

WHO IS NANCY CAIN? WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?

THE IFGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINTED NANCY J. CAIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON JANUARY 22, 1999

The decision was facilitated by Ms. Cain's comprehensive knowledge of each department at IFGE, owing to her tenure as Director of Operations, a position she assumed in 1996 and continues to hold. The appointment is seen as a sign of the Board's confidence in the staff's collaborative approach to running the organization, which is facilitated by Ms. Cain's cooperative management style.

When asked what she saw as the direction of IFGE, Ms. Cain replied, "IFGE needs to provide education and information with compassion, to help ourselves by helping others, to make ourselves known to the mainstream and to bring us into the new millennium with dignity and grace. Only by working together as a community can we accomplish what we want, what we need, and what is necessary for all of us to realize our dreams".

NANCY CAIN



"There are people doing significant and important work to create common terms by which transgender people may describe/represent themselves to their care providers and the world at large. I am not interested in arguing semantics when people's lives are at stake. Our efforts must meet people on their own ground, using the terms with which they self identify, appreciating the complexity of their individuality, and at the same time providing enough infor-

mation to those outside of our community so that we all may successfully interact. When we provide just one person with enough hope to find an alternative to depression, to substance abuse, or to suicide, we justify our continued mission -- for what price is there on a life?

"In society's eyes, we are considered "other" because we don't conform to gender "norms." However, we are no better than society if we treat ourselves and those in our community as "other." Only by working together and by going past the boundaries of our fears will we be able to make the whole greater than the sum of the parts. It will take a concerted effort by national and international Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Trans organizations to accomplish this. To fulfil the spirit of our mission, IFGE must work with others in the entire spectrum of gender experience. Our work together is too important to let our separate egos interfere with obtaining universal equality, respect, and the recognition of each person's integrity.

"There are those who rely upon us, and there are also those upon whom we rely. Our relationship with the queer and straight communities must be mutual. We recognize and honor that interdependence. We view it as essential to equality. We understand that to

IFGE NEWSLETTER

EDITORS:

Matthew Carlos
mcarlos@ifge.org
and
Mykael Hawley
Mykael@ifge.org

ART DIRECTOR
Mykael Hawley

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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(IFGE) P.O. Box 229, Waltham, MA 02454-0229

voice: 781-899-2212
fax: 781-899-5703
e-mail: Office@ifge.org
web: www.ifge.org

About IFGE Membership

Basic Membership: \$35.00 per year
Membership Newsletter, IFGE ID, BoD voting
privileges, and 10% discount on products.

Student/Low Income: \$20.00 per year.
Includes same benefits as above

Supporting Membership: \$100.00 per year
Basic Membership, 10% discount on IFGE products, and
5% discount on IFGE Sponsored Events.

Benefactor membership
\$500.00 per year.

Life Membership
\$2,500.00
Based on accumulated contributions

be a partner in this relationship requires that we listen. If we do not recognize our differences with respect, then we will never recognize the strength of our commonalities. Let us stand together in our diversity."

Nancy has been active in the Trans Community for the past several years. She worked hard to get the Tiffany Club of New England turned around, first by doing a complete financial review and reorganization, and second, by redesigning their annual convention, First Event. She has been an advocate for diversity, opening the closet doors for a broad representation of sexuality, as well as involving the female to male population in the club's events. At IFGE, she volunteered regularly, doing anything from stuffing envelopes to completing a space usage feasibility study.

Having been a Trans-something for most of her life, Nancy is very familiar with the struggles we all have, both internally and externally. She is also familiar with the pain of being an outcast and the tortuous years of being closeted. Having no one to turn to, she suffered depression, abused alcohol, drugs, and herself. She has labored hard over the years to come to terms with these difficult issues.

Knowing the impact of a friendly voice, a reassuring tone from someone who understands, Nancy is committed to see that others will have IFGE to turn to in their time of need. △

Remember to stop by our
website and say hello.
Catch the latest news
stories, TG happenin's and
links to all our favorite sites.

Check us out, you'll have a
blast!

www.ifge.org

TRANSGENDER TAPESTRY UPDATES

MATTHEW CARLOS

1 Nearly all of our current print run (8,000) is being sold. Remaining stock for the Fall and Winter 1998 issues is so low that we need to consider larger future print runs to accommodate phone and internet requests for current issues.

2 Community feedback on the Winter 1998 issue is very positive. Reaction has included: "possibly the best cover ever." Laurels were also given for continued "hard-hitting content."

3 Approximately 1/3rd of the Fall 1998 issues is translated into Spanish, and is awaits posting on our web site. The translator is a member of the cross-dressing community, offers services at a competitive rate, and is eager to co-ordinate the release of future translations on the web site with the eng-

lish version's release on American newstands.

4 The focus for all 1999 issues of TransGender Tapestry is decided, and sent to contributors. Solicitations for articles on these themes from the general public were released to appropriate internet lists.

