

Another Social = Smiles!

The Channel
TGSF
Transgender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)



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

The Channel

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

ExCom 2000 - 2001 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President Nicole Cook
 Vice President Aiyana Eveningstar
 Secretary Debbie Cook
 Acting Treasurer Debbie Cook
 Education Stephanie Ann Blythe / Jennifer Antoinette
 Outreach Telzey Adams / Kalani Makanani
 Social Tianna "Diva" DeVil / Serena Anderson

Membership Report

As of April 15, 2001

Membership 256
 Total Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Membership 256
 New Memberships This Year 50

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

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

Newsletter Staff

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

Ad Rates

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

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

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Whacking Hornet Nests...

Fair warning. You're probably not going to like this article. I don't even like writing it, but I must. But as I've said before, I view my column as art - and art is subversive - so if I get any response from you then my art works. But I don't want you to respond to me personally - I want you to respond as an organization to what I'm going to say this month. Get up, get out, get active, and get involved. Get mad even, but I'm not interested in publishing a lot of unproductive whining in next month's Readers Respond pages as a result of the following. I wanna see some results people! OK, gloves are off, let's get down to the nitty gritty...

Has anyone but me noticed that we haven't had an Education Seminar since last October? And as of the April ExCom meeting, there are none firmly scheduled for this month or beyond. It wasn't that long ago that we had one every month like clockwork, even two seminars a month when the TS Seminars project was in effect (alas, a noble but short-lived endeavor). But now? Nada. Zippo. A veritable drought. Doesn't that jeopardize the organization's non-profit status? What's more disturbing is that not one of you has mentioned it, nor complained about it, nor stepped in to fill the void. What's going on?

Maybe I was right when I called TGSF nothing but a bunch of crossdressers looking for a party. I hope you prove me wrong, but take a good, hard look. First it was ETVC - the Educational TV Channel and now TGSF - TransGender San Francisco. Remember all the fuss and squabble over the name change and the logo? God it went on for years! I mean, to hell with the name of the club - what does that really mean anyway? I think we're deceiving ourselves. If we're so darn inclusive, where are the services for the transsexuals? Where are the services for the FTM's? Where are the services for questioning youth? What happened to the Significant Other support group? Where are the seminars?! The only thing TGSF has published in their Calendar for the last 7 months have been "socials" posing as monthly meetings. Despite resident spin-doctor's attempts at wordy and politically correct disclaimers such as you'll find at the bottom of each Channel cover, isn't TGSF just a crossdresser's club? Hasn't it always been?

And the community scuttlebutt I hear is bearing this up. Just about every TS I talk to who may or may not have been a member say pretty much the same thing: the club is great as a way-station, a chance to evaluate, get some basic information, and then invariably move on. It's fine for what it is, but the focus of the group seems more flash than substance - not much to offer those of us who identify as transsexual. Ya want my theory? TGSF is so wrapped up in producing the annual albatross called the Cotillion, that other services (and we won't even mention the non-existent election process this year), have fallen by the wayside. I mean, get real people - it's a beauty pageant! And now we're issuing thick manuals on how to produce one, and an entire year's worth of volunteer time is spent focused on that one night. Four hours of greasepaint and feathers and then the whole laborious process begins all over again. It's starting right now. But what I want to know is, how can a group calling itself TransGender San Francisco and purporting to be all inclusive, continue to support a bloated and out-of-control cash cow that does *nothing* to dispel the stereotypes that TG's are either victims or showgirls! Yes it was a fun evening - I went. I had a good time. But I could've spent less and gotten pretty much the same thing at Asia-SF.

Did any of you notice that last month we published two sizeable donations (to the tune of over \$3000!) from the Cooks reflecting nothing less than a bailout for a Halloween Party and the 1999 Cotillion? And this was their personal money! Aren't you

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YOUR CHIEF SERVANT

By Nicole Cook

Well this is my last article as President of TGSF (unless I get elected to the position in some future election). I have had a good time as President and it really has been a pleasure working with the outgoing Executive Committee.

While my three-year period of service to TGSF on the Executive Committee is coming to an end, my participation in efforts to assist the Transgender community is not. You still have the opportunity to work with me to improve the Transgender experience. I am currently one of the leaders of the Employment Work Group of the San Francisco TransGender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force (SFTGCRITF), this is a duty I share with Mr. Stacy Jackson a very capable and committed individual. As always we can use your help. Helping the employment work group or one of the other four work groups of the SFTGCRITF is your opportunity to really make a difference for the TG community. You can do work for the task force dressed in whatever gender role you feel comfortable in. Keep in mind that what we do in San Francisco becomes a model for policies and legislation throughout the country.

In addition to my work for the SFTGCRITF, Debbie and I will be attending the GenderPAC conference in Washington DC this month (May) on the 18th, 19th, 20th and the gender lobby days on the 21st and 22nd. Based on my experience at the conference, I may decide to become a GenderPAC representative for the Northern California area. I do have an interest in making things happen at the State and Federal level, and I am looking for a way to become more involved in those efforts. So you may end up hearing from me with regards to this effort as well.

Some people have asked me why I elected not to run for President again this year and I wanted to say a bit about that. While there were a few issues that effected my decision, the most significant one was my concern that the organization (TGSF) should stay unified. Some of you may know that Debbie and I became more active in SGA (Sacramento Gender Association) after a difference of opinion on how the group should be run nearly split the group apart. SGA had been such a great place to go, and we met so many great people there, we did not want to see it get broken up.

