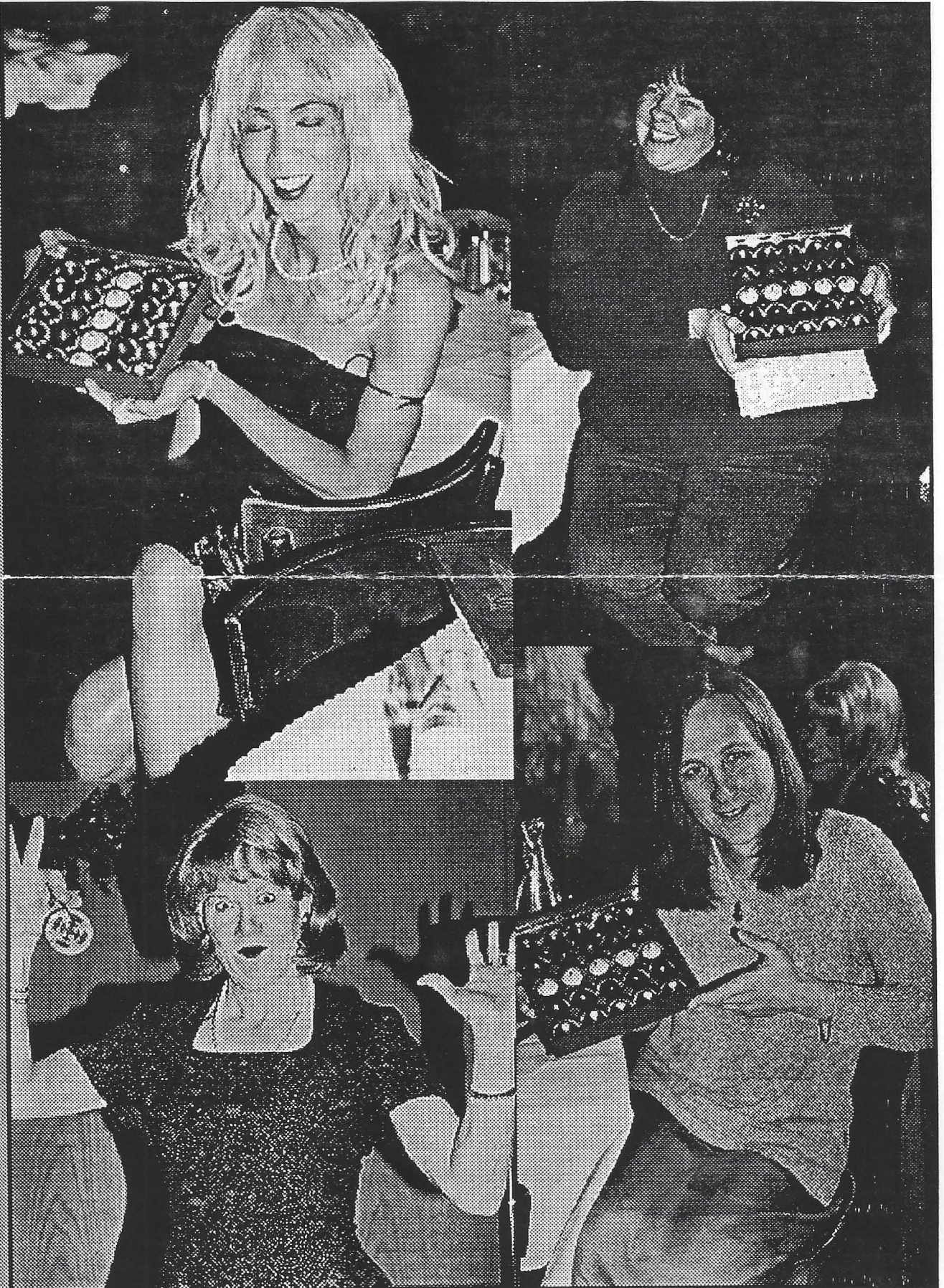


Christmas with TGGSF

The Channel

TGGSF's
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)



The Channel

TGSF (Educational TV Channel, 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 1999 - 2000 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President Leslie Bailey
 Vice President Lulu Blau
 Secretary Roxanne
 Treasurer Janis Ryan
 Education Nancy Cupps / Tianna Marie
 Outreach Telzey Adams
 Social Nicole and Debbie Cook

Membership Report

As of January 15, 2000

Fiscal Year		Number	% of 98-99
1998-1999	Total members	292	100.0
1999-2000	Renewals	198	67.8
1999-2000	New members	44	15.1
1999-2000	<u>Non-renewing</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>32.2</u>
1999-2000	Total members	242	82.9

TGSF (Educational TV Channel) 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 Janis Ryan
 Contributing Photographers Telzey Adams,
 Nicole and Debra Cook

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



FROM THE EDITOR...

To Op Or Not To Op

That is the question. Micheal and I recently had a little heart to heart the other day, and one of the things we talked about was his questioning of my desire to finish what I had begun nine years ago. And this has raised all sorts of questions in my mind about where I started, where I wished to go and where I am right now. It's a bit disconcerting. I've had to evaluate how happy I am with what I've achieved and question my own desire in fulfilling my destiny.

I feel stuck in a rut. Some transsexuals get all fired up about their transition and hit the ground running, attaining their reassignment surgery within a couple of years (or sooner). Still others have preferred to go part of the way and then stop for whatever reason - the "non-op" option, being comfortable with where they are. And that's perfectly OK. But I'm not comfortable at all.

I seem to have fallen into the non-op category by default. After all, I've been at it for nine years - one would think that I could've had my electrolysis and surgery done many times over by now. So what's taking so long, Ayme? Is it a matter of drive and desire? A matter of available finances? Feelings of futility and frustration with the process? Just what is it that makes the non-op option a viable choice?

To me it feels like Limbo - neither here nor there, stuck in the middle. I have become complacent and perhaps a bit too comfortable and have fallen into a trap of my own devising. Is it valid to use the excuse that I've just been too busy living life, trying to earn a living so I can pay my bills and put food on the table? If that's so, then I have to find ways to trim the fat so I can put money away for surgery, but that in itself is a long haul - how much longer can I put it off until I have sufficient funds? Will I ever have enough money I wonder...but if it's a lack of desire, then that opens up a whole different can of worms in the discussion.

Part of the dilemma is that I enjoy the notoriety of being considered pre-op amongst my friends and admirers. There is a certain allure embodied in being able to offer the best of both worlds in one package, and it certainly is attractive to some people. I confess I like the attention. Is that the real appeal of being non-op? Or, instead, do non-ops get tired of jumping through the hoops and decide that enough is enough and reconcile themselves to Limbo?

One of the reasons I've put off electrolysis for so long is that I'm blonde...after eighteen hours the hair on my face doesn't show after I shave closely in the morning. To me it was purely an economic decision - \$10 on razor blades that will last a couple of months versus \$50 an hour for an electrologist and enduring countless hours of pain. That's a compromise I've been happy to live with...up until now. I got lazy. I've been lax. I've been unfaithful to my lifetruth. But if I want to move forward with my transition then electrolysis is a burden I'll have to bear, and may as well get it started. So I go under the needle for the first time on February 1st to begin the process and get the wheels of progress spinning again.

Continued on Page 3

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

WWW.TGSF.ORG
NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!



PRESIDENT'S POTPOURRI by Leslie Bailey

Cotillion

Although the Cotillion will be covered in the next issue, I just want to say that the volunteers who worked to make it happen put in a tremendous amount of effort and need to be thanked this month. I was constantly amazed at the dedication and skill that all of you brought to this project. I trust that you are resting well now. Thanks so much.

Almost four years ago I was trying to unstick myself from the walls at the end of month socials and be something less of a wall flower. Ginny Knuth got a hold of me and stuck me on the ExCom as V.P. and I started a ride that my imagination would never have dreamed of on its own. I mention this because I find myself at another cross roads. Increased demands at work (greater responsibility, stress and energy required) are making it difficult to maintain the energy level needed to both meet the needs of the ExCom and the other special projects that we do each year. I also find my interest turning increasingly toward wanting to do more reading/research about our community and to get more involved in the social and political aspects of our relationship to the community at large.

The other side of the coin is that TGFSF benefits from the fresh ideas and different strengths and talents that new officers bring to the organization each time that there is a turnover. So, I will not run for reelection this April and I suspect that several other members of the current ExCom will also step back. It is time for others to step forward and put their stamp on the club.

