

# The Fabulous 1999 TGSF Cotillion!

TGSF is The Channel  
Transgender San Francisco  
(formerly FIVC)



# The Channel

TGSF, Inc., a 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 1998-99 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President .....	Leslie Bailey
Vice President .....	Lulu Blau
Secretary .....	Veronica Smith
Treasurer .....	Debbie Cook
Education .....	Nancy Cupps / Juana Smith
Outreach .....	Sandra Brewer
Social .....	Nicole Cook / Evette RoqueLaurie

## Secretary's Report

1998-99 Membership as of February, 1999 .....	282
Last Fiscal Year 1997-98 Total Membership .....	327
New Memberships this year .....	66

## Treasurer's Report

Approx. Account Balance as of February, 1999 ..... \$9,940.00

(Includes the "Home for TGSF" Fund)

TGSF is a 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.

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Editor and Advertising .....	Ayme Michelle Kantz
Contributing Photographers .....	Telzey Adams, Debbie Cook
.....	Veronica & Juana Smith and Jamie Fey Fenton

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

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## FROM THE EDITOR...

### Peanut Gallery



The fiscal year is coming to a close and ExCom membership is about to undergo some changes. Each and every one of our current officers are to be congratulated on the really solid year they put together, culminating in last month's hugely successful Cotillion. Changing the name to

TGSF last year, I think, was a godsend as evidenced on Channel 5's Evening Magazine broadcast (February 11th); we're talking now about instant recognition and exposure and it's made the group so much more identifiable. Truly TGSF is poised for great things to happen as we approach the millennium. Which leads me to my two cents from said gallery, and I can sum it up in two words...

### Declining Membership

Theories for our dropping numbers range from more resources around the Bay Area, to an increasingly (albeit slowly) educated society or the effects of the Internet, but is that just the Spin Doctors at work or is something else going on? As ExCom tries to wrap this year up with the upcoming election process, I'd like to point out that the letter Erin Brush wrote (Feb99 issue) should be a red flag to all of us. She raised an issue that seems to keep resurfacing from time to time, and during my wanderings and encounters within our community I've heard the same sentiments about ETVC/TGSF expressed by former members and others, each of them voiced with a mixture of concern, exasperation and frustration, all boiling down to one common theme - feelings of not being welcomed or supported at the Socials, particularly from newer members.

The Cotillion was incredibly supportive, and I was thinking wouldn't it be great if only we could capture that feeling of acceptance and sisterhood at our socials again (is it politically correct to say "fellowship" as well? After all, there were a lot of men there too). We should all strive to interact with our peers at the socials we attend - no one of us is better than the other. After all, we're all there because we most certainly have something in common, but has anyone else noticed what Erin was talking about?

Each Cotillion we've ever had has featured our Debutante Walk, but instead of doing that once a year, let's do something similar once a month. We need to find out who our new members are at each social, find out a little bit about them and bring them up and introduce them to everybody else - testimony time style! And what happened to name tags? Ginny Knuth, God bless her soul, not only sat by the door collecting money, but she also diligently made sure that everyone had a handwritten name tag and welcomed them in. If she had time, she would try to introduce newcomers to one of the officers, or ask an officer to introduce themselves. We need to get back to that.

Maybe before the program for the evening begins, we could each take five or ten minutes and make it a point to go say hello to one or two people we haven't met before...I mean, let's get social! Sure it may be awkward at first for some of us, but we can all get

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Leslie Bailey

The Cotillion is over for another year and I think that I hear a collective sigh of relief. The truth is that it represents a tremendous amount of effort on the part of many people in order to pull it off. I don't mean to imply that anyone is complaining because it is also very satisfying to be a part of the effort. I don't know how others handle unwinding from such an intense period, but I tend to time-out for a week or two which is my way of maintaining sanity. I mention this because I have a feeling that I have ignored a few items this last two weeks that I should have attended to. I hope that if yours was one of those items that you will understand. I came home tonight and downloaded about 100 emails that I will get to tomorrow (Sat.).