It would be great if all the TG groups only had members who could see past their differences and work to make the group better. And in many instances this is the case (certainly, our last Executive Committee, and SGA's last Board of Directors is an example of that). Sometimes there are people who think things should be done differently and there is nothing wrong with that. Unfortun-

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From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

fortunate that they were members with the means to do so! I've complained in this column before about the extravagant expense and effort surrounding the Cotillion, only to watch it balloon into the financial quagmire it is today. And now that neither of the Cooks have run for another term on the ExCom, who's going to bail the group out on the next Cotillion? Take a look at the meeting minutes - if TGSF paid off the remaining 2001 Cotillion debt right now, it would go broke. Obviously it's being deferred until membership renewals come in. But do you really think your meager thirty dollars a year is going to fund the 2002 show? Think again.

Victims Or Showgirls...

That's right, and I for one am certainly neither! But that's how we're portrayed in the media and on the news. It's either Remember Our Dead, or another nightly showing of Lipsynch And Wiggle at the local watering hole, of which the Cotillion is just a puffed up and polished variation on the theme. And a lot of TS's in this town are disillusioned with the indifferent, blinkers-on attitude that TGSF members seem to have adopted lately. And I'm not talking about the one's who hold a seat on the ExCom or who appear somewhat regularly in this newsletter. I'm talking about those of you lurking on the perimeter, the ones who pay your dues, live vicariously through the media and keep your closet well stocked and tidy. You know...sheep...the flock.

We've got terrific people in this organization. Bright, shining lights in the murky bog of our community. People like Theresa Sparks - the *first ever* transgender to be appointed to San Francisco's Human Rights Commission - are fighting to dispel those images and running into walls of apathy from the very community she's fighting for. She recently posted to the TGSF e-group list asking for a show of support for St. Luke's Hospital. Our own resident Diva, Tianna deVil, transitioned there as a nurse and has since even been promoted. They are one, if not the only hospital in SF, with an employee transsexual transition policy (that Tianna helped formulate by the way). Theresa's reasoning was that if we can keep St. Luke's open, and get the affiliation with Sutter Health finished, we then will be able to go to the other nine Sutter hospitals and get transition policies instituted. Theresa is trying to effect real, positive changes in the quality of transsexuals' lives. But not one of you bothered to fax a letter of support. I mean, why would you, right? You're just a crossdresser - transition policies in the workplace got nothing to do with you, so why should you care? Certainly, as an organization, TGSF has valiantly tried to present you with opportunities to participate - just read Dana River's letter on Page 10. The question is, will you actually do anything about it? (Oh, I can sense the hate mail coming now!)

We're Broke?...

Well...I'd say we're pretty darn close to going into the red. I received the Member of the Year Award in 1998-99 because I sold over \$8,000 in advertising that year while trimming newsletter production costs by 30%. And TGSF has been living off that fat for the last two years. But that money's dried up now. As you know, I left the area and couldn't keep up the ad sales. Seriously, it only took an hour of my time each day to make some phone calls to our advertisers. And if I sold a six-month or a year contract, then I wouldn't have to call them again until they were up for renewal. It only took a couple months to get the ball rolling and after that it was pretty much self-sustaining. A couple phone calls a week was all it took. And all of them were happy to hear from me - many hadn't been contacted by anyone in the group for years! It's not hard, people. The database is readily available. We

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EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Sebastopol, CA at Nicole and Debbie's home on April 8, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. In attendance were President Nicole Cook, Vice President Aiyana Eveningstar, Secretary and acting Treasurer Debbie Cook, Education Co-Chair Stephanie Ann Blythe, Social Co-Chair Serena Anderson, Outreach Co-Chair Kalani Makanani and Outreach Co-Chair Telzey Adams. Social Co-Chair Tianna DeVil and Education Co-Chair Jennifer Antoinette were absent. Rachael Janelle and Janis Ryan were guests. The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm.



President: Nicole started the meeting by handing out revised Executive Committee Notebooks to those members who are running unopposed for the 2001-2002 ExCom. The President, Secretary and Treasurer received diskettes along with their notebooks with backups of important information including the membership database, the General Journal, the Bylaws and budget information. Nicole mentioned that in the notebooks are copies of the original documents which include the DBA paperwork, CCC, Tax Id information and any other official documents that were thought missing. Standing rules were updated for Secretary, Treasurer, Outreach and Education Chairs. A new section has been added to the notebooks on How To Produce A Cotillion. This includes contracts, timelines, layouts, deadlines, publicity information, insurance information, contestant guidelines, budgets, etc. This will be helpful for anyone coming into the ExCom and needs to know how the Cotillion should be produced. Rachael mentioned that the surrounding event information needs to be added. This needs to be created and added before the next ExCom.

We have received, from the letter we had sent out to doctors asking for donations, a check for \$100 from Dr. Broussard in Canada to be added to the TGSF Education Fund. We have also started receiving donations from members that will help to cover the last bill received from the Design Center. We have also made a \$200 donation to Project Open Hand and a \$200 donation to the FXB fund for children with AIDS. As on right now, the last Cotillion bill is all that is left to take care of.

Awards were discussed for the next End of Month social. They generally go to those members who have helped an Executive Chair in any way during the year to make their job easier. Serena wonders if the person nominated for an award needs to be a member of TGSF. Nicole mentioned that it cannot be an ExCom member, but traditionally, they have been members of TGSF. There is no reason why it cannot be someone outside of TGSF though. Debbie needs to know at least a week before the social so the certificates can be made.

Based on the numbers right now, we have spent more money than we have made this year. Last year, we earned more due to an increase in advertising by Ayme helping out. Rachael mentioned that since she has a database of advertisers from the Cotillion that she may be interested in pushing for advertising from those who normally only advertise in the Cotillion brochure.

