court in determining that Christie Lee Littleton was a legally vaginaed male.

- Mrs. Littleton has XY chromosomes, even though she has never been tested.
- Mr. Littleton had a penis, even though there was never any evidence to that fact on the record.
- Mr. Littleton also had XY chromosomes, even though he was never tested.
- Both Mr. Littleton and Mrs. Littleton have XY chromosomes because their original birth certificates say they were male, even though Mr. Littleton's birth certificate was never in the record.
- Both Mr. Littleton and Mrs. Littleton were deemed male on their original birth certificates because of an examination of the genitals at birth.
- Although Mrs. Littleton now has a vagina, genitals are not dispositive of legal sex — chromosomes are.

It is to wonder!

3. Poetic justice is that when this couple gets married, Christie Lee Littleton will be one of the signed witnesses on their license. Don't you just love it!

PLEASE HELP!

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

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THERAPY GROUP FOR PARTNERS OF TRANS FOLKS

Meets Fridays, May 11 - August 17, 2001, 6:00 to 7:30pm. Pacific Center for Human Growth, 2712 Telegraph Ave. (at Derby), Berkeley; Sliding scale: \$8-40 per session

This group is open to partners of those in transition or considering transition, either FTM or MTF. Partners can be any gender, any sexual orientation. The group will be structured to be a safe place to receive support from peers and explore a variety of issues, including sexual orientation, coming out, feelings of isolation, anxiety, self-consciousness, etc.

Intake process required - please call 510-548-8283 and leave a message for either Reid (ext. 534) or Shinobu (ext. 522) to schedule an intake appointment.

Facilitators: Reid Vanderburgh, MFT trainee and Shinobu Ogasawara, Psy.D. trainee. Supervisor: Josefa Molina, Ph.D, MFC #25051

TEXAS BAR BOARD VOTES 22 - 6 TO PROTECT ITS LGB&T EMPLOYEES

by Phyllis Randolph Frye
<http://transgenderlegal.com>

Since I began openly speaking and lobbying for the rights of transgenders in the summer of 1974, I have rarely witnessed a BIG WIN. Usually I return to my home and tell my spouse (28 years on June 23) of how during the event I made some friends, how I dulled some criticism, how I moved things along to another level, or how through education I laid the groundwork for the next time. It is all of these little wins that have kept me going for these decades and kept me from burning out. It is the inner flame of knowing that all of these little wins do add up to a lot of progress over the decades.

But I have only rarely witnessed a BIG WIN. I did so last Thursday, June 14, 2001, in Austin, Texas, at the Texas Bar Convention. I drove to Austin with my friend, Alyson Meiselman, assuming that as usual I would spend the entire weekend talking, leafleting, pushing and educating. When we got the BIG WIN, it was so clear and convincing, and so early into the three day event, that I was in a bit of shock. "What do we do with the black on pink, protest pins that had been printed up?" I asked myself. "What about the volunteers who were driving in from across the State that Thursday evening to begin the leafleting process?"

I no longer had to dress in my xena-warrior-princess or transgender-menace mode — what I refer to as my battle gear. I packed nothing but pants and a new t-shirt that read, "Transgender Lawyers: We think using both sides of our brains — if you don't believe it, check out our briefs!" What would I wear while attending the Friday night President's Ball that I had previously planned to boycott from the outside in my battle gear and hand out leaflets on appropriately pink paper as folks entered and left the Ball? It was a situation I was totally not prepared for, but certainly a welcome situation, nonetheless.

I want to share with you what happened, and I hope that you share it with others. And I hope that when you get depressed or burned-out, that you use it to keep yourself going. For those states and local LG groups that still think that you can drop the bisexuals or the transgenders "in the grease" for the political expediency of winning LG rights, then I say SHAME ON YOU!

Remember, IF WE CAN OBTAIN LGB&T RIGHTS IN TEXAS, then I don't want to hear about or read about your excuses for not doing the same.

The story began with the formation of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification Issues (SOGII, <http://sogiitx.org>) of the State Bar of Texas (SBOT) in April 1998. In 1997, LG leaders tried to form an LG-named section that left BT folks out of the name and only in the bylaws. I found AGAINST it and its formation was defeated by one vote. After that loss the LG leaders offered an LGBT-inclusive name (the above SOGII) and I collected over 20% of the necessary petitions. In April 1998, the Texas Bar Board granted SOGII a two year provisional status. In April 2000, the provisional status was lifted and SOGII became a full section of the SBOT.

In June 2000, SOGII approved a resolution for submission to the Texas Bar Board — drafted by then Section Chair Kin Spain — which would amend the SBOT Policy Manual in the area of employment non-discrimination and add "sexual orientation and gender identification" to the listing of protected groups. At the same June 2000 SOGII Section meeting, I was elected to be its third Section Chair for the next year.

The SBOT Board assigned our resolution to a committee, the committee did its work and in January 2001, recommended a big NO! At the Texas Bar Board meeting only five months

ago, our SOGII employment non-discrimination resolution gathered only two supportive votes following zero debate of the issue. (We felt like we were at an HRC Board meeting and TG inclusion into ENDA had just been voted down. Again.)

During the last week of May, I received word that the Texas Bar Board, on its own motion, was going to vote to revisit the entire issue and most likely approve employment non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation only. I talked to Kin and Richard. I called a meeting of the SOGII Section Council and they backed 100% that "gender identification" MUST, MUST, MUST also be in the vote or else we would continue to press for the gender identification portion of the SOGII resolution at the Resolution Committee meeting. They voted money for leaflets, on appropriately pink paper, and volunteered to arrive early for the Convention and help us leaflet and educate on why it was necessary for gender identification to also be included.