Serving on the ExCom has taught me a lot and has challenged me to stretch as an individual in more ways than I could ever have anticipated. It has forced me to do things and to be places that have conspired to increase many times over my sense of confidence as a human being and as a transgendered person. However, as much as I think we have accomplished a great deal during the last four years (and I do), I also wish I could look back and not count as many shortfalls on my part.

One of the regrets that I have is mishandling the situation surrounding Janet Bowman's very generous donation of \$2,000 in regards to the vote to change the name of the club to TGFSF. I truly believe that Janet's principle motivation was to prompt action. Because of the controversy, I was unsure how to properly list and recognize her contribution without stirring the pot even more and I let it slide. I can't change the miscues or the slight, but I can belatedly reiterate my appreciation for her generosity.

I have my "Mea Culpas," but I'm also very pleased with a lot of the things that we accomplished. Under Erin Souza and then myself we were the ExComs that had to deal with the transition from the Ginny Knuth era. Ginny worked tirelessly (often behind the scenes) to expand our vision and to make our many events work. Whether one agreed or disagreed with Ginny, you had to love and admire her dedication and effort. She was a steadying force and took care of many of the details that made things happen.

What I want most to do is to thank and to recognize the tremendous efforts and contributions of the other members of the last four ExComs (and for that matter the many volunteers who have extended themselves on one project or another). I am not particularly good at or suited to micro managing situations. Whatever I have done has only worked because the others were so responsible, talented and dedicated. I want to use the words love, respect, gratitude and friendship to express how I feel about these good

From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

Now resources for trans people are available in Oklahoma. But they're far and few between so as a result services are more expensive than what's available in the Bay Area. I found plenty of electrologists willing to do my face, but practically had to beg to get one to agree to do the pubic region the surgeons are recommending be done in preparation for GRS. My thinking is I may as well get the most difficult/sensitive area done first and work my way up. But frankly, I'm not looking forward to it.

I'd like to hear more from the non-ops that may be reading this. How did you reach the conclusion that being non-op was the right choice for you? For that matter, how about some feedback from the post-ops (of at least a year or longer) about the frame of mind they find themselves in these days.

Oklahoma At Its Worst...

Well it finally happened...got discriminated against because of my transsexuality. The incident left me feeling hurt and angry, but I wasn't disappointed. I was expecting some hostility when I moved here, so to be shunned at a business I was frequenting caused more inconvenience than anything else, but it hurt nonetheless. It only served to validate my belief that Oklahoman's in general are a backward lot, ultra conservative to a fault and hypocritical at best. So I fired off some letters to the ACLU and a few of the bigger papers around town. That made me feel better. Thankfully, with some patience and digging, I've found service providers who are more open-minded and willing to accept me and my business. (And of course, I did move here after all because I fell in love with an Okie so none of this applies to him!). But I'm not hopeful that the societal climate in Oklahoma will change for the better anytime soon as it enters the new Millennium. It's getting better all the time, though, when people like you and me stand up for ourselves. If my letters change just one opinion or open one mind, then we're that much better off. God how I miss California!

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]

Significant Other Support - East Bay

Questions or concerns about your partner's crossdressing? Please call Julie at (925) [redacted], e-mail [redacted]@home.com or write to: Julie Freeman, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885.

people. After everything is almost said and done, I feel a bit humbled by the whole experience.

To those who step forward I promise you that you will get more out of the experience than you can possibly put into it (and you will put in a lot). That's what happens when you deal with people's lives and when you focus more intensely on who you are yourself.

Sunday, January 9, 2000

TGSF Ex Com MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: President Bailey, Vice President Blau, Treasurer Ryan, Secretary, Roxanne, Social CoChairs Cook and Cook, Outreach CoChairs Adams and Stephanie, and Education CoChair Cupps. Education CoChair Marie was attending to personal business. Guests included Deborah and Lynnea.

Announcements: The SGA Talent Show will be held March 4, 2000 at Joseph's in Sacramento. Telzey mentioned two coronations, one on the 29th and Ducal Ball is the 14-16th of January, in Reno, Nev.

Old Business: Janis reported that 241 ballots have been sent out with 61 received back (about 25%). Leslie asked about a personal letter received from Utah. She wanted to know the best way to address the letter back. Stephanie asked if there is an e-mail address for TGSF. Janis mentioned that the officers are listed for contact. Telzey asked about support groups for youth. Nicole mentioned that there is a youth conference on the calendar.

Minutes: Lulu mentioned that there numerous typos in last month's minutes. Roxanne commented that there were editing problems because of a time conflict. The ExCom agreed to reword (edit) the minutes for approval at the next meeting.

Vice President: Vice President Blau gave a rundown on the Cotillion: Judges are on board. Posters are done and being distributed. There was a photo shoot of Miss TGSF for the Cotillion press release and website. The first rehearsal meeting was held with all the contestants and committee present. The event is being upscaled in budget and is catered at a reasonable cost. Lulu said the world is focusing more on TG issues and the show will reflect that. Lulu mentioned that contestants would be asked for support or participation on the SF TG Task Force. The second rehearsal went fine. Seven contestants have had their talent routines reviewed. This will be a great show; one not to miss. It was mentioned that each task has its own person, making things run a lot smoother.

Janis mentioned there is \$1660 in adverting revenue thus far. Janis has rearranged the budget worksheet and asked about sponsorships. Lulu said 45 persons were contacted with responses pending. Lulu asked that contestants and ExCom try and sell a table to friends/family. Janis asked that the budget for the Cotillion be adopted. (Proposed in Treasurer's Report)

Secretary: Roxanne mentioned that she is being bypassed in some responsibilities, observing after some visits to the mailbox that it was empty. Janis responded to the situation handing over announcements and exchange publications/newsletters. Telzey is asking for certain newsletters. Deborah has taken on the responsibility to keep them in some type of order and find a way to have the exchanges assessable to the group - possibly at the end of month socials. Deb and Telzey will work something out in the meantime. The goal is to get immediate items to Ayme to put into our newsletter, etc. Nicole and Debbie have handed over the mailing of the newsletter to Leslie and volunteers in the East Bay for January.

Treasurer: Treasurer Ryan said her current report was produced and posted early. Janis also reported our dormant bulk mailing permit expired. Janis changed the name on the phone bill to ETVC? from an individual name. The group also has a calling



card. Leslie told Janis to make sure we are getting the best rate if the card is used. It was mentioned that we were late in filing the federal information return. The fee was \$440.00. Janis is trying to contact the IRS.

Nicole noted the organization had a lawyer and was being paid to be up on top of these types of things and wondered if other things could happen. Janis said that with her experience, we should not be incurring any further penalties. Leslie said in reference to this and the discussions of the duties of officers that it be covered after the Cotillion. Nicole also brought up the issue of what will happen after Janis stops being the Treasurer, and specialized knowledge on taxes she has gained would not be available to the next Treasurer.

Leslie indicated the need for Janis's knowledge in keeping the taxes in order be proceduralized and written into the standing rules. Janis requested approval of Cotillion budget. Leslie asked about donation amounts. Janis reported that these are projections above committed amounts. Leslie explained the tech needs figures and that, from past experiences, Nancy may need to work with this amount. Leslie mentioned that this is a budget - a list of targets. On a motion by Nicole and seconded by Stephanie, the budget was approved unanimously. Nicole asked if Janis received any Halloween income from "I Love It" and La Chara. Janis had received the payment from I Love It Boutique but had not received the money from LeChara yet. Nicole mentioned she needs letters recognizing her Donations from the 1998 Halloween party and last year's Cotillion for her taxes.

Education: Education CoChair Cupps, noting it is a busy time for everyone, that nothing is planned for February. Janis suggested that we find out if a room at CCSF is available on weekends or weeknights. Roxanne noted that TGSF, as an education and community based organization, should apply for space. She will follow up.

Outlook: Outreach CoChair Adams distributed a list of dates and locations that Ann Jiles spoke at in 1999. Roxanne noted that it is a considerable list over a period of time to a lot of institutions. Also, the same person or persons were repeating presentations at the same institutions and that other outreach volunteers should be given a chance. Roxanne said volunteer outreach presentations should be reviewed. Nicole was in agreement and noted it is a valid point. It was agreed the ExCom needs to be aware of the presentation content given and it is updated and unbiased. Stephanie said a meeting of outreach volunteers would be organized. Stephanie said she has received the speakers bureau file from Telzey and that she contacted Amy at the Pacific Center. Outreach at Foothill College on February 15 is covered. Telzey mentioned that the hot line is still up and running but need volunteers.