Nicole mentioned the transfer of TGSF supplies and property. It is sorted out and we would like to get it to the correct ExCom members. We also hold all of the Social chair supplies for the Halloween Party as well as a large box of office supplies. Anyone who has room to hold some of the property and supplies would be greatly appreciated if we could transfer it to them for storage. Serena asked about the use of the TGSF shared office space in the new Community Center. The room will not be big

enough to hold all of our supplies, but the telephone and flyers be transferred there. The library may be able to be merged into managed by the Community Center library if they have one then.

Vice President: The last Saturday in January was requested for next year's Cotillion. Aiyana is considering looking into Fort Mason as a place to hold the Cotillion.

There was no post-mortem meeting for the cotillion. A meeting time and day couldn't be coordinated with everyone, so Aiyana talked with everyone on the phone to get some ideas of things that could be done better next year. Marcia Chapdelaine mentioned that the Cotillion concept seemed to be getting old since we were covered many times before by the media, but this is really our event that has gone on for many years, allowing members of the TG community to come out and shine. Aiyana thought of ways that could save us money, but for many people, those cost savings like colored tickets and the debutante parade, are important to those who are coming out for the first time. It is a keepsake or memory that is a wonderful thing to keep.

Marcia also indicated the importance of the PR duties and mentioned she may be interested in doing that job. LeChara's name was also brought up in this discussion and Nicole mentioned that we had more than 1 person doing PR the year we had the good press coverage. LeChara was a really great PR person last year and Aiyana hopes we may be able to get her again.

Aiyana has submitted the applications for the 2001 Pride Parade early so we were able to pay less than we usually do. Miss TGSF has a lot of input into the idea behind the building of the float. The theme of the parade this year is "Queerific!!". Aiyana asked for any ideas on building a float for that theme if anyone can come up with one. Rachael mentioned that we should hand out flyers for the Cotillion and for membership at the parade this year.

Secretary: Membership is at 248 which is 3 below than last year, but I am confident that we will end on a positive membership note. Debbie mentioned that Dear Diva has had a request from her royal highness Chablis has requested those of us who had performed at the Emperor Jose's gravesite to perform the snow scene from the Nutcracker at the next San Francisco Coronation. This is on February 23, 2002. Stephan will be designing the costumes that will be more elegant than the last tutu's we wore at the gravesite doing Swan Lake. We will have a stage and everything this time. Diva is looking for 12 people to participate.

Last month's meeting minutes were approved.

Tax cleanup is continuing. After sending a request for information from the 1998 tax year and the IRS called to say they couldn't find any information on our tax filing from that year so they will be returning our fee we paid to get copies. The 1999 taxes have been deferred to the next ExCom since last terms Treasurer will be the next terms Secretary and hopefully she will be in a better position to get the financial information which the current Treasurer was not able to receive in time to do last years taxes. The 2000 taxes are still being worked on and will be completed by the turnover meeting.

Editor: The newsletter went out on time which contained a ballot for the election, a donation letter and a Cal Dreamin' flyer. We are on budget.

Publicist: There were no advertising renewals this month.

Treasurer: We currently have \$1,200.78 in the bank account and are so far in good condition as far as the bank account goes, but we still don't have enough to pay the last bill from the venue. A new category has been set up in the General Journal for the Education Fund and the \$100 that was donated by Dr. Broussard was added to that category.

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TGSF BALANCE SHEET

Assets	
Cash	\$2,121.87
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Total Assets	<u>\$3,371.87</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (Cotillion Expense)	\$2,851.88
Educational Fund	\$100.00
Taxes	\$0.00
Insurance	\$0.00
Utilities	\$52.11
Operations	\$272.83
Total Liabilities	\$3,276.82
Equity	\$95.05
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>\$3,371.87</u>

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue	
Membership	\$1,090.00
Advertising	\$0.00
Cotillion	\$0.00
Donations	\$955.00
Social	\$0.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
	<u>\$2,045.00</u>
Expenses	
Cotillion	\$0.00
Halloween Party	\$0.00
Big Shew	\$0.00
Pride Parade	\$0.00
Social	\$20.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$652.52
Operations	\$324.94
	<u>\$997.46</u>
Net (Positive) Income	<u>\$1,047.54</u>

DRESS FOR DINNER ??

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

██████████@hotmail.com

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Co-Social Chairs: Serena asked about the room we are expected to have at the Holiday Inn during Cal Dreamin'. Nicole hadn't heard from Joan Goodnight yet about which room we are expected to have. With the fashion show being planned, Serena needs to know what kind of setup is needed to get it going. Nicole will call her to let her know which room we will be at.

As far as the mid-month for May, Serena is working with Darcy on getting a pub-crawl going. She will let us know the time frame soon. The End of Month social in May will probably be held at the Blue Muse unless there is some other change.

Outreach Chair 1: Kalani mentions that there will be some checks in the mail from DeAnza College in the amount of \$150 coming soon and to watch for them. Kalani also wondered if TGSF has letterhead and since we do, Debbie will place it on a diskette for her so she can send thank you letters to the speakers who participate in the outreach seminars.

Nicole asked if Kalani is running into problems with getting speakers. She mentioned that there are times that she has trouble getting speakers, but not usually. Nicole mentioned that Kalani can always call us to get us to speak.

Nicole passed along a phone number for a new outreach speaker that she met at the SF Task Force Meeting.

Outreach Chair 2: Telzey is still willing to woman the booth at the parade this year. Nicole and Debbie passed along a large box of Tapestry magazines to her.

Telzey also mentioned that during the rolling blackouts, Erin Souza seems to always be affected by them where she lives. The TGSF telephone is physically located in Erin's closet and every time there is a blackout, the phone has to be reconfigured. It would probably be a nice idea to check into placing the phone in the new Community Center.

Education Chair 1: Stephanie Ann mentioned that she is looking into doing a hormones seminar at the Berkeley Center. One of the doctors from Berkeley would probably be willing to give it. It would be nice to have another speaker for that seminar as well and June is a possible month for it.