I can't say enough about all the work that was contributed by a lot of dedicated people. If I try to mention everyone I may overlook someone, but at least I need to mention those who headed up major areas starting in Sept. and Oct. and who worked long hours throughout much of January. Particular standouts include Sharon Hurtle-Durand as our director and all the help she received from her partner Gerry. Debbie and Nicole were stellar with the food. Cheryl sweated and fretted over the judging. Trauma Flintstone as our Mistress of Ceremonies is simply a dear and put a lot more time into the project than is required. Carla Blair from San Jose scolded me for not letting her do more (she sold eight tables and arranged for many of the advertisers and prizes). Our house band practiced many hours and added such a nice air to the evening. Thank you Michelle, Dale, Janet, Andrea, Scott and Kevin.

To Lulu, hugs and more hugs. What can I say about someone whose opinion I trust and depend on, who works her tail off and who cares so much about all the participants is this endeavor. I love the sparkle in her eye as witnessed by this opening paragraph in her press release: "Go Gauguin, Guy-Gals! It's muumuus & pupus time as TGSF presents 'South Pacific,' a shimmering dream where Bali Hai beckons on the evening horizon....could a night in a gown so right be sarong?"

We are also appreciative of our guest entertainers, everyone who helped in anyway, those who supported our efforts by advertising in the program or donating prizes and of course all of you who came and enjoyed the evening with us.

A special mention for Kevin Anderson who diligently and lovingly works so hard to create graphic images (posters, tickets and programs) that are wonderfully delightful.

I've left the last seven thank-you's till last because I want you to remember them the most after you have put this article aside. Didi. Sandra. Kalani. Roxanne. Margo. Tianna. Serena. These seven people put themselves on the line big time. We ask a lot of our contestants and it is heartwarming to see the response. We ask them to be well spoken and thoughtful, to be attractive and poised and to get up in front of 300 people and perform. We ask them to submit to being judged on these criterion, to care about winning and yet to keep it all in perspective and ultimately to care more about each other and the possibilities for personal growth and for developing friendships. That's a lot. Congratulations on a job well done. I'm thank-you'd out, but remain forever grateful.

## From The Editor...

Continued from Page 2

over it and get used to it - it's not hard to put a smile on your face and say hello to a stranger, particularly one who's there for much the same reasons you are!

One of the responsibilities for all our elected officials is to be Ambassadors for TGSF and to promote inclusion and support for all t-people, no matter where on the scale of gender identity, sexual orientation, passability, or age one seems placed. By association, the rest of us should do the same and all strive to make our socials a place of warmth and acceptance, offering friendship and support to everybody who attends. We need good people to run for a seat on ExCom or become a member of one of the Committees. Even if it's just helping out writing name tags for the overworked Social Chair (three cheers for the Cooks!), volunteers are always welcome and it's a great way to meet people and make a new friend. Cleavage or Legs Contests can be fun (or tacky depending on your point of view or sense of humor), but I think the focus of our socials should be more about us, our opportunities to be "communal," getting to know each other - networking, whatever you want to call it. I can't help but believe that would help in building TGSF's numbers back to where they belong.

### Moving Forward

So let us now examine where we've been and where we could be going. Along with the turnover ExCom is going to be facing, there are also some fundamental structures to be examined, and one of the most important ones is how TGSF intends to fund its next fiscal year. I've done what I can to make the newsletter pay for itself, and may I take a moment here to gratefully thank our advertisers (get out and support them!), but all our other functions and responsibilities need funding to continue - our education seminars, outreach programs, printing and postage expenses, phone bills, bank and legal fees, deposits for venues and a host of other drains on the budget, usually were funded by the money we raised at our socials and special events. In effect, the Social Committee was the prominent "breadwinner" for the group, although some income would sometimes appear from the other Committees from time to time.