Social: Outreach CoChair Nicole Cook mentioned February's mid month would be held at the Power Exchange. Didi will be our hostess. February EOM is the 24 at the Blue Muse. The March mid month will be March 4th — the Sacramento Gender Association Talent Show at Joseph's. Nicole is hoping to have more joint socials with SGA, possibly one down in the Bay Area where SGA visits. Lynnea reported that only six members attended January's mid month at the G-Spot. There was a Cotillion rehearsal earlier and a special election at the SGA social that some members were attending.

Guests: Lynnea mentioned that she is a new writer for TC Epic Magazine and will work with Marlena Lacey.

New Business: Leslie mentioned that after the Cotillion, the TGSF ExCom needs to be thinking about the focus of our mission and goals as the world is changing and transgender issues move

Continued on Page 5

May 4-7, 2000

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CDING

Sex Educators, Therapists, Counselors, Clergy, and Transgendered Individuals Will Assemble in Philadelphia, PA

Wayne, PA- November 12, 1999 - The 4th Congress is being presented May 4-7 of this coming year in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by The Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc. in cooperation with The Center For Sexuality & Religion, and The International Foundation For Gender Education. The First Congress occurred at California State University at Northridge in 1995. The Second Congress, in 1997, was hosted by Renaissance in suburban Philadelphia. In 1998 the Third Congress was presented at Exeter College of Oxford University by Press For Change, a U.K. organization that campaigns for respect and equality for all trans people. Now this prestigious event returns to Philadelphia.

Before the Third Congress had even occurred the Board of Renaissance made the decision to host the 4th International Congress in Philadelphia. The event will be at The Warwick Hotel in Center City Philadelphia, just off Rittenhouse Square.

The theme of the 4th Congress is Gender Variance-Beyond 2000. The Congress will devote special attention to Relationships Between Gender Identity and Spirituality, Sexuality, and Legal issues, as well as the Evolution of Gender. The opening plenary speaker will be Doctor Walter O. Bockting of the University of Minnesota. Dr. Bockting is the Coordinator of Transgender Services for the University's Medical School. Dr. Bockting will speak on HIV/STD prevention in the context of comprehensive sexuality education for transgendered persons and their partners. Dr. Bockting is a member of the Board of Directors of The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association.

Phyllis Randolph Frye, Esq. is a respected attorney who was founder and Executive Director of the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy. Ms. Frye will address the changing relationship between transgendered individuals and the legal system, both now and into the next century. The third plenary will be on transgender issues in relation to spirituality and religion. The Rev. Dr. William R. Stayton, past President of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors & Therapists, and currently Program Coordinator of the graduate program in Human Sexuality Education at Widener University, will address these issues. In addition to the three plenary sessions the Congress will present three days of workshops, panels, and papers on transgender issues. For more information contact Renaissance at 610-975-9119, or email congress@ren.org. You may also visit the 4th Congress website for more information, or to sign up online at <http://www.ren.org/4thCongress.html>.

Editorial Contact: Angela Gardner, (610) [REDACTED]
angela@ren.org

Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

more to the forefront. Roxanne suggested that with time consumed discussing the issues, duties and definitions of the ExCom and the debate of standing rules or bylaws taking precedent, that the idea of reviving the ExCom Retreat be considered after the Cotillion. Lulu mentioned that she saw the advertisement at the top of the web page. Nicole mentioned Jennifer developed the idea and sold it to the advertisers. Lulu wondered if we could alter the presentation so that people who do not have Java Script turned on will not see the advertisements. Nicole indicated that it would be no problem and would be implemented quickly. Janis said those without Java script would not see a scrolling bar but only one advertiser. Nicole also mentioned that everything that appears on the web page is changeable and if the ExCom wanted something to change they just needed to make a decision on the change and let her or Debbie know.

Janis asked about the rules involving when an individual wants a mailing included with the newsletter. Nicole stated that the letter in question was sent out separately from the newsletter, but included in the same envelope. It was sent out on an information only basis. It was noted that the letter did include both pros and cons. Leslie felt that a letter sent should be done as an analysis and should be approved by the ExCom prior to mailing. Lulu and the notice surprised her. Nicole said there was no information to members about the issues being voted on and that was the purpose of the inclusion. Leslie mentioned that there should have been allowance for other opinions. Janis stated that the issues were discussed in the newsletter. Leslie said that items sent out in a mailing should be done as a group.

Adjournment: On a motion from Lulu and seconded by Nancy and Nicole, at the same time! the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Next ExCom meeting location will be posted in the calendar.

February's Birthdays...

0201	Thea Horner
0201	Francis Vavra
0205	Anne
0205	Millicent
0205	Carol Anderson
0207	Robin Barrett
0210	Alexis Haines
0216	Vicki Gray
0217	Carla Blair
0220	Debra Darling
0223	Lauren Hotchkiss

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Sunday / February 6th / 3:00pm

EXCOM MEETING

One of the best ways to volunteer for a short term task is to attend the ExCom and see where the help is needed. This is the time to come to the ExCom meeting and get involved. Come see how your organization works. . . come be heard !! If you are considering coming, please call Nicole and Debbie at (707) [REDACTED] and we will be happy to give you directions.

Saturday / February 12th / 8:00pm

MID-MONTH SOCIAL AT THE POWER EXCHANGE!

OK there is a warning with this event. We will be holding the February Mid-Month at the Power Exchange at 74 Otis Street in San Francisco, one block from the intersection of Mission & Van Ness. This is not a family venue, it is a sex club. It is one of the places on the "got to visit" list for people visiting the area. If you have never been here it is quite an experience.

While most of the male patrons have to pay a large (\$30+) fee to get in, TG's get in for free (Unless there is a special event that night, then we have to pay \$10). I plan to be there that night but our hostess for the night will be the Outrageous Miss Didi Mau since she holds a VIP status at this club. In order to give you an idea of what to expect, Didi has written an article in this channel, be sure to read it.

Thursday / February 24th / 8:00pm

END OF MONTH SOCIAL

The End of Month Social will be held at our usual meeting place, The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street in San Francisco. Park in any of the local parking lots on either side of the restaurant. Right now I do not have a special event planned, however I might have one put together before the 24th.

DON'T FORGET! >>> Saturday / March 4th

THE MARCH MID-MONTH

THE SGA TALENT SHOW

Once a year I like to hold one of our events in another TG-friendly city. That way those of you who are worried about someone seeing you and recognizing you can attend without having to worry about accidentally having someone who does not know about your feminine side seeing you. This is that event.

The SGA talent show will be held at Joseph's (always a nice place to go) 1454 Del Paso Blvd. Sacramento. For those of you that went last year and were uncomfortable with the way the MC was pumping the audience for donations, I can assure you that it will not happen this year. I (Miss SGA) will be producing the event.

Come and plan to have fun, show up early and have something to eat from Joseph's excellent menu.

Coming this May!

TAKE A CHANCE ON ESPRIT 2000

For all you girls who are thinking about a trip to the great Pacific Northwest in 2000, May is time to come. Esprit is going to be a full week adventure this year, starting on Monday, May 15 and running through Sunday, May 21.

We are serious about having a fun time every day, with special events every night. One of the most fun events is going to be on Wednesday, May 17. On that night, the Red Lion ballroom will become the Esprit Fantasy Casino, with a professional staff and a real casino set up for our use.

The evening will be semi formal, but we are searching for a theme. Suggestions thus far include a fifties party and a Wild West casino or maybe a Cruise. I just love the strapless dresses from the fifties, and the heels were soooo high. Petticoats are fun too.) Maybe it will be the Prom we never went to. We need ideas from those who might be coming about other possible themes as well.

Also, some guests have observed that it would not be Vegas without a wedding chapel. Is there any interest in this? We would provide the setting, stand up Elvis, photographer, brides maids and a wedding bouquet. You provide the wedding gown (and groom if you want one). If there is enough interest we might be able to come with a wedding cake. There would be a modest charge to cover the pictures.

We will also need a few waitresses for the buffet style dinner, and maybe to serve drinks (we are still working on the liquor laws about this), and about six dealers for the celebrity twenty-one table.

This is going to be a great evening, and will set the tone for the rest of the week to follow (and yes, you will need yet one more evening dress for this [damn]). The event will have some great prizes, including a three-day jaunt to Vegas to try out your newly honed skills. It will also leave time for the nightly trek to the Red Lion Bar down below to mingle with the celebrity watchers (we are the celebrities).

Please let me know your ideas about themes and other things we could do to make this evening special. Also, whether or not the wedding event is of interest. You can reach me at [REDACTED]@AOL.COM, or at PO Box 1152, Duvall, WA 98019. Even if you can't join us, your ideas will be appreciated.

