

AEGIS NEWS

P R E M I E R E 5 / 94 #1

Who We Are

This is the newsletter of AEGIS, the American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit clearinghouse for information about cross-gender identity. Our headquarters is in Atlanta, Georgia.

AEGIS was formed in October, 1990, when Dallas Denny wrote and distributed a statement of purpose and a call for papers for a new magazine to be called *Chrysalis Quarterly*. The response of helping professionals and transgendered consumers was immediate and overwhelming, and AEGIS quickly developed an extensive database of information and contacts and a reputation for professionalism and rapid service.

We have been and remain a driving force in the movement to professionalize and standardize services for transgendered persons.

We are now in our fourth year, and are well established as an important provider of information on cross-gender issues. We are regarded by both caregivers and transgendered persons as a highly professional agency with services and products of highest quality. We have been and remain a driving force in the movement to professionalize and standardize services for transgendered persons.

What We Do

We perform a variety of services, including publishing the prestigious *Chrysalis Quarterly* and a variety of other materials, maintaining a national help line, and administering the National Transgender Library and Archive. We provide free referrals, in keeping with the Standards of Care of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association.

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AEGIS periodically releases advisory bulletins which address hazards commonly faced by transgendered persons, and position statements on methods of treatment. Our health-related series of public-service ads have been reprinted in transgender magazines and newsletters all over the world. We have taken strong stands against injectable silicone and abuse of hormones and in favor of the HBGDA Standards of Care. In *Chrysalis Quarterly*, our magazine, we have broken new ground in a variety of areas ranging from a celebration of diversity in the transgender community to the rediscovery and celebration of transgender history to a call for transgendered persons to consider themselves to be consumers of services and to hold their caregivers to high standards.

Our Personnel

Our founder and Executive Director is Dallas Denny. Dallas has been active in the human service field for more than 20 years. She has a master's degree in psychology and has finished the coursework in a doctoral program in special education at Vanderbilt University. She has been licensed to practice psychology in Tennessee for 15 years. She has written widely on gender issues, and is the author of two books— *Gender Dysphoria: A Guide to Research*, published by Garland Publications, and *Identity Management in Transsexualism*, published by Creative Design Services. She is currently preparing an edited text for Garland.

AEGIS maintains a prestigious advisory board, which is made up of 29 individuals who are highly regarded in a variety of fields which impact cross-gender identity— including endocrinology, psychiatry, plastic surgery, and electrolysis. Most have published articles and books about cross-gender phenomena. Our advisory board includes such notables as Vern and Bonnie Bullough, Leo Wollman, Virginia Prince, JoAnn Roberts, Dr. David Gilbert, Dr. Toby Mayer, Dr. George Brown, Jason Cromwell, and Carolyn "Tula" Cossey.

The Chair of our Board of Directors is Dr. JoAnn Roberts. Other directors are Dr. Delia Van Maris, Laura Skaer, Carol Miller, Gary Reiser, Melissa Foster, and Gianna Eveling Israel.

Shhhhh!

The Newsletter-Within-a-Newsletter of the National Transgender Library & Archive



Virginia Prince Donates *Transvestia* nos. 4-100

Dr. Virginia Prince has donated a complete set (except for nos. 1-3) of *Transvestia*, a magazine she published from about 1958 until 1978. *Transvestia* was the first magazine ever produced for heterosexual crossdressers. Virginia published 100 issues, battling postal authorities and hostile takeover attempts (long before Oliver Stone's *Wall Street*).

Virginia's contributions to the transgender community took many forms in addition to her publication of *Transvestia*. She is the founder of FPE and a co-founder of The Society for the Second Self. She has published a number of professional articles about crossdressing, and she remains intellectually and physically active.

We are proud to have *Transvestia* as a cornerstone of our collection.

n.b. We picked up two pairs of Virginia's shoes at the Texas "T" party in February. In fifty years, we expect to have them under glass in a museum.

Dr. Harry Benjamin's Book Donated by Sister Mary Elizabeth

Sister Mary Elizabeth has kindly promised to send us an autographed copy of Dr. Harry Benjamin's *The Transsexual Phenomenon*.

Dr. Benjamin was one of the first physicians to treat transsexual people in the United States. In 1966, he published *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, the first serious book about transsexualism—save only for Georgina Turtle's 1963 *Over the Sex Border*, a little-known British book which we have not seen, but would love to locate.

Some Recent Acquisitions

Bogdan, Robert. (1974). *Being different: The autobiography of Jane Fry*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Judd, Ralph. (1988). *Origins of crossdressing: A history of performance en travesti*. Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation: Clayton Univ.

Kroker, Arthur, & Kroker, Marilouise. (1993). *The last sex: Feminism and outlaw bodies*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Pollack, Rachel. (1994, May). *Doom Patrol*, 68. New York: DC Comics.

Thompson, C.J.S. (1974). *The mysteries of sex*. New York: Causeway Books.

Wolf, Naomi. (1994). *Fire with Fire: The new female power and how it will change the 21st century*. New York: Random House.



Featured Holding: 1952 Mme. Arthur's Program Booklet

Mademoiselle Arthur's and Le Carrousel were Paris night clubs which featured famous performers like Tony April (later April Ashley), Coccinelle, Bambi, and Capucine (at about the same time that Christine Jorgensen made her trip to Denmark).

The 1952 program from Mme. Arthur's features all of these performers except Tony April. It features full-page black-and-white photos of more than 25 female impersonators.

Many of the performers were not really female impersonators, but transsexual women. Coccinelle (see above) had sex reassignment surgery with Dr. Georges Burou in Casablanca in the early 1950's.