Education Chair 2: Jennifer was absent.

Adjournment: At 5:35 p.m., Nicole makes a motion to close the meeting, Serena seconded the motion, and the motion was passed. The next ExCom turnover meeting will be held at Aiyana's house in San Francisco on May 6th at 4:00pm.

Special Topics Meeting: Stephanie Ann mentioned an LGBT organization that is protesting the internet blocking of other LGBT organizations and children not being allowed to accessing our organizations with their computers on the internet. She has information about it if anyone is interested.

Nicole wondered if anyone was really passionate about pursuing grants. Serena mentioned LeChara and how she is very passionate about what she gets involved in. Nicole mentioned that Juana put together a package together for the Horizon Foundation to try to get grants, however, the Horizon Foundation has timelines in getting your information in. If you are even a little late, you have to wait until next year. Debbie checked into the Horizon Foundation as well and they are actively sending us information every time their grant year comes around. The new Secretary will have this folder marked Grants in her possession at the turnover meeting.

Sunday / May 6th / 4:00pm

EXCOM MEETING

This month is the turnover meeting of last years ExCom to the new ExCom. The meeting will be held at Aiyana Eveningstar's home in San Francisco. Her address is [redacted] (between [redacted] and [redacted]).

If you are interested in coming to the meeting, please contact Aiyana at (415) [redacted]. This is a good time to voice your opinion about how you would like to see your organization run !!

Wednesday / May 9th / 7:00pm

TRANSBAY SOCIAL

Don't forget that 2nd Wednesday of the month is the day that the TransBay group meets at Quetzals. Quetzals is located at 1234 Polk, between Sutter and Bush (right down the street from Kimo's. Park in the large parking structure and walk around the corner to where the coffee shop is located. This event starts at 7:00pm.

Wednesday / May 9th / 8:00pm

TGSF MID-MONTH SOCIAL

We are trying a new place this time. It's call the Holy Cow. The address is 1535 Folsom (between 11th and 12th) in San Francisco. The neat thing about this place is it is caddy corner to Hamburger Mary's, so you can stop in there for a bite to eat and then join your friends at the Holy Cow.

There is a large back room to the place, so if you don't see any of your friends in the front area, head on back to the patio in the back. Hope to see you all there !!

Monday / May 21st / 8:00pm

DIABLO VALLEY GIRLS BIRTHDAY PARTY

DVG will celebrate its tenth birthday with a party at Club 1220, 1220 Pine Street in Walnut Creek. We are planning a big celebration and everyone is invited. There will be door prizes, food and, of course, a birthday cake. For more information, please call our hotline at (925) 937-8432 or e-mail us at dvg@transgender.org

Thursday / May 31st / 8:00pm

TGSF END OF MONTH SOCIAL

Since this is the month that the new ExCom steps into office, we have decided to hold a low key End-of-Month social at The Blue Muse. Don't worry tho, Tianna and Savannah have some plans for you this coming term!!

The Blue Muse is located at 409 Gough Street in San Francisco. Park in any of the local parking lots on either side of the restaurant.

New Members since April Issue:

Brenda	Jessica Connor and Jennifer Stroud
Dear Diva	Bill Jones
Felicia A. Elizondo	Jubilee Gee

Welcome!

May's Birthdays...

5/00	Valerie Cross	5/13	Serena Anderson
5/1	Susan Agles	5/13	Sallie Hunt, LMFT
5/1	Cindy McKay	5/14	Phyllis Fink
5/1	Sylvia Frinak	5/15	Cindy Martin
5/2	Consuela Valdes	5/21	Robyn Smith
5/3	Ellie	5/21	Sybil Holiday
5/4	Melanie Okubo	5/23	Angela Pidge
5/7	Karen Erickson	5/24	Donna Kambic
5/9	April Brennan	5/25	Marielle Valence
5/9	Gracia Thoreson	5/25	Tianna DeVil
5/10	Amanda Gonzales	5/26	Kathy Edwards
5/10	Alicia Chan	5/26	Mischa Davis
5/10	J.F. Schimmel	5/28	Nicole Cook
5/12	Joyce White	5/29	Rhonda
		5/30	Chris Silver

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

NEW ONLINE SO LIST!

New online mailing list for wives and SOs of crossdressers and men who consider themselves to be transgendered; no topic off limits. Attitudes range from complete acceptance to really struggling. Open to women only—no crossdressers please! Women need a place where they can feel safe to discuss these issues.
Write to Jenni at www.aluckywife@aol.com and explain a little about your situation.

Nails Wigs Lingerie

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Cosmetics Lingerie Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Nails Wigs Lingerie Shoes Cosmetics

Cosmetics Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Lingerie Cosmetics

Calendar of Events - May 2001

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth

A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-548-8283

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

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

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

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

FTM

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

TGIF

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

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

Far West Women (FWW)

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

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

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

The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

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

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

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

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

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year runs from May 1st - April 30th; \$30 Single Membership; \$40 Family.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

Your Email address: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Special Events This Month!

Queer TIP Presents:

**A SOCIAL AND INFORMATIONAL EVENT
FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY.**

Dance - Food - Raffle Prizes!
May 19, 2001

7:30pm to midnight!

To be held at the Women's Building auditorium!

Queer TIP (Queer Tobacco intervention project):
Working to raise awareness around tobacco issues
in the queer community.

Transcending Transgender Support Group

**Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries**

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

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DVG 10TH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

On Monday, May 21, 2001, DVG will celebrate its tenth birthday with a party at Club 1220, 1220 Pine Street in Walnut Creek.

We are planning a big celebration and everyone is invited. There will be door prizes, food and, of course, a birthday cake.