New Members since January Issue:

Lisa Anne

Welcome!

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!

Calendar of Events - February 2000

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. Write to RGA, 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 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 or call 916-482-7SGA (7742) for meeting locations.

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 cross dressers and transsexuals; 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 (TransGenderism Is Fun)

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 707-526-1111

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 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender 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.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	4 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	5
6 3:00 PM TGSE: ExCom Meeting	7 8:00 PM DVG	8	9 7:00 PM TransBay	10	11 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGSE: Library / Poker Night	12 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA 8:00 PM TGSE: Power Exchange!
13	14	15	16	17 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	18 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	19
20	21 8:00 PM DVG	22	23	24 8:00 PM TGSE: End Of Month Social	25 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	26 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
27	28	29				

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Full Year Membership May 1 - April 30

Please Print / Check all that apply:

New Member Renewal Member # _____ with Family Member

Member Birth Date ____ / ____ Family Member Birth Date ____ / ____

Preferred Name: _____

Mailing Name: _____

Family Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How did you hear about TGSF? _____

Your Email address: _____

I am enclosing a Check or Money order for:

\$30.00 Full Year Membership (Renewals)

\$40.00 Full Year Family Membership (Renewals; Note only one copy of the Channel will be sent to this address).

Pro Rate \$ _____ beginning Month: _____

New Members only; See Chart at right)

Send Check or Money Order to
TGSF
PO Box 426486
San Francisco, CA
94142-6486

IF PAID IN	THEN SINGLE PAY	THEN FAMILY PAY
MAY	30	40
JUN	27.5	37
JUL	25	33
AUG	22.5	30
SEP	20	27
OCT	17.5	23
NOV	15	20
DEC	12.5	17
JAN	10	13
FEB	7.5	10
MAR	5	7
APR	2.5	3

Our Readers Respond...

DEAR TGSF:

Regarding the Pros & Cons for Proposed Amendments to the TGSF Bylaws,

I'm a "casual" member of TGSF... I haven't physically been to a meeting in years, but I've paid my dues every year since I learned of ETVC, more than a decade ago. I really appreciate and support the great work done by the group, in the form of the newsletter and available public events. In particular the volunteers, with the ExCom (Executive Committee) at the "top", have included some truly heroic people using their talents and time to further our cause(s).

So, I just wanted to thank Nicole and Janis for putting their opinions up on this list. Since I don't go to the meetings for the discussions of these events, I feel more connected to what's going on because of the discussion here. And thank you for the link to the treasurer's web pages at <http://www.tgsf.org>. I haven't visited the site in a long time and didn't realize how much it had changed and been made more useful.

Thank you for your work on our behalf. I wish a happy and healthy new century to all!

Suzanne

LGTBQ PARENT DISCUSSION GROUPS

First Saturday of every month from 10:30am-12:30pm at Pacific Center Get info on issues relevant to your family. Child Care is provided.

Sat. February 5: COLAGE Panel

Hear what these teens have to say about their experiences growing up with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents. This is a great chance to think about how you can best support your kids!

Sat. March 4: Transgender Parenting

This panel will explore issues faced by families with members who identify as trans. Discuss and get support on partner dynamics, raising kids as a trans parent, raising trans kids and responses from schools/society.

Sat. April 1: Child Development

Hear from the experts! Learn about current ideas in the field of child development: how your kids learn, developmental ages and milestones, and how you can best support the growth and development of your child.

Please RSVP to Anna at familyprogram@yahoo.com or call 415-789-8560

Amy Wooldridge

Program Director

Pacific Center

510-548-8283

amy@pacificcenter.org

Friday, March 31, 2000

RGA GUY'S & GAL'S NITE OUT DINNER

Join RGA for a Guy's & Gal's Nite Out dinner. We invite the groups of the Bay Area (TGSF, DVG, and SGA) to join our first 5th Friday outing of 2000.

Pine Brook Inn, 1015 Alameda de las Pulgas (at Ralston, between El Camino and I-280), Belmont. Friday, March 31 at 8 PM.

Reservations and information, call the RGA Warmline: 408 984-4044 or Gelsey (RGA Hostess) 650 [REDACTED]

Saturday March 4, 2000

RGA NIGHT AT THE BALLET

Les Ballets Trocadero de Monte Carlo is coming to Stanford University for the evening of Saturday, March 4th. This is not just an ordinary night at the ballet, because not only is the "Trock" a world renowned dance company, but the ballerinas are men (hint, hint) dancing on Pointe.

Tickets are \$32, 26, and 20 plus "convenience" and handling fees of up to \$8 per ticket. We'll try to avoid as many of these charges as possible.

Prepaid reservations are required! If you're thinking of sitting together, the \$26 balcony circle of Stanford Memorial Auditorium is a good compromise. Gelsey, your RGA hostess, will be ordering the tickets as soon as there are firm reservations, but no later than February 10.

Parking on the Stanford campus is free. Curtain is 8 PM. If there is any interest, we could also have a dinner before the show at a fine Palo Alto restaurant.

For any questions or payment information, call the RGA Warmline (408) 984-4044, or Gelsey at 650 [REDACTED]

Now Available!

1999 RESOURCE GUIDE

The 1998-99 TGSF Resource Guide is now available at cost to all TGSF members. You can bring \$3.00 to the next social or we can mail it to you for \$3.00 + \$1.50 postage. If you are a service listed in the guide you can get copies for \$5.00 each plus postage. The Resource Guide will be available to everyone else for \$10.00 each.

The 1999 TGSF Resource Guide is your one source for virtually all the Transgender Resources in the Greater Bay Area (From San Jose to Sacramento to Santa Rosa to San Francisco). The Guide covers where to go to have a good time on the town, where to shop, where to get services like Make-up, Electrolysis and Beauty Salons, as well as where to stay in the San Francisco area (and Russian River Resort Area). You can also locate professional services such as Doctors, Psychologists, Lawyers, Voice Therapists and others. The Guide also contains information on other Gender Information and Education Groups. If you are going to visit the San Francisco area - This is the guide to have!

If you would like a guide by mail you can send a check for \$4.50 (per copy) to: TGSF, Resource Guide, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA. 94142-6486. Please be sure to indicate on the check that it is for the Resource Guide.

Our Readers Respond...

Announcing Gender Education And Advocacy (GEA)

THE GENDER ORGANIZATION FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Contacts:

Dallas Denny, <[redacted]@mindspring.com>
Jamison Green, <[redacted]@aol.com>
Jessica Xavier, <[redacted]@aol.com > or
(301) [redacted], vm box 8

ATLANTA, GA: The Board of Directors of Gender Education and Advocacy - Jamison Green, Dallas Denny, Jessica Xavier, Gwen Smith, Penni Ashe Matz and Sandra Cole (ex-officio) - are proud to announce the formation of GEA, the organization for gender variant people for the new millennium.

WHAT:

Gender Education and Advocacy (GEA) is a new national organization focused on the needs, issues and concerns of gender variant people in human society. We seek to educate and advocate, not only for ourselves and others like us, but for all human beings who suffer from gender-based oppression in all of its many forms. We also are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in Georgia.

WHY:

Although we stand on the brink of new millennium, many in the gender community will ask why we need another national transgender organization. While many organizations are now actively engaged in the political struggle to win civil rights for transgendered and gender-different people, there is still no effective national organization focusing on the many areas of "non-political" advocacy. There is a clear need for sustained, comprehensive and deliberate efforts in such areas as the improvement of transgender-related health care, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, health insurance coverage, education and credentialing of health care providers, and monitoring and responding to defamatory stories in the media. Two examples of existing GEA nonpolitical advocacy initiatives are the Gender Advocacy Internet News (GAIN) service (a joint venture with It's Time, America!) and the Washington Transgender Needs Assessment Survey, the second largest survey of an urban transgender population in the US.

As this movement enters its sixth decade, GEA will also concern itself with the preservation of our history - the people, the events, the books, stories, films and video that have shaped our movement. The primary goal of this initiative will be the relocation and secure establishment of the National Transgender Library and Archive, the largest catalogued collection of works regarding gender variant people in the world.

Education is our middle name and our most important mission. The need for supportive ongoing public education to assist our political organizations is an obvious one. We cannot expect our elected representatives to vote for legislation favorable to transgendered citizens if the rest of their constituents continue to view us pejoratively. The stigmatized status quo for transgendered people is no longer an option.