But there seems to be a trend of getting away from charging those door/entrance fees at our socials (although a donation can be half-heartedly passed around), but by the same token we shouldn't turn anyone away for lack of funds either. While we had a banner year for donations, TGSF most certainly cannot continue to rely on them to fuel the organization's goals in 1999-2000. With our new recognizable name it is absolutely foolish to consider moving forward based on a "break even" mentality with regard to the budget.

### So What Do We Do About It?

Well gee...I was hoping you had the answer to that question. That might have made a good one during Bloody Mary's Grass Shack Inquisition, dontcha think LuLu? (Loved those cannibals! Eat them up, yum!) Anyways, here's a couple more pennies from yours truly...

With the catchy new handle, a graphic identity sure would be groovy (did somebody just say \*gasp!\* logo??) - think of the marketing possibilities! T-shirts and a line of clothing, pins and jewelry, books and videos, maybe a custom cloisonné name tag (to wear proudly at the socials)...add on a different colored jewel signifying your tenure with the organization. Different levels of membership could be restructured upwards, with fees not unreasonably raised (the theory being the higher your level, the more free stuff you get - like two tickets to the Cotillion and/or Halloween party)...and can I have an Amen please for member discounts at all socials and seminars, and most certainly at Ye Olde TGSF Gift Shoppe! Hey, it could happen...

Have you got a fund-raiser idea? Sure would be terrific if we had a few of you step forward, get on a committee (or run for office!) and make a little history. TGSF is ready. Are you?

**GET ONLINE!**

[WWW.TRANSGENDER.ORG/ETVC/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.TRANSGENDER.ORG/ETVC/INDEX.HTML)

## EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

The February 1999 meeting of ExCom was cancelled due to Cotillion aftermath and total exhaustion. The entire ExCom offers its apologies to the membership, and will be reconvening on March 7 to prepare for the upcoming elections.

For those of you who'll miss Veronica's musings on ExCom goings-on, we are pleased to present the following article.



## SEMANTICS AND FEAR

by Veronica Smith

(A version of this was printed previously in TG Forum)

While scanning all the newsletters that come to our club, I come across many semantic abuses we transgendered folk are guilty of. One common source of semantic sins, I've observed, comes from the fear many TGs have about being considered gay. For example, I read an article in which a person relates how she is feminizing herself, electrolysis, facial surgery, hormones, etc. For the most part I really liked the candid, personal narrative of self-discovery. Only I got confused when she said that her sexual identity was *bisexual* but that her sexual orientation was *heterosexual*. I understood that while her psyche was a mixture of both masculine and feminine, she was only sexually attracted to females. But I could not see how that made her heterosexual, since being heterosexual means being sexually attracted to the opposite sex. This person, I suppose, firmly believes that gender is in the soul and sex is in the genitals. But it seems somewhat grammatically convoluted to write *she* is a heterosexual who is *only attracted to women*. So why not pleasantly think of her femme self as lesbian? Or is being considered heterosexual so important to her that if she were to continue her feminization to completion, she would then no longer be attracted to women and become attracted to men?

As unlikely as that sounds, I have another example of how homophobia colors transgenderistic writing. An intelligent and sensitive person (whom I admire and personally like) once wrote that becoming attracted to men after her sexual reassignment surgery was *natural*. *Natural* seems like such an innocent word, but it is actually loaded with meaning. Its use reveals what the writer sees as inherently right and wrong, and displays personal beliefs and prejudices. To state that it is *natural* to desire a man after becoming a woman implies that it is *unnatural* for a woman to desire another woman. In other words, this person believes that for a man to take massive doses of hormones, have various invasive surgeries, restructure the face and body and *only then* have sex with a man is *natural*, but for a guy just to have sex with another guy is *not natural*.