For more information, please call the DVG hotline at (925) 937-8432 or e-mail us at dvg@transgender.org.

TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give as of April 15, 2001

As you may recall, in the last newsletter I asked for help from the membership to help cover our Cotillion cost deficit. I am happy to say, many of you responded. Here is a list of the members that have contributed as part of the Cotillion fund raising effort:

Jennifer Alexander	\$250
Evelyn Perry	\$70
Jessica Ames	\$100
Joyce White	\$20
Shelly Cohen	\$10
Vikki Freitas and Janet Smiley	\$500
Lynnea Stuart	\$10
Susan	\$5
Jennifer Anderson	\$50
Bill Jones	\$20

In addition to asking our membership for help, I sent letters to all the SRS and facial surgery doctors we have listed in the Resource Guide. Here are our responses from that effort:

Dr. Ousterhout	\$1,000
Dr. Brassard	\$100

If you do not see your doctor's name listed feel free to give him or her a call and ask them to make a donation.

Bless You and Thank You!



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Of Particular Interest...

Coming in July!

YOUNG, LOUD AND PROUD!

Dear Friends,

We at LYRIC are thrilled to announce that the sixth annual **Young, Loud, and Proud (YLP) Youth Leadership Conference** for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth will be held in San Francisco, California over the weekend of July 13th-15th.

The YLP conference is organized and produced entirely by youth and is free for all youth participants. We are expecting hundreds of young people from all over the world to attend. YLP is an exciting opportunity for queer youth from all across the globe to come together to exchange ideas.

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

This year YLP will furnish an all-new adult track for service providers and parents that will include workshops on topics like LGBTQ youth/adult partnership, youth development, and an adult ally caucus.

In addition to attending you may be interested in facilitating a workshop or caucus and we encourage you to complete the forms available on the website. Workshops will be selected by members of the youth steering committee, based on their consistency with YLP's mission and the strength of the proposal. Priority will be given to youth facilitated workshops.

The conference promises to provide an outstanding opportunity for young people to network, socialize, and build coalitions and allies. Also included is a dance at the Columbia Boys and Girls Club, a newly renovated building with pool tables, movies, music, and more!

We hope this message has been helpful in providing you with information about the conference. Please help us by distributing the information to youth in your area and by making it available at your Gay Pride Celebration, if you are planning on marching or having a table at your local event. If you would like printed copies of our material or want more information about the conference please visit www.lyric.org, or contact Lena Turner at 415.703.6150 x25 or ylp@lyric.org.

Thanks so much and we hope to see you there!

**Sincerely,
YLP Steering Committee**

EXPANDED HOTLINE HOURS!

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

Coming in July!

SF INTERSEX EDUCATION PROGRAM

Dear Friends,

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

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

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

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

I hope you will join us for this event.

**Love and Peace,
David**

THERAPY GROUP FOR PARTNERS OF TRANS FOLKS

Meets Fridays, May 11 - August 17, 2001, 6:00 to 7:30pm

Pacific Center for Human Growth, 2712 Telegraph Ave. (at Derby), Berkeley

Sliding scale: \$8-40 per session

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

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

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

Our Readers Respond

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Dana Rivers

Dear Friends,

Michelle (my partner) and I are going to Montana this summer as part of the AIDS Vaccine Ride. This event challenges bicyclists to ride 575 miles from Missoula to Billings in 6 days. It also challenges us to raise \$3400 each in donations for this cause. Last year \$63 million was raised through AIDS Vaccine Ride efforts. We want to be a part of this historic event. And we are asking you to do the same. Please.

AIDS is a worldwide epidemic. In some African regions, more than half the heterosexual population is infected. (It is only in this country that the virus spread via the LGBT population) And, in the U.S. numbers of new cases are again on the rise.

Please take a moment to look at our website, which tells you how to make a donation. It is located at <http://danarivers.org>. Follow the direction to the donation link. The amount you give is tax deductible, and the fact is, doing these types of things feels good.

Michelle and I are part of the LGBT family. We donate tons of time making our community, and transgender people in particular, safe and secure in this society. Our commitment to ride in Montana is another way of doing this work.

Incidentally, your donation does not go directly to us. We will be paying our own way to do this. Your donation goes directly to the ride organizers who have an excellent track record in keeping overhead down so most of the money flows into research.

If you have questions, please give us a call or write. My home telephone number is 408 [redacted]. Michelle's is 408 [redacted]. My e-mail is [redacted]@msn.com. Michelle's is [redacted]@aol.com. Thank you very much for taking a few moments to donate to help make AIDS history.

Barbara F. Anderson

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

Clinical Sexologist
Certified Sex Therapist

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San Francisco, CA 94109

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DEAR TGSF,

One of the greatest things that I have discovered about the Transgender Community is its diversity. I have met within TGSF and other groups, people with occupations ranging alphabetically from Accountant, Acupuncturist and Attorney to Window Washer and Zoologist. And with the vast musical talent that exists I wouldn't be surprised to find a Quixotic Xylophonist to help fill in the high-value letters in Scrabble.

Unfortunately, as with other groups of people differences in personality and opinions also arise. People become extremely active in leadership roles, become "burned out," and leave. With their departure the knowledge and experience that they have gained is often lost.

I was deeply disturbed and disappointed that the long-established election procedures stated in the TGSF Bylaws were not followed this year. They provide that nominations at the February end-of-month meeting, and allow candidates to present their position statements before the election to the membership here in our newsletter, *The Channel*. That has not been possible this year, and this message will appear after the election has been completed.

At my first meeting in February 1998 I remember Leslie and Lulu being nominated for President and Vice-president, positions that they subsequently held for two years. At my anniversary meeting in 1999 I was nominated for Treasurer, and a year later I was nominated for President. This year very few members were present at the February meeting, no nominations were made, and the ExCom was represented only by Vice-president Aiyana and Social Co-chair Tianna.