*The National Transgender Library
and Archive is open by appointment.*

We are actively soliciting material.

*Please contact us at
AEGIS, P.O. Box 33724
Decatur, GA 30033
404-939-2128 voice
404-939-1770 FAX*

AEGIS Director Produces Major New Work

The end of May will see the publication of Dallas Denny's *Gender Dysphoria: A Guide to Research* by Garland Publishers, a prestigious publisher of scientific books.

A Guide to Research is an annotated bibliography containing thousands of references to books, book chapters, and journal articles about crossdressing, transsexualism, and intersexuality

The annotations contain a strong anti-defamation message. Denny says, "Preparing this book caused me to become very familiar with the literature of cross-gender identity. It quickly became clear to me that there was an incredible amount of bias disguised as science in that literature. It was common, for instance, for clinicians, especially psychoanalysts, to make sweeping pronouncements about the nature of transsexualism after seeing only one or two patients. But it went much deeper than bad science. Many workers seemed to actively hate transgendered persons, and made that clear in their writings. There was a great deal of name-calling—literally! Transgendered persons were treated with enormous disdain and disrespect.

"But the deeper problem is the underlying assumptions of the treatment community. The very questions researchers have asked for the past 40 years are based on erroneous notions of what transgendered persons are like. Only now have things finally begun to change.

"The value of *A Guide to Research* is that new workers in the field will be made aware of the biased nature of much of the literature and will read it with a skepticism they might otherwise not have had. Hopefully, they will be a little more sensi-

tive in their dealings with transgendered persons and a little more likely to do good research. But if that is to happen, we must work to get it into the libraries."

A Guide to Research is a groundbreaking in another way: its publication marks the first time ever that a transgendered person has published a major scientific work about cross-gender identity.

"People write about us," says Denny. "It's time we started claiming that right for ourselves. We have the right to self-definition. Nobody knows more about us than we do. So long as we continue to abdicate that right, we really can't complain when others get it wrong."

Denny plans to follow *A Guide to Research* with a second book, an edited text, also to be published by Garland. The title will be *New Concepts in Cross-Gender Identity: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. It will reprise the first such edited text, Green & Money's 1969 *Transsexualism & Sex Reassignment*. John Money has agreed to write a chapter, and other chapters will be authored by major workers in the field.

New Concepts will not only look back on the 40 years since Christine Jorgensen's surgery, but forward into the 21st century. Said Denny: "I hope to lay to rest the longstanding misconceptions about transgendered persons by exposing the reader to the most progressive thinking in the field—much as Green and Money did in their 1969 text."

Dallas Denny's *Gender Dysphoria: A Guide to Research* will be available at the end of May. The price is \$99 plus \$3.00 P&H. It can be ordered from:

AEGIS
P.O. Box 33724
Decatur, GA 30033
(404) 939-2128

Did you Know?

- Contributions to AEGIS are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code
- AEGIS maintains a telephone help line and provides free referrals and information to transgendered persons, their families, and helping professionals
- AEGIS is publisher of *Chrysalis Quarterly*, a provocative magazine about transgender issues, and a variety of other materials
- AEGIS has an ongoing commitment to inclusiveness in the transgender community
- AEGIS has a special interest in developing services for female-to-male persons and family members of transgendered persons
- AEGIS maintains a national minorities facilitator so that all portions of the transgender community can have access to our Board of Directors
- AEGIS is actively involved in the training of caregivers
- AEGIS maintains a speaker's bureau
- AEGIS is the successor to the Erickson Foundation, the Janus Information Service, and J2CP Information Services
- AEGIS provides direct services to transgendered persons. For example, we started and work closely with the Atlanta Gender Explorations support group, an open social and support group
- AEGIS maintains the National Transgender Library and Archive
- AEGIS has a Board of Advisors which it consults on a regular basis.
- AEGIS regularly releases advisory bulletins and position statements
- AEGIS has special seminars and functions (examples are lectures by helping professionals like Dr. Eugene Schrang and our Tula Day Celebrations)
- AEGIS maintains a comprehensive database of service providers and support groups
- AEGIS is working for you!

Announcing

Brand New!

Identity Management in Transsexualism
A Practical Guide to Managing Identity on Paper

by Dallas Denny

Now, at last, there is a resource for transgendered persons who are changing their names and identities. This is the only comprehensive guide to managing identity change for the transsexual person. Denny shares her personal experience in modifying the paper trail we all leave behind us. She gives solid advice and explicit directions where possible. An extra bonus is the Transgender Identity Card. Just add your photo and personal data. Equally useful for FTM and MTF persons.



Yes! I want to purchase Dallas Denny's **Identity Management in Transsexualism!**
I'm enclosing check or money order for \$15.00 + \$3 S&H.

Ship to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

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AEGIS
P.O. Box 33724
Decatur, GA 30033-0724

Announcing

A very special VideoTape

Dr. Eugene A. Schrang, M.D., S.C.
Speaking on Male-to-Female Sex Reassignment Surgery

Dr. Schrang is a noted plastic surgeon who practices in Neenah, Wisconsin. He offers a wide variety of reasonably-priced surgical procedures to transsexual persons. In February, 1993, he spoke on male-to-female sex reassignment surgery at an AEGIS seminar in Atlanta. With his kind permission, we are selling a VHS videotape of his presentation.

The tape is an in-depth discussion, with slides, of male-to-female SRS as Dr. Schrang does it.

The cost is only \$24.95 plus \$3 S&H.

Approx. 90 minutes, VHS only.



Yes! I want to purchase the videotape of Dr. Schrang's presentation.
I'm enclosing check or money order for \$24.95 + \$3 S&H.

Ship to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

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