For the two above-referenced individuals, it is paramount to be considered *straight* at all times. They would only have sex with women when they had male genitalia and they will only have sex with men when they have female genitalia. Less than 10% of their bodies determines whom they can be attracted to because they buy into their culture's homophobia. At various levels, they've accepted that being gay is wrong; at some level they supported Trent Lott when he was on the floor of the Senate quoting Leviticus and shouting something to the effect of "*The Lord sayeth only innies can do it with outies!*" They accept what certain people have gleaned from the Bible. But the Bible is many things to many people. You can use it to validate any of your prejudices. Slave owners before the Civil War used the story of Noah's children to validate slavery, and I personally remember hearing Bob Jones Jr. validate segregation with the story of the Tower of Babel. (I'm sure there are nuts out there who use the story of Lot to validate incest.) The magnetic desire of possible societal acceptance for their unusual state has them hopping, skipping and jumping around any hint that they might be considered homosexual which they have firmly accepted as socially unacceptable. But are they being completely honest with themselves? Am I the only one who finds it hard to believe that an individual who takes years to achieve complete feminization has never considered the possibility of sex with a man until the day after his/her penis has been inverted?

What must be promoted at all times is that it is just as okay to be gay as to be straight so that any conclusions are not loaded with implicit judgment. Neither homosexual nor heterosexual is more natural than the other, just as it is no more natural for some people to want to wear clothes of the opposite gender and some not, just as it is no more natural that some people are born with the wrong genitalia and some not. Not fitting within our culturally proscribed gender roles places homosexual and transgendered folks in the same family. If we don't listen to our gay brothers and sisters, our family discourse is missing essential perspectives. Vanna, in TG Forum's *Ask Rachael*, seemed to have missed just such an essential perspective. She wrote: "*I married because I thought it was the proper thing to do in society, and so people wouldn't think I was gay ... am I gay, because I've married and dated women and only thought about going with a man? Would I be normal if I dated men?*" Vanna went on to explain that she was now contemplating surgery to get her body "in line" with her mind. Rachel rightly promoted psychotherapy and suggested that Vanna may find that she is not necessarily "TS, but TG or even TV and that is okay." But I'd like to add that Vanna might very well be gay and that being gay is as okay as being TS, TG or TV and that all of the above are as okay as the other.

On the old Hollywood Squares, Peter Marshall asked Paul Lynde at what age do most American boys have their first sexual experience, and Paul Lynde responded, "About nine or ten." And then reacting to the stunned silence, Paul Lynde quickly added in his own inimitable style, "Oh! You mean their first sexual experience with *another person!* Oh well then, uh, twenty-one or twenty-two, I guess." I have no way of knowing, but I suspect that the average man's longest-term and most intimate sexual partner is himself. Doesn't this make most men at least partly homosexual? Because, I mean, you can't get much more same sex than that. But, of course, most guys would respond that it's what's in the mind that determines sexuality. But, whoa! Do we even want to go there? Because while a man's body is otherwise engaged, nearly anything can float through his head: from Sophia Loren's almond and overly made-up eyes to Demi Moore's flaunting posture and moist lips to the shine of a new ratchet set to Kathy Lee Gifford's plucky wholesomeness to Phyllis Diller's crazy cackle to Ursula



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## SANDRA REACHES OUT

by Sandra Brewer

Outreach speaker requests are already pouring in for the spring semester. Many of these are from instructors who attended and thoroughly enjoyed our recent Cotillion event. I have described the event in a separate article in this issue. Nominations for TGSF officers for our next membership year are imminent. If you are ready for a change in our leadership, or if you would like to join us, now is the time to step forward.

Everyone who knows me knows I have made many friends at TGSF events over the last several years. These events are a wonderful haven for all of us to share ideas and experiences, and gain proficiency at feminine expression without exposing ourselves to the scrutiny of an often hostile public. The great majority of us know how hard it is to pass and be accepted in public even with our best effort; I think to flaunt society with an obvious dichotomy like the NBC subject only invites ridicule for himself and the rest of us. But I would welcome him at a TGSF function.