I pledge that if I am elected as Secretary of TGSF I will complete the unfinished business of formally changing our name from Educational TV Channel to TransGender San Francisco. I will provide copies of the current Bylaws, which were adopted by an overwhelming vote of our membership, to both the ExCom and membership, and will implement the provision regarding the term of membership. I will continue to seek the advice of the members of our group, particularly those who have been involved in events in the past.

The most important reason for the existence of TGSF and other groups in the Transgender Community is to provide a safe, encouraging place for people to come together and share their experiences in discovering themselves as transgendered individuals, and pursuing their goals. This what these groups have provided for me, and what through them I have personally tried to provide for others. Working together, we need to insure that this continues.

Janis Ryan

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]

Shirley Faire

THE SHOEMAKER

Once upon a time there were a hundred pretty shoes. They were lined up behind the leaded panes of a little shop owned by a shoemaker who had been living in the village as long as memory.

The shoes were half pairs, all for the left foot. When a customer entered, the door would ring a little bell and the shoemaker would emerge from behind a red velvet curtain and greet in a voice quiet as crinkling paper, "Good morning," or "Good afternoon," bow deeply from his wide waist and with a sweep of his arm indicate for his customer to please take a seat on a Louis XIV chair near the window. "Is there something perhaps madam would care to see?"

One had only to say, "The sea green with the silver buckle and—" There may be a half dozen shoes fitting that description, but before one could finish, the shoemaker would bow his deep bow, smile, and with a voice quiet as crinkling paper say, "Yes, madam, a very lovely selection, if I might say so," and disappear behind a red velvet curtain worn thin with age, appearing moments later with the desired shoe.

He would place the shoe upon a little mahogany table, its circular marble top white as polished sugar, with its mate next to it, where a shaft of sunlight bathed the gleaming silver of the buckles in a brilliant halo. The shoemaker's customer would gasp and sit transfixed by the perfection of the little scene created by the shoes, table and sunlight. "Perhaps," said the shoemaker, "a demitasse of my poor coffee before the fitting. Sugar? Cream?" And the customer would accept and the two would sit together balancing little cups of coffee and taking little sips of the rich brew to make the moment of appreciation linger just long enough.

When the cups were cleared, the shoemaker would produce a small red velvet padded footstool with a seat for the shoemaker and an angled rest for the customer's foot. "Madam's foot, please," he would say, and as the customer's foot rose and descended toward the stool, so the shoemaker met it with the shoe held at just the proper angle for the foot to slide into it as comfortably as you slide into a bed of fresh linen. The shoe always fit.

Then came war. The men went to fight. Women and children and old people stayed home to help make things soldiers needed. One day a provost came to the shoemaker's shop. "These, these things," he indicated the hundred shoes with a sweep of his swagger stick, "may be fine in peace, but in war they are an insult to the valor of our young men. From now on you will make boots, and only boots." The shoemaker bowed a deep bow from the waist and replied that he only wished to make all his customers happy. "Good. I will be back in a month."

A month later, the door flung open jarring the little bell violently. The war was not going well. The shoemaker emerged from behind the worn red velvet curtain holding a single pair of soldier's boots, quite lovely, sea green with silver buckles. The provost, who had come with a cart expecting to collect dozens of boots not just one pair, cursed the shoemaker and whipped him with his swagger stick, not severely, just a couple of times to teach him a lesson.

"You foolish man to thwart me so. Do you see that cart? Next month I will return and you, my friend, will have produced enough boots for me to fill that cart." The shoemaker bowed low from the waist and in a voice quiet as crinkling paper bade the provost good day.

One month later, to the hour, the provost returned wearing the sea green boots with silver buckles.

A TOUCH OF NAPA IN CLAYTON

By Stephanie Ann Blythe

Wouldn't a massage feel great to get all those stresses and strains of everyday life out of your body? Or how about an herbal wrap or mud treatment to draw out the toxins and make your skin alive and refreshed? That sounds great but if you're a transgendered woman or man you're wondering where you can find a spa that will welcome you. How about a spa that's owned and operated by a transgendered person? Think that there's no such thing? Well, think again. Such a place exists. It's Clayton Mind and Body Connection, out in Contra Costa County in the shadow of Mt. Diablo. The owner is David Goodsoe, or Darlene if you prefer, who is a member of the Diablo Valley Girls. Darlene calls it "a touch of Napa in Clayton".

My first experience at Clayton Mind and Body came last summer as I wanted to make myself as pretty as possible for a friend's wedding. Darlene gave me a relaxing facial that left my face toned and glowing. This was followed by a makeover that put my best face forward for the wedding later that day. All of the guests were dazzled by my appearance although I was very careful not to outshine the bride.

Too much time passed before my next visit. Teri Lee and I reserved the Friday afternoon before the Cotillion to treat ourselves to total luxury. Teri chose the herbal wrap followed by a massage. I went for the mud treatment preceded by the massage. Teri emerged as fragrant as desert sagebrush following a summer thundershower. The mud also contained herbs and I was nearly as redolent as Teri. Between the massages and simmering beneath steam tents, we both found ourselves delightfully limp as wet noodles. A selection of juices and teas or water was available to perk us back up.

I think the time has come for another visit. I want to try the herbal wrap the next time around. Many other services are available and any can be combined for a reasonably priced package of luxury. Couples are welcome, and gift certificates are available.