GEA will draw upon the tradition of excellence exhibited over the past decade by our forerunner organization, the American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS). Moreover, mindful of the latest understandings of gender variance, we are developing customized educational materials targeted for specific audiences. We will train others who are willing to become gender educators for their local communities or in specific subject areas. Our educational materials will be distributed free of charge via our website. In time, we hope to become the premier public relations organization for gender variant people in this country.

Our website, located at <www.gender.org>, is quickly becoming one of the premiere locations for news, information, and additional resources for all those involved or interested in gender issues. It serves as the home of the GAIN news lists archives and the award-winning "Remembering Our Dead" project, as well as the many informational resources and advisories authored by AEGIS, GEA's forerunner organization.

WHO:

The initial Board of Directors of Gender Education and Advocacy:

Jamison Green, Chair

Former President of FTM International, Inc.; Board Member, IFGE; Advisory Board Member, GenderPAC; writer and public speaker, internationally recognized advocate for transgendered and transsexual people's legal protection, medical access and safety, and civil rights

Continued on Page 11

Contact TGSF:

President, Leslie Bailey [redacted]@slip.net
Vice President, Lulu Blau [redacted]@aol.com
Secretary, Roxanne [redacted]@tgforum.com
Treasurer, Janis Ryan [redacted]@hishners.com
Education, Nancy Cupps [redacted]@ix.netcom.com
Education, Tianna Marie [redacted]@hotmail.com
Outreach, Telzey Adams (415) [redacted]
Social, Nicole Cook [redacted]@tgforum.com
Social, Debbie Cook [redacted]@yahoo.com
Editor, Ayme Kantz [redacted]@aol.com

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DECEMBER - JANUARY SOCIALS IN REVIEW

by Nicole and Debbie

Well there is not too much to report on since the End of the Year holidays took a few weeks out of the month. We were at a few events however. The December TGSF

End of Month on December 23rd was quite fun. This was the annual TGSF holiday gift exchange.

What makes this event fun is the way the gifts are exchanged. Each person wishing to participate brings a gift. Each participant then draws a number from a box. The action starts when the person with the lowest number chooses any gift from the table. The gift recipient then opens and displays the gift. The person with the next lowest number then has the option to take the first persons gift or take a new gift from the table. As it turns out the most popular gift this year was a box of chocolates, which changed hands about 5 times.

We also made the January 8th SGA Social at Joseph's. This was the night of the special election. Debbie and I womaned the voting table from 8pm to 10pm. We were pleased to see a very good turnout to vote about 70% of the membership voted. As it turned out the option to make no changes to the bylaws was the winner by quite a margin (somewhere around 70% of the vote). Since so many people showed up we got to see a number of people who we had not seen in a while. I think it had been almost 6 months since I had seen Allison and Deanna. It is always a pleasure to see everyone and it is certainly a good sign when so many members turn out for a vote.

We were not able to attend the TGSF mid-month (also on January 8th) because we had promised to help out at SGA. But I did hear that about 6 of our members showed up at the G-spot. I hope you girls had a good time, I know I always do when I go there even if it is just Debbie and me.

POWER EXCHANGE MID-MONTH SOCIAL

by The Outrageous Miss Didi Mau

If you have ever heard of the Power Exchange and wanted to visit it, but had been somewhat nervous about going alone, we will be there as a group. I must tell you that the Power Exchange is a SEX and S AND M CLUB for Straight, Gay and Transgendered individuals.

About the Power Exchange - did I mention it is a SEX CLUB? - it is located at 74 Otis Street - I think Nicole will have a map put up. I feel that the neighborhood is relatively safe to go through, as there is nothing else there. The Club is HUGE, and is located in an old telephone company building, and some parts of the interior are somewhat shabby, but then so are other clubs we frequent and enjoy, like the El Rio, and the EndUP/GirlSpot.

Rules:

There are rules in there, and they are posted at the entrance - main ones are 1)NO SMOKING and 2)NO SEX IN THE BATHROOMS - I hope I did mention this is a SEX CLUB. There are other rules as well in respect to the activities there, so be sure to ask if you have any questions - the staff there is quite TG enthusiastic.

There is a coat check there, and there is a juice bar with some snacks - there is NO ALCOHOL SERVED OR ALLOWED - No Drugs - No Recording Devices - so NO PICTURES - after all, if I neglected to mention it, this is a SEX CLUB.

The Power Exchange was founded my Mike and Marie Powers, who have done a very good job of providing what I feel is a very safe place for us to play - there is always some element of risk for us. But I feel extremely safe there, even though it is a SEX CLUB, in case I did not mention it. They have a very effective security staff -- I have seen a miscreant physically tossed out.

As we go to press, we do not have the Power Exchange Feb. Calendar, but it may be a Fetish Ball and Slave Auction Nite, and in that case all 4 floors will be available to us - otherwise we only have the first floor, and the dungeon in the basement. If it is the Fetish Ball, be prepared to pay, I am thinking 10 bucks if you are en femme - if you are in guy mode, and give up your clothes I think it is \$35 Dollars - you can get a towel to wear. If you want to keep your street clothes on, you will get charged - are you sitting down - Seventy Five Dollars!!! This does keep out the riffraff from the SEX CLUB. If you have questions, visit the website at www.powerexchange.com or call the club - use the substation number.

What to Expect Inside

As you go in through the front door, the doorman may look into your bag, looking for alcohol/cameras. Once inside you will go the front desk and sign in - I sign in with my femme name - and you will get a hand stamp. You may find the coat check, and leave your stuff; just follow the signs - you will see many GORGEOUS Asian TG Girls there - they are not interested in you if you are en femme, so do not take it personally if they seem cold and distant - they are there looking for men, and are not really mean spirited at all, once you get to know them. By the Way, did I mention that this is a SEX CLUB?

Bathrooms

Ask!!! There are very strict rules depending on what nights we are there - on regular nights the women and TG bathroom is in the Dungeon and the Men's <NO WOMEN OR TG'S> is near the sign in booth at the entrance - even though this is a SEX CLUB this is a very strict rule, and I am told the men get quite hostile about femmes invading their space. -SO ASK ABOUT THE BATHROOMS AT THE FRONT DESK!!

Continued on Page 17

The 4th Annual

SGA Talent Review

When:

March 4th, 2000

Where:

Joseph's Showroom
1454 Del Paso Blvd.
Sacramento

Doors Open at 8:00 pm

Show Starts at 9:00 pm

Door Prizes !!

Cost is: \$5.00 general public
\$3.00 members

We are currently looking for any talent. If interested, please contact Nicole at (707) [redacted] or by e-mail at [redacted]@tgforum.com

Continued from Page 9

Dallas Denny, Secretary

Dallas Denny, M.A., has written many books and articles on gender identity. She is founder and was for eight years Executive Director of AEGIS, the American Educational Gender Information Service. She founded and grew the National Transgender Archive, the world's largest catalogued collection of material about gender identity. For twenty years she was licensed to practice psychology in Tennessee. She is now a resident of Georgia and has retired her Tennessee license.

Jessica Xavier, Treasurer

Former National Director, It's Time, America! former Spokesperson, It's Time, Maryland! former Board Member, AEGIS; former Outreach Director, TransGender Educational Association of Washington, DC; former project consultant with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Currently Survey Coordinator for the Washington Transgender Needs Assessment Survey, the second largest of its kind in the US.

Sandra Cole, Ph.D., Professional Services Director (ex-officio) Past President of the American Association for Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT) and an elected fellow of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. She is Professor at the University of Michigan and Director of the University of Michigan Gender Services Program. She has been an integral part of the Trans community for more than 18 years.

Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Internet Services Director & Webmistress for AEGIS, ITA, Remembering Our Dead; Community Host, onQ's Transgender Community Forum, Transgender Gazebo @ Gay.Com; Transgender Community Advisor, GLBTHS; Former Board Member, AEGIS.

Penni Ashe Matz, Media Director & Manager, GAIN Eastern Director, It's Time, America! Chair, It's Time, Massachusetts! Director of Communications and Newsletter, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Employees of Bell Atlantic and their Allies (GLOBE)

OUR MISSION AND VALUES

Our Mission...

We are committed to the civil rights, health and well-being of all members of our diverse community. Accordingly, we dedicate ourselves to providing an array of information services, educational materials, advocacy training and technical assistance of the highest quality.

We pledge compassionate support and passionate advocacy on behalf of transsexual and transgendered persons in their journeys toward health of body and mind and in their pursuit of personal freedom, including the freedom to alter their bodies and change their gender roles.

Our Values...