As a result of such STRONG SOLIDARITY with my LGB sisters and brothers, and a lot of additional private e-mails and phone conversations, the following happened on Thursday, June 14, and the Texas Bar Board meeting, at the beginning of the Convention and just two days before the Resolutions Committee was to meet.

Alyson Meiselman was to be a speaker at the SOGII Section meeting on Saturday, so she flew into Houston on Wednesday, and we drove to Austin together early on Thursday morning, both wearing t-shirts that read, "Transgender Lawyers: We think using both sides of our brains — if you don't believe it, check out our briefs!" Kin Spain, immediate past SOGII Chair, also drove in early and had in his brief case, 2"-dia. pink buttons that read in black, "Stop Discrimination At the State Bar." Incoming Chair, Richard Clarkson, flew into Austin the day before. I had already drafted a response to what we expected would happen so that Kin, Richard and I could edit and then take to Kinko's in time to have leaflets for the Thursday evening events.

What happened was a BIG WIN and not what we had expected.

After a bunch of other business, our issue came up in the afternoon. The Bar Board Policy Manual Committee Chair, Claude Ducloux, spoke at length about how on revisit of the issue, it had become apparent that amendment of the policy manual to prevent employment discrimination for State Bar employees based upon sexual orientation was necessary. Among some things he cited was that several Texas state agencies already had such a policy for its own employees, and so did both Texas A&M University and Texas University, and that the SBOT's outside counsel on labor

Continued on Page 18

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Texas Bar Board Votes...

Continued from Page 17

and employment also recognized its necessity and that the State Bar of Texas did indeed have LGBT employees who voiced pleasure at such a move. After various procedural ploys, it passed in a raised hand vote of 22-6.

Okay, sexual orientation was protected and the SOGII swords were about to be drawn to protect the omitted gender identification.

But, immediately thereafter, the Chair of the Board, Dick Miller, in his capacity as Chair of the Board, and from the podium, told the Texas Bar Board that neither I nor the SOGII Section were happy with the vote because of the omission of gender identification and the resulting non-protection for transgendered employees at the State Bar Building on 1414 Colorado Street in Austin. He spoke very approvingly of me and my efforts and compared me to Atticus Finch who took tough stands, was pushed and was spit upon, but kept going forward. Dick Miller then stated that in Dick Miller's opinion and for the purposes of the just passed resolution, sexual orientation will be inclusive of and will umbrella over gender identification and transgendered will be protected. No one seated at the Board tables raised a hand or objected to his pronouncement.

Next Dick Miller continued that he had consulted a college friend, David Evans, who was on some board of judiciary review — when I get the transcribed minutes of the meeting, which I was later promised that I would receive, I will have David's exact position — and that a code dealing with judicial conduct — again, I need to review the minutes — prevented discrimination in the courtroom on the basis of sexual orientation. Dick reported that David said he would not hesitate to prosecute a judge or lawyer under that code provision if they went after a transgendered lawyer or client, and that in David Evans opinion, for the purposes of the just passed resolution, sexual orientation will be inclusive of and will umbrella over gender identification and transgendered will be protected. Again, no one seated at the Board tables raised a hand or objected to this second pronouncement.

Stunned by the depth and eloquence of the comments, I approached the front of the room while another business item went forward. You see, after that item, I was supposed to formally tell the Board about our SOGII resolution that was to be heard two days later at the Resolution's Committee. When my time came up, I thanked the Texas Bar Board for its 22-6 vote to protect its in-the-closet and its out-of-the-closet, LGBT employees, and that upon hearing Dick's pronouncement and Dick's reporting of David's pronouncement that for the purposes of the just passed resolution, sexual orientation will be inclusive of and will umbrella over gender identification and transgendered will be protected, the SOGII Section found its resolution moot. Again, no one seated at the Board tables raised a hand or objected to this third pronouncement.

While at the podium, I asked the SOGII Board Liaison, Daniel Hu, to come up to get an award from the SOGII Section for his assistance during the initial three years of the SOGII Section's existence. Upon receiving the award, Daniel told the Texas Bar Board that he had attended the SOGII Council meetings and knew that for the purposes of the just passed resolution, sexual orientation will have to be inclusive of and will have to umbrella over gender identification and transgendered will have to be protected. Still again, no one seated at the Board tables raised a hand or objected to this fourth pronouncement.

During the next two days, I went to about eleven Section meetings and gave a five minute report of what you just read above and thanked these Sections for their support or for their consideration of our resolution. I declared victory for all LGB&T employees of the State Bar of Texas numerous times. I mended fences and built new coalitions. I was thanked by numerous of the employee staff of the SBOT and hugged by about a dozen others. Some told me I was aglow after carrying the torch to insure that a group was now secure from discrimination in their jobs. That I am very pleased to glow about.

I received numerous compliments and congratulations from the outgoing President of the SBOT, Lynne Liberato. She told me that the President's Ball was her gig, and that if anyone complained to me about my wearing my "battle gear" to the President's Ball, for me to tell them that I had Lynne's approval. I even heard the new President of the SBOT, Broadus Spivey (who has already appointed me to a three year term on a SBOT standing committee), was at a work shop where the attendees were complaining at how powerless they felt in trying to get things done. He told me that he scolded them and said if Phyllis Frye, and the SOGII Section, can effect what they did over the past five months, there is no excuse for inaction by others.

Thank you for letting me share this high point in my life and this very BIG WIN. PLEASE USE IT TO OPEN OTHER DOORS.

EXPANDED HOTLINE HOURS!

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

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