Clayton Mind and Body Connection is located at 1007 Oak Street in Clayton. Phone (925) 673-0686 for information and to reserve your special time. From highways 680 or 24 take Ygnacio Valley Road from Walnut Creek to Clayton Road then turn right and continue to Clayton. From northbound 680 go to highway 242 and take the Clayton Road exit. From southbound 680 in Concord take the Willow Pass Road exit, head east and then on to Clayton Road. In Clayton bear to the right to get to Oak Street.

HEY!

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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.

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NTAC Media Release

NTAC SUPPORTS ONGOING WINN-DIXIE PROTESTS

It's been over a year since truck driver Peter Oiler was fired by the Winn-Dixie Corporation because, according to the company, his cross-dressing outside of work just didn't conform to the proper company image.

Winn-Dixie, however, has said virtually nothing publicly concerning the case. "They're silent," said Eric Ferrero of the ACLU, who is representing Mr. Oiler, "because it's hard to explain the unlawful and un-American bigotry of firing Peter Oiler because away from work he didn't look or act the way they thought a man should."

However, the transgender community will remain anything but silent about the treatment of Mr. Oiler. There are planned protests against Winn-Dixie in Atlanta during the month of April, and further planned actions to take place against Winn-Dixie regional headquarters in Clayton, NC. The date for the North Carolina action has yet to be confirmed.

Contacted at home, Peter and his wife Shirley expressed their happiness at the continuing concern shown by the Trans community.

"I think it's great," said Shirley. "We think that is wonderful that people are still interested in our cause and are willing to show it. We want to thank them for their support and their willingness to take some form of action - write letters, make phone calls, let the local management know...."

"It's management that's the problem," said Peter. "Unfortunately, because of their attitude, all this is necessary. For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. They choose to ignore their own options, so it's coming back on them."

Due to the coverage the cause has generated, Peter and Shirley have become members of Renaissance for a year. They have also been guest speakers at an NTAC reception in Washington DC and have been invited to other events as well.

NTAC (The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition) supports all upcoming actions on the behalf of Peter and Shirley Oiler. Please join NTAC in boycotting Winn-Dixie, and tell your friends why you refuse to shop at their stores. Protesting acts of discrimination against transgendered people, and making others aware such discrimination happens, will be our foundation for change.

(The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition is the nation's premier transgender civil rights organization. NTAC works for the advancement of understanding and the attainment of full civil rights for all transgendered and intersexed people in every aspect of society. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.ntac.org>)

SUPPORT GROUP FOR TRANS FOLKS 510-527-5662 ▼ valigl@aol.com

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Co-facilitators: VALERIE IGL, licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and REID VANDERBURGH, MA in Counseling Psychology student and FTM.

OPINION | Lesbian Notions

ARE TRANSEXUAL WOMEN "REAL" WOMEN? YES.

by Paula Martinac
PlanetOut, April 17, 2001

Are transsexual women "real" women? It's a tedious question that male-to-female transsexuals often run up against when they're open and honest about their personal history. But the life experiences of many MTFs make them more aware of how gender roles and sexism work than a lot of so-called "real" women.

I've never met a transsexual woman who didn't have a feminist consciousness. I'm sure there are some, but it makes perfect sense that many trans-women would be attracted to feminism as a philosophy. After all, feminism by definition seeks to break down the barriers society has set up based on gender.

It's infuriating, then, that some feminists and lesbians continue to question the "womanhood" of MTFs. I support the concept of "women-only space," but I'm concerned that this legitimate policy is sometimes used to discriminate against trans-women.

The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, for example, still maintains a policy of trans-exclusion that sounds eerily like the "don't ask, don't tell" policy of the U.S. military. An official festival hand-out states, "No woman's gender will be questioned on the land." However, the flyer goes on, the festival has the right to deny admission "to individuals who self-declare as male-to-female transsexuals." In theory, one of Fred Phelps's daughters could attend Michigan, while an open feminist trans-woman could not.

In another galling example, a women's rape crisis center in British Columbia recently refused to allow Kimberly Nixon, a transsexual woman, to train as a peer counselor. The staff assumed she wouldn't understand violence against women because she was born male. According to a center spokesperson, Nixon could not possibly have faced the unique mix of social, psychological, and biological factors that "shape women's experiences and ... the world's perception of us."

But, in fact, the experience of many transsexual women turns the meaning of being "born" female or male upside down. Many MTFs talk about knowing they were "female" from a very young age. "Growing up," Nixon told a reporter for Canadian Press, "I had the sense and burden of being female and the burden of being aware of ... all the issues women deal with."

The exclusionary policies that feminist and lesbian groups institute toward transsexual women rest on two false premises. First of all, because the world once viewed MTFs as boys and men, it's assumed that they enjoyed male privilege. Yet the opposite may actually be true, given the many stories transsexual women tell about the intense gender oppression they experienced before surgery.

Continued on Page 13

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.

Are TS's "Real" Women?...

Continued from Page 12

According to Australian trans-feminist Julie Peters, transgender male youth tend to be regarded "as feminine or different boys and are denied entry into male power structures; they are vilified, ostracized, and bashed." Misunderstood or rejected by their families, they sometimes take to the streets, where they're at high risk for drugs and prostitution and often learn early on about sexual violence, just like many girls do.

The second false premise is that only "real" women can fully comprehend female oppression. But what about the "real" women who think feminism has nothing to do with their lives? And don't forget the "women-born women" who actively oppose abortion rights, or who accept their church's dictate that wives submit to their husbands, or who voted for George W. Bush.

Now compare those "real" women with trans-activist Riki Wilchins, Executive Director of GenderPAC. In a recent editorial, Wilchins called on activists to build "a broad-based and inclusive national movement for gender rights." Gender, Wilchins states, is a basic human right that unites everyone from "a boy-dyke with buzz-cut blue hair" to "an FTM fired for transitioning on the job" to "a soccer mom banging her head on the glass ceiling" to "a gay man genderbashed ... because some bigot thinks homosexuals are unmanly."