Fundamental to our success as an educational and advocacy organization is devotion to a unique set of values. This statement of values defines and communicates those motivating philosophies behind our mission:

Excellence— A primary value, our excellence is born of individual commitment to the highest personal potential— for if we are able to reach our individual potential, we can achieve excellence as individuals, as an organization and as a community.

Community— We value its well-being and we are committed to its progress, as expressed through our involvement with other transgendered, allies and other relevant persons and organizations that vitalize, energize and support our Trans communities in the cities, the states, the country and the world.

Diversity— We intend to serve and to seek the involvement and cooperation of all members of our diverse community, including female-to-male Trans people; Trans people of color and other ethnic minorities; Trans youth and seniors; Trans people living with HIV/AIDS and other disabilities; intersexed persons, and our Significant Others, Families, Friends and Allies.

Persistence— Since change is often incremental in nature, we seek to employ a determined patient focus in our advocacy efforts, noting that smaller victories of today lead to larger victories of tomorrow. We understand that we must act locally while thinking globally.

Service— We recognize that a personalized commitment of caring for others can be the source of our own growth and well-being, and we seek to foster this caring commitment in other members of our community.

Teamwork— Our success stems from teamwork. We recognize the equal value and individual contributions of each team member. We believe in mutual regard for each other and for those we serve. We encourage teamwork by working together respectfully, communicating openly and supporting the expression of differing opinions and perspectives.

Progress and Innovation— We understand the need for these attributes in the provision of our services and organizational management. While preserving the tradition and wisdom of those who have gone before us, we seek new information and state-of-the-art technology. We welcome new ideas to help us remain leaders in setting the direction of our community.

CONCLUSION

We envision GEA's mission to be complimentary, not competitive with the excellent work of other national gender organizations. In the immediate future, we shall be announcing specific GEA initiatives and projects, along with requests for your financial support. All donations made to GEA are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. But most of all, we want you to consider Gender Education & Advocacy YOUR organization. We want our services to be relevant to YOUR needs. Please let us hear from you, and look for future press releases that will let you know how you can be a part of this exciting new organization.

WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW MILLENNIUM

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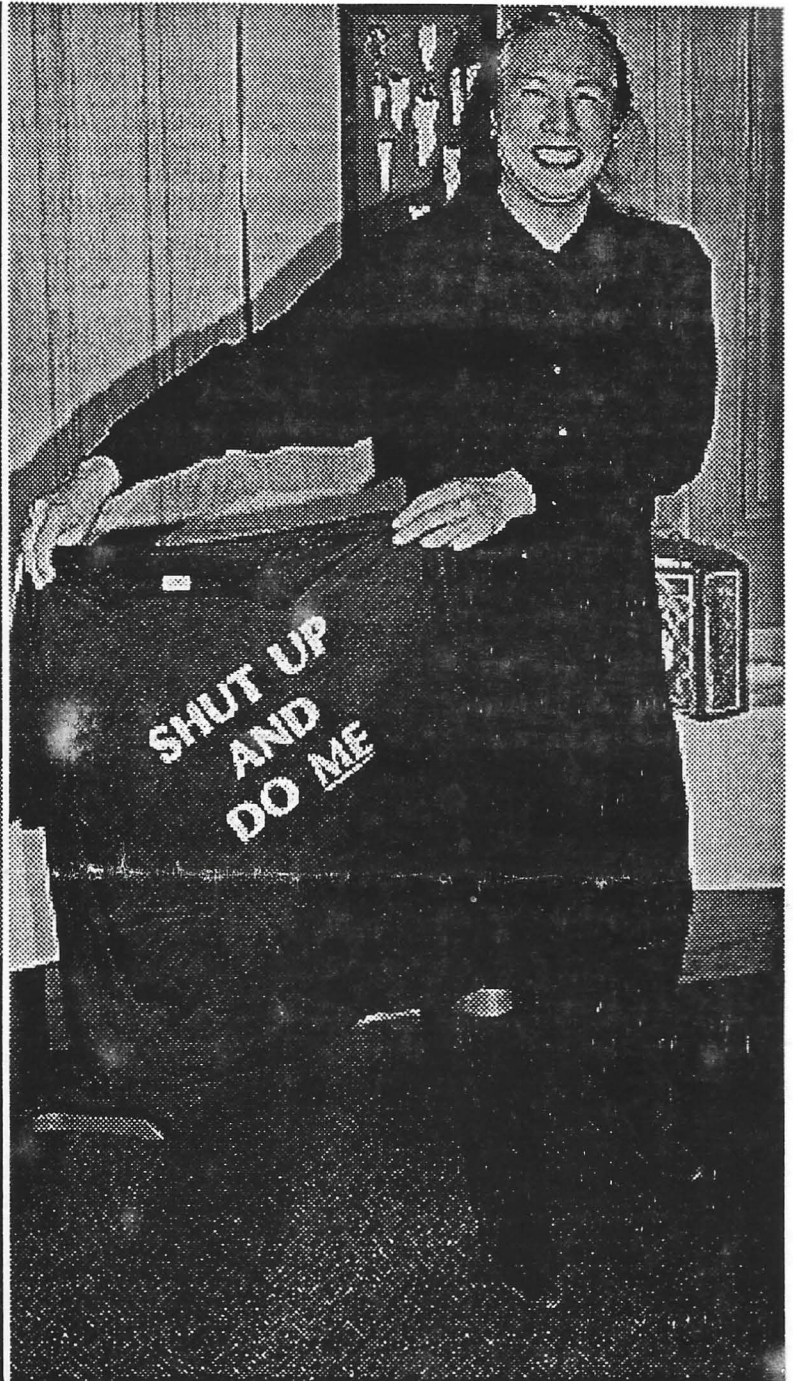
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TGSF FINANCIAL REPORTS

December 1 through December 31, 1999

TGSF Balance Sheet

As of 12/31/99

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts

TGSF 8,835.19

TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts 8,835.19

Other Assets

Computers 0.00

Event Equipment 1,200.00

TOTAL Other Assets 1,200.00

TOTAL ASSETS 10,035.19

LIABILITIES

Other Liabilities

Distribution of Proceeds for Cotillion 2000 -1,000.00

Insurance 0.00

TOTAL Other Liabilities -1,000.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES -1,000.00

OVERALL TOTAL 11,035.19

TGSF Cash Flow Report December

12/1/99 Through 12/31/99

INFLOWS

Advertising Income 1,750.00

Event Income:

Bar Receipts 35.00

Ticket Sales 652.00

TOTAL Event Income 687.00

Honorariums 75.00

Memberships 205.00

Other Inc, Bus:

Resource Guides 9.00

TOTAL Other Inc, Bus 9.00

TOTAL INFLOWS 2,726.00

OUTFLOWS

Awards & Gifts 250.00

Event Food 235.67

Postage and Delivery 253.75

Printing and Reproduction 169.93

Rent Paid 2,520.00

Supplies, Bus 74.11

Utilities, Bus:

Telephone, Bus 23.16

TOTAL Utilities, Bus 23.16

TOTAL OUTFLOWS 3,526.62

OVERALL TOTAL -800.62

DR. STRANGE LOVE

Written by Jim Rendon

From the December 16-22, 1999 issue of Metro,
Silicon Valley's Weekly Newspaper. (c)1999 Metro
Publishing Inc.

(Ed. Note: I don't know how many of you locals saw this, so I publish this mainly for the benefit of those outside the Bay Area who haven't.)

TRANS MISSION: Transgendered client Toni Choate says she suffered extreme emotional distress after having a sexual love affair with her therapist, first as a man and then, after her surgery, as a woman.

TONI CHOATE REPEATEDLY REACHES into a royal-blue bag of bite-sized Almond Joys, unwrapping each candy and holding it with delicate poise before placing it in her lipsticked mouth. They help calm her nerves, she says, and she needs that today, talking about all the things which were secret for so long, things with giant ramifications, things which embarrass her still.

Even with a manicure, Choate's hands are large and callused from years of working as a building contractor and the four decades she lived as a man. And each time she reaches for a nerve-calming candy nugget, she exposes something else: raised, pale scars crisscross the inside of her forearms, stacked atop one another like a pile of pickup sticks.

Though born a boy, Larry Dillon Choate, in Visalia, Calif., in 1953, Choate struggled all her life with the belief that she was a woman. It took two marriages, numerous bouts with drinking and drugs and eventually years of therapy for Choate to arrive at sex reassignment surgery. But Choate says the one person who was her bedrock of support and trust through all of that was the world-famous Santa Clara County sex therapist specializing in gender issues: Mildred Brown.