5 The Spring 1999 issue is on schedule. Expect to see your copy by mid-March.

6 200 copies of the Winter 1998 issue were returned to our distributor. Those venues who returned the issues are pornography vendors. They felt unable to place a cover with a child on their racks without risk of legal action. We see this as a positive indication that the magazine is indeed becoming more mainstream.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vivian Allen issued a challenge to the board to come up with \$10,000 by 31 January 1999. The board's total donation was \$10,575. Vivian will thus donate \$5000 and Julie Johnson decided to match the board and donated an additional \$10,000.

The "Adopt a Brochure" appeal to vendors, distributors, advertisers, and helping professionals made in late December has met limited success thus far.

IFGE recently enlisted Milliken & Michaels, a collection agency, to pursue some older accounts receivables. They have recouped about \$4000 to date.

DIGESTED PROCEEDING FROM THE 22 JANUARY 1999 IFGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The meeting was opened at 10:15am. Quorum was lost at 3:30pm and the meeting was adjourned at 3:58pm. Attending board members were: Yvonne Cook-Riley, Kristine James, Julie Johnson, Pamela Geddes, Linda Buten, Laura Caldwell, Abby Saypen, and Alison Laing.

Winnie Brant resigned from the board, and Linda Buten will not seek reelection.

Kristine James reported the Louisville convention group is very energetic, and most items are in place. Julie Johnson

motioned to allow a management company to look into the possibilities of a year 2000 convention and report back to the board in March. It was seconded by Abby Saypen and passed by verbal acclimation.

Laura Caldwell made a motion to appoint Nancy Cain as Executive Director. Julie Johnson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

The board had lunch brought in and ate during an hour long presentation by the IFGE CPA, Terri Creeden of Sanberg, Gonzalez,

and Creeden, P.C. She suggested to the board certain accounting changes and gave insight on general issues for non-profits like IFGE.

Yvonne gave a report on the 11th annual Creating Change conference she attended in November. She also wanted to see IFGE back at the APA, so she outlined projected costs. She concluded by inducing a resolution to budget \$900-1000 for the APA convention to be held in Washington. Julie Johnson seconded. Results were 4 yes, 1 no, 2 abstain (including the chair).

GET IN SYNC @ SYNCHRONICITY

VANESSA MURRAY

Hello Dear Friends

Another year is well underway, and it promises ever increasing success for your bookstore and for IFGE as a whole.

The staff is really excited about the appointment of Nancy Cain as the new Executive Director. As Operations Manager Nancy made great strides towards freeing IFGE of its long-term debt. In addition, under her guidance, annual financial audits help IFGEs accountability to you the members, our community, and the law.

The Synchronicity Bookstore finished out the 1998 calendar year with a gross sales nearing \$85,000. 1999 may see us going into six digit gross sales. You see the vision of the sales division being able to provide some major funding for our mission of Outreach and Education, is now becoming a reality. Thanks to All of You, our members and supporters. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart".



Watch for our updated catalogue; coming in the summer issue of the magazine. I expect to be adding 15 to 20 new offerings, including Dr. Randi Ettner's new book Gender Loving Care. We will have the very first copies at our convention in March for a book signing. Also coming soon will be Dr. Sheila Kirk's new revised hormone books with the latest information available on treatment for our community.

I have also tried to mainstream the product line with books like: Making Faces, Elements of Style, and brand new in April, The Mane Thing for learning hair care.

Many members have expressed an interest in Native American culture. We now offer, "In A Sacred Manner I Live: Native American Wisdoms".

The Friends of the Bookstore program is picking up momentum. I personally want to recognize those contributors:

Ms Judy Brown
Ms Genita Lenfast & Lauren McGonagle
Ms Bobbie Connelly
Ms & Mrs. Joan and Pat Cossey

Anyone wishing to join in sponsoring new titles may do so by funding the first shipment of a new title. Usually the cost is approximately \$300 to \$350.

Remember it is your IFGE. Be a part of it through renewed membership at the highest level you with which you are comfortable. Help shape the future of IFGE by wisely voting for the Board of Directors and maintaining your subscription to our exciting flagship TransGender Tapestry.

Spring is the season of rebirth. My wish to each and every one of you is that your rebirth brings you the Peace and Love you seek.

Bringing you Synchronicity,

Vanessa Colleen Murray

Words of Wisdom

After a while you learn the subtle difference,
between holding a hand and changing a soul,
And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning,
and company doesn't mean security,
You begin to learn that kisses are not contracts,
and presents are not promises,
And you begin to accept your defeats with your head up and your eyes open,
with grace of an adult, not the grief of a child,
And you learn to build all your roads on today,
because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans,
After a while you learn that even sunshine burns, if you get too much.
So plant your own garden and decorate your own soul,
instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers,
And you learn that you really can endure...
that you really are strong, and you really have Worth.

--Anonymous