The Irrepressible Didi Mau

We can learn a lot from reading the work of cutting-edge activists like Wilchins. But even older trans-women, who transitioned long before the founding of the National Organization for Women or the riots at the Stonewall Inn, have gone through their own transformative process and come out as feminists.

In an engaging new memoir called *The Woman I Was Not Born to Be*, Aleshia Brevard, a former drag performer and actor, describes her own personal journey. Glancing through the book's photos of Brevard boasting long, painted nails and a cinched-in, hourglass figure, you might be tempted to rehash the old feminist complaint that MTFs simply reinforce gender stereotypes rather than break them down.

But, in fact, Brevard has a strong feminist sensibility. After transitioning, she slowly came to realize that the role she envisioned for herself as a Donna Reed-style wife was too limited. Instead of clinging to the belief that "a good woman must be docile and long suffering" and invariably attached to a man, she recognized that she could be happily fulfilled as an independent woman.

The liberation of her mind, Brevard says, took much longer than the physical reconstruction of her body. Her experiences and those of other trans-women hold important lessons for feminists and lesbians who remain stubbornly hung up on biology.

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached care of this publication or at [redacted]@aol.com.

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Contact TGSF:

President, Nicole Cook [redacted]@tgforum.com
Vice President, Aiyana Eveningstar .. [redacted]@earthlink.net
Secretary, Debbie Cook [redacted]@yahoo.com
Education, Stephanie Ann Blythe [redacted]@tgforum.com
Education, Jennifer Antoinette [redacted]@hotmail.com
Outreach, Kalani Makanani [redacted]@tgforum.com
Outreach, Telzey Adams [redacted]@angelfire.com
or call at: (510) [redacted]
Social, Tianna DeVil [redacted]@sirius.com
Editor, Ayme Kantz [redacted]@aol.com
or tgsfeditor@yahoo.com

nately, some of these people will do everything in their power to disrupt the work of those who do not agree with them. This type of effort is disruptive to the good of the organization. Some of you may already be aware that I am the target of one of these people.

In an ideal scenario, it had been my hope that the person in question would have remained in the membership until I had finished my run in the Executive Committee (which would have been a year or two longer). At which time she could have returned to the Executive Committee and served several years herself. This scenario would have yielded a total of around 10 woman-years of volunteer service in the Executive Committee, assuming we both served for 5 years.

Unfortunately though this was not to happen. It came to my attention that if I ran for President again, the person in question would have run against me for President. If this happened it was likely that both TGSF and myself would have been subjected to the same months of distasteful conduct by this person at every TG event where she could corner a group of people to listen to her as was the case last year. Therefore, since I did not have the ability to get her to stand down, I elected to diffuse the situation by removing myself from it. As a result, I think we have successfully averted any potential conflict in the election process and the group will remain unified. As a result of my decision not to run for President, the person in question ran un-opposed for the position of Secretary. I hope she can appreciate my decision.

It is entirely possible that I might once again serve on the Executive Committee, provided you the membership want me to. It is my hope that at some point in the future we will have more members running in friendly elections for positions on the Executive Committee.

As I have mentioned on my web page, I believe that a large percentage of the "out" transgender community is made up of people with strong wills. Some of us are needed to lead our organizations, it is important that those of us who do to develop the skills to listen to our sisters and learn to see issues in a different light. I know this is possible, I have now been a part of several TG groups that have successfully merged their views into a common plan. I was extremely surprised by the level of effort and commitment put forth by the members of the Employment Committee of the SFTGCRITF. It has also been my pleasure to work with two TGSF Executive Committees that have worked together to provide the group with a very high quality of service. And my work with the SGA board during my term as Miss SGA 2000 was also a rewarding experience, where I witnessed a group of TG girls working together to provide the group with a very high level of service.

It is extremely important that we develop this skill. In order to make things happen at both a State and Federal level, we will have to pull together a large number of TG people who will have very diverse and in some cases opposing viewpoints on issues. We will need to work with our sister communities (lesbian, gay and bisexual) in some areas to strengthen our position on some issues. It will be important that we conduct ourselves in a professional manner and resist the urge to "sling some mud" when we come in contact with another individual who we know has different viewpoints from our own. It is my belief that we will be successful in this endeavor, since the vast majority of the TG people who I have met, have been able to work together in a most admirable fashion.

need someone to take on this job! I can't do it anymore - my plate is pretty much full these days. I will be happy to walk you through it. I'm begging you, if you want to just break even on next year's Cotillion (let alone fund a single education seminar!), then bottom line is we need to sell advertising in the Channel.

Hey it's your club. You need to set the priorities. Do you want a flashy but shallow extravaganza that soaks up an entire year's worth of work and money to pull off, or do you want to redirect those resources into what made this organization great in the first place? And yes, despite yanking its chain, I still think TGSF was, is, or could be again, a great organization. When I first found it, it had so much to offer me - resources, leads, information, and social opportunities - a place where I made lasting friendships (and probably some enemies now). And I did drift away for a time, having outgrown (if you will) the club's constraints. But as a person who values honor, I came back to take on the job of Editor - I wanted to do it (and still do) and I'm good at it. I wanted to give something back to the community that gave me a boost when I needed it. And I confess I like having my little soapbox to stand on, and I get great joy and satisfaction from my writing. Some of you even read my drivel and have had some wonderful and helpful things to say. And I have made mistakes and got called on the carpet for them. Goes with the job I guess. But I can only continue to do my part to publish a newsletter that's as all-inclusive as we hold ourselves up to be. But it's going to be up to you, TGSF Member, to reaffirm the honor and value of the organization as it moves into the 21st Century.

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