"One of the biggest things growing up was trust," Choate says in her quiet, methodical way. "I only trusted two people in my whole life, my grandmother and my sister. I didn't trust doctors or lawyers; I didn't trust anyone," she says and looks up. "But I trusted Dr. Brown."

ALL HER LIFE, Choate was ostracized. Any glimmer of her inner female identity led to rejection and abuse. In grade school, other children called her a sissy. In high school the school doctor gave her injections of testosterone because he detected elevated levels of estrogen, the female hormone, in her system. Choate says nothing ever felt right.

"Every day people get out of bed and look at themselves in the bathroom mirror and they don't think anything. I would wake up and look in the mirror and say, 'Who is this?'"

When Choate began seeing Mildred Brown, in 1994, she had reason to believe she was in good hands. Brown had made a name for herself locally by providing therapy and group sessions for transgender patients. In 1996 Brown published True Selves, an in-depth look at the challenges faced by transsexuals which was

Continued on Page 15

**TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give
as of January 15, 2000**

There were no donations for the period.

Won't you consider a tax deductible gift?

Dr. Strange Love...

Continued from Page 14

filled with lengthy quotes from her local patients. Brown was profiled in Metro when her book was published, and has been regarded as an expert on transgender issues in local papers and TV documentaries.

With Brown's help, Choate began working toward her goal—sex reassignment surgery—that would transform her from a man to a woman. But in 1995, her relationship with her therapist changed.

One day, a year into therapy, Brown asked Choate to fix a broken bracket in her closet. It seemed like a small request, Choate remembers, and given Choate's decades of contracting experience, perhaps not unreasonable. In the private closet in Brown's master bedroom, Choate pushed aside her therapist's clothes. When she looked down, she couldn't help but notice a box of sex toys. "I felt special—there was nothing I wouldn't do for her," Choate says. "But it was also like the first time that your parents tell you they have sex. You don't really want to know about it."

In May 1995, Brown went further. She asked Choate to remodel her kitchen. Choate took the job.

During a therapy session in June 1995, Choate began to cry. Tears flowed for a long time as Choate let go decades of pent-up anger and frustration. Though the reason for those tears escapes her now, she cannot forget what happened next. Rather than keep her professional distance, Choate says her therapist got up from her easy chair and sat down on the couch next to Choate. Brown held her hand, Choate says, and then hugged her.

On July 30, 1995, Choate says she had finished her day's work on the kitchen when Brown encouraged her to spend the night in her guestroom, rather than drive over the hill to Santa Cruz. Brown's husband, Bernard, had already gone to bed. Brown asked Choate to join her on the couch in the living room. Sitting side by side on the couch, Choate says her therapist stroked her face; then, she says, Brown kissed her.

In August, Choate moved in with Brown and her husband. The two stayed up late watching TV, painting their nails and eating M & M's, Choate says. Choate even has a tattoo on her leg of two M & M's—under one is inked Mildred and under the other Mandi, Mildred's middle name, which Brown insisted on using.

They did everything together, shopping, going to movies and plays. Choate loved to cook and often prepared meals for the couple. At night Choate slept in a small guestroom, she says, but after Bernard left for work, she would join her therapist in the master bedroom.

Perhaps most damaging, Choate says, was Brown's desire for Choate to use her penis during their sexual encounters. It was an organ which she planned to remove and which she says she never identified with. Choate always felt she was a woman; she had no desire to be a man or to be with one. But when Brown asked her to use her penis, Choate complied, leaving her feeling confused and disturbed.

AS THE MONTHS ROLLED BY, Brown made it clear that no one was to find out about their affair, Choate says. The sexologist told her that if anyone found out, it would ruin her career and destroy her family.

Choate needed Brown in order to make her transformation complete. According to the internationally recognized guidelines for treating transgender patients, surgeons must receive two letters of recommendation, at least one from a licensed therapist, before performing sex reassignment surgery. Brown devotes a number of pages to the guidelines in her book, and Choate says she preached about them to her patients.

One reason so much care is required is because the procedure, especially for males, is nearly irreversible. In surgery, the penis' erectile tissue is removed. The skin is inverted and placed in a cavity created between the patient's rectum and urethra. Part of the top of the penis is used to create a clitoris, and the scrotum is used to sculpt the labia. Most patients can be orgasmic following surgery. But reversing the procedure is nearly impossible.

Though Choate asked Brown for her letter again and again, the therapist just put it off. When she finally confronted Brown, Choate says that the sexologist, who had been Choate's only counselor for more than a year, told Choate that she did not want to do it. Instead, Choate says, Brown merely called the surgeon and promised to send the letter at a later date. The letter was never sent, Choate says.

Since Brown was not a lesbian, Choate worried that her therapist would reject her once she recovered from her surgery. But instead, she says, the relationship only intensified. She did more work for the Browns, fixing family cars and remodeling many of their properties, including Mildred's home office. She went with Brown to Portland, where Brown had a face lift, and she planned elaborate parties for Brown's birthday and book release. Choate says she had fallen in love with her therapist.

"Every part of my life revolved around Millie," Choate says. "She controlled where I made my money, where I lived, she was my sex partner, I cooked for her, I went everywhere with her."

At the same time, Choate says she could not slow the creeping guilt she felt every time she looked at Bernard. Even now she has trouble talking about it. "At the time this was going on there was a lot of chaos inside because I was—" she says, pausing, closing her eyes. "They treated me nicely and I feel guilty about—" she stops again and takes a deep breath and holds it, exhaling slowly. "I don't like hurting people, and in the back of my mind I knew I was hurting Bernard."

There was no one she could talk honestly with about her guilt, her changes, and her relationship with Brown. "Looking back," Choate says, "I stepped out of one closet and was placed right into another one after I fought so hard to get out."

Continued on Page 16



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Continued from Page 15

CROSS PURPOSES: Like most sex therapists, Mildred Brown has no state-issued license to practice sexology. In California, psychiatrists, psychologists, and marriage and family counselors are regulated by the state, but not sexologists.

IN JANUARY 1997, after living with the Browns for almost a year and a half, the Browns and Choate formed a corporation. They called it Milberton, for Millie, Bernard and Toni, and they purchased the Savoy, a lesbian bar in San Jose. Toni and other women in the gay community renovated the bar and Toni managed it.

Though Choate had a history of alcoholism and substance abuse that Brown, her therapist, was well aware of, Brown nonetheless chose to put Choate in charge of the bar. And not surprisingly, Choate began to drink and take pills. Saddled with her secret relationship, and turning to drink, she became increasingly unstable, and increasingly dependent on Brown.

On June 6, 1997, in Brown's home office, Choate gave her therapist a surprise. She handed Brown a small felt-covered box. As Brown opened it, she began to cry, Choate says. Inside was a wedding ring. Brown slipped the ring on her finger, accepting it without pause.

Choate says that Brown had often talked with her about leaving her husband and running off with her client. The Browns had planned a trip to Europe at the end of the month. Choate was making her play for Brown. And the therapist agreed that she would back out of the trip and move away with Choate while her husband was gone.

Then she changed her mind. In the days before the trip, Choate and Brown made frantic calls back and forth. But by the end, Choate could tell that Brown was backing out.

Crushed by abandonment, Choate told Brown she would kill herself. She says she drove to Mission Beach in Carmel, where she had often scuba dived, near where she had spent time with Brown. At sunset, Choate washed a fistful of painkillers down with half a bottle of tequila and swam into the setting sun. She clung onto a kelp bed, turned her head to the sky and waited for the tide to drag her out to sea.

When she came to, she was face down in the sand. The surf was breaking over her back as she puked up her suicide cocktail.

The following day, Choate drove back to Brown's home. It was quiet—empty. Mildred had left her a note. "I love you, we'll talk when I get back. I hope you are OK," it read. Choate snapped. She tore pictures of Brown and her husband off the refrigerator and ripped them in half. Then she packed to leave.

But on her way out, Choate passed the master bedroom. Seeing the bed where she and Brown had made love so often filled her with rage. In lipstick, on the bathroom mirror, she scrawled, "You don't sleep in my bed." Then, with her handgun, she unloaded 10 .38 caliber bullets into the bed.

Choate put the smoking gun to her own head. She pulled the trigger. It clicked. She had run out of bullets.

BEHIND BARS in Santa Clara County Jail, Choate had plenty of time to think over what had happened. Her defense team hired Dr. Jules Burstein, a forensic psychiatrist, to evaluate her. Burstein was appalled by what Choate told him about her relationship with Brown. "

Apart from seriously injuring or killing a patient it is hard to imagine a form of betrayal more violative than to enter into a sexual relationship with them," Burstein says.

Burstein has worked with many patients who have had sexual relationships with their therapists and says the impacts are tremendous. "There is an incredible experience of violation of trust and professional betrayal. Anyone who goes into therapy, there is a common knowledge that you don't have sexual relationships with your clients."

When Burstein evaluated Choate he was hardly shy about what he saw as Brown's responsibility for Choate's mental deterioration. "[T]here were clear indications of moderate to severe psychological problems of a long-standing nature which have been geometrically exacerbated by the sexual relationship between the client and her former therapist," he wrote in his letter to the court. Nonetheless, Choate served eight months in county jail.

Burstein points out that boundary violations are considered so damaging that any licensed therapist, whether a psychiatrist, psychologist or marriage, family and child counselor, will immediately lose his or her license once a sexual relationship with a client is disclosed. And in California it is against the law, punishable by jail time and fines. But only if the therapist is licensed.

Brown, however, is not licensed. In California, psychiatrists, psychologists and marriage and family therapists and others are regulated by the state. Even barbers have licenses—but not sexologists. Sexology is only regulated in one state: Florida.

Continued on Page 17

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According to her biography, Brown's only advanced degree is a Ph.D. in human sexuality from the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco. Brown is certified by two professional organizations, the American Board of Sexology and the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists. Both groups have requirements for certification which include an advanced degree and a certain number of hours of clinical work. The later group has a detailed code of ethics that strictly forbids any kind of dual relationship between therapist and client, including a sexual one. The American Board of Sexology, on the other hand, has no ethical guidelines at all. But Bill Easterling, director of the organization, says that if verifiable allegations of a sexual relationship were reported to his organization, the member would most certainly lose certification.

BUT LOSING CERTIFICATION does not mean losing the ability to practice. Without state licensing, there is nothing stopping Brown from continuing her practice as long as she can continue to bring in patients.

Ted McIlvenna, who wrote a jacket quote for Brown's book, is president of the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality. He says that psychology and sexology are completely different professions and there is little need for state licensing of sexologists. "The strange thing is that I've never known a clinical sexologist to fuck their patients. They don't do that. Generally people in other fields have the magic cock theory," he says.

Part of the reason that McIlvenna doesn't worry about long-term relationships between sexologists and their clients is because he does not see the work as long-term psychotherapy that confronts deeper issues. Much of that work is done by people who are already licensed mental health professionals who specialize in sexology. Many students at his school are pursuing a specialty in addition to their clinical background and are already regulated by various state agencies. Those sexologists with no license for any mental health practice generally have short-lived relationships with their patients, some totaling only two or three visits, he says.

But that is not how Brown conducted herself. Choate saw her several times a month for three years. Other patients also have had long-term therapeutic relationships with Brown. Given the kind of sensitive, moving materials she uses in her book, and that appear in her notes from sessions with Choate, she was doing far more than conveying technical information about sex reassignment. Choate's attorneys say she was, in effect, counseling people who were going through dramatic changes in their lives.

"There is a lot of danger with a sexologist who is not licensed," says John Winer, one of Choate's attorneys. There is a tendency to compartmentalize the mind, he says—to go to a drug counselor for drug use, a sexologist for sex issues—but most problems run much deeper than that, requiring someone more qualified. "Alcohol abuse is more than just having too many drinks," he says.

HIDDEN BEHIND the Billy DeFrank Center is a place called "Carla's" where the transgendered community can come to meet, spend time together and shoot a few games of pool. Many of Brown's patients have spent at least a little time hanging out in Carla's. Jennifer Woolcott and Connie Place, two of Brown's pa-

Men may leer at you, and THEY WILL HIT ON YOU, as, in case I overlooked mentioning it, this is a SEX CLUB - if you are not interested, just politely say NO - They are not allowed to harass you, nor are they permitted to get physical with you. The Doormen keep out the drunks so that is not a concern. Touching without permission is totally forbidden - just look at the signs. Having said that, please do not freak if someone tries to sneak a hand brush on your bottom - take it as a compliment, but if they persist - they are guaranteed the boot!! And Remember - these rules apply to you as well.....

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HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA - Oh My I can't type when I am laughing so hard!! HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA - Dress Code? HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA -- Excuse me while I wipe away the tears...That totally outrageous outfit you have always wanted to wear - Fetish Wear - Latex -Leather - bra/panties -no bra/panties - will fit right in -Just remember this is a SEX CLUB...there are ugly UGLY vicious rumors about me running around in there naked, but these are blatantly false, as I always have on spike heels and earrings.

In Closing, even though I have perhaps sounded like I was sounding an alarm, I feel EXTEMEELY SAFE inside the Power Exchange, and virtually all the men inside are well behaved. I visit the club on a weekly basis, and have had what I consider a great time on each visit - I think it is the most fun place to go in San Francisco for T Girls. The experience can be overwhelming at first, but once you get used to environment there, I think you will have a BLAST. I do hope that I did not fail to mention it is a SEX CLUB.



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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.

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Dr. Strange Love...

Continued from Page 17

tients, want to talk about how important Brown has been to them. Enveloped by the room's pink walls and fading flowers, Woolcott explains that Brown saved her life.

Woolcott tried to run her car off the road into a pylon and end her life rather than explain her gender identity to her family, her children. She missed, and survived unscathed. She began reading Brown's book and called the therapist before she'd even finished it. Brown agreed to see her. In less than a year, Woolcott says, Brown's expertise, warmth and compassion helped her find her way again. "If I had not found Millie, there is no doubt in my mind that I would have finished the job soon," she says.

There are hundreds if not thousands of others who feel the same way, they say. Though Brown was not licensed, no one has alleged that she ever claimed otherwise, they say. Both Woolcott and Place say that Brown was professional but compassionate, and that she always provided referrals to mental health professionals, physicians, whatever her patients needed. Both have been to many mental health professionals, licensed and not, and say that Brown was unquestionably the best.

In 1996, the community had a chance to show Brown how much she had helped. At the Billy DeFrank center, 250 of Brown's friends and clients gathered to celebrate the publication of her book, *True Selves*. One woman told the group that Brown had saved her life. Brown told Metro in 1997, "He asked how many people in the room felt their lives had been saved because they met me. Forty or 50 hands went up, and the whole room burst out in tears."

Woolcott and Place are not surprised that Brown hired Choate to help around the house, even that she went into business with the patient. Most people who go through sex reassignment surgery lose their jobs, homes and family. The surgery itself costs more than \$30,000 and is not covered by insurance. Many people in the community lend a helping hand. Place says that Brown has even waived her therapist fee when Place was down on her luck. Her generosity has helped to make the transgender community here generous, they say.

JUST OFF MERIDIAN AVENUE in west San Jose, Mildred and Bernard Brown's home, with its two-car garage and manicured lawn, blends perfectly into its winding, tree-lined suburban neighborhood.

Brown did not return calls from Metro, but instead referred them to her attorney, Steven Fink, who refused to comment on the case, or on the settlement reached last month.

Choate's attorney Linda Scaparotti said that keeping the dollar amount paid to Choate by the Browns private was a condition of the settlement. She would not say whether it approached the \$2.5 million sought.

"You saw the [seven-volume] file [at the courthouse]," she said. "We would not have gone through all of that for nothing" was all she would say. Also as part of the settlement agreement, all the countersuits were dropped.

"Our argument was that there is a standard of care that everyone needs to live up to," Scaparotti says. "She [Brown] was acting as a psychotherapist. She called herself a therapist in her book and therefore she should be held to the same standard of care as a psychotherapist."

Ultimately, licensing and state regulation for sexologists may be the best way to curb the kind of abuse that Choate says she suffered. And this case may help to spur that cause.

"We hope that ... it will cause sexologists to tighten up the standard of care with firm boundaries," Winer says. "We hope this case could cause the Legislature to want to regulate this field."

Howard Ruppel, director of AASECT, agrees that licensing is important. "It's on our agenda for the next century," he says. "But it is a huge task to undertake. It's going to take awhile."

As Choate stands up from the table in the conference room, she twists a ring perched at the end of her index finger. Letters punched into the thick silver band read "Woman in Love." "It's a gift from my daughter," Choate explains. Her teenage daughter has been living with her for a year now, and Choate says that the teenager has recharged her entire life, giving her the strength to move forward, the strength to dredge up all the pain she experienced with Brown. She knows she is doing the right thing. "If there is someone else out there in a similar situation, I know they will hear about this and know that they can get out," Choate says, turning to walk away.

"That is worth everything for me."

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