Francis makes a good point it's unfortunate support groups may not be as easy to find in remote areas. We can only hope that in time the needed support will expand everywhere; we've certainly come a long way already in recent years. All the efforts of groups such as our own help to make this happen. To be accepted in ever more remote areas we need to be seen in a positive light. Passing helps, but the most important outreach quality is to present an image that is seen as dignified when we interact with the public. Anything less will only retard our best outreach efforts.

It's unfortunate Ms Brush has decided to leave us. It's even more unfortunate our membership has dropped from over four hundred three years ago to less than three hundred today. We expect the Internet, other resources, and a more tolerant society we've at least helped to educate are some of the reasons for the decline. I too recall having some difficulty meeting people the first few times I attended ETVC events. I think two factors soon turned this around. First I made it a point to find others to share common interests with, and lastly I hung around long enough to get to know people; it's been well worth the effort.

## TGSF AT SFMOMA

By Juana Smith

Please plan on joining me at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art on Thursday, March 4 at 6:00pm. Currently on exhibition are two shows representing women and their art: *Mirror Images: Women, Surrealism, and Self-Representation*, the self-representational work of three generations of women artists associated with or influenced by the surrealist movement, and *Looking at Ourselves: Works by Women Artists from the Logan Collection*, an exhibition featuring over twenty works made by leading women artists in the past decade, including Cady Noland, Cindy Sherman, and Kiki Smith, among others. Both of the exhibitions may enhance your knowledge and understanding of your feminine side.

Tickets for SFMOMA are \$8.00 each. The museum is located at 151 3rd Street (between Mission and Howard St.). To finish off this artsy evening, why not consider dining at a nearby restaurant. For those interested, there are a number fun restaurants located near the museum - Boca de Beppo, Cadillac Bar & Grill and Chevy's. Let's make plans to eat out and discuss what was seen at the museum.

### Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

## Semantics and Fear...

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Address coming out of the sea to your first girl friend in choir robes to draping a chamois across a shiny car to a matador twisting his body to Delta Burke's benedictional smile to Kate Moss' fragile and accepting body to Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint appraising each other to the happy sound of champagne popping to the taste of a new lover's lips. A guy can have anything float through his head; he doesn't really have much control about that, and he can be humming *The Green Berets* at the same time. But, while men are able to eroticize anything from stiletto heels to tea-cups (the Victorians got worked up over piano legs), men can physically have sex with any of a multitude of things, including pillows, socks, washcloths, various fruits, even animals — Portnoy does it with the family meatloaf. So this dread some people have of even considering sex with another living human being who just happens to be the same sex puzzles me.

Frankly, I think it's crude to have genitals determine attraction. I tend to go along with writer and director David Cronenberg's ideas on the subject. "We've long ago separated ourselves from whatever biological imperative there was," he said while making *M Butterfly*. "Sexuality is an invention, it's a creative thing." What's important, I think, is to rid ourselves of the stupid prejudices and propaganda that we've all had drummed into our heads and create a sexuality with someone we trust and love regardless of gender.

### HEY!

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 7TH, 3:00PM**

## **ExCom Meeting**

The March meeting will be held at Sandra's house. We should all be caught up with the April issue of *The Channel*.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10TH, 8:00PM**

## **MID-MONTH SOCIAL**

It's time to venture out to somewhere new again. This time we will be going to the North Bay. Since a few members have requested the Lunacee Lounge in San Rafael, that's where we are going to go. The Lunacee Lounge will be having "Open Mic Night" on the night we are there. It is suggested that if you have a standup comedy routine, you should arrive early (7:00pm) to get signed up. The Open Mic event runs from 8pm to 9pm and is well attended.

The Lunacee Lounge (<http://www.lunacee.com>) is located at 815 W. Francisco Blvd. in San Rafael. It is almost exactly where the 101 and 580 freeways come together, just west of the intersection. Here are the directions from the south: Take US 101 North, Take the I-580 exit towards Richmond Bridge/Francisco Blvd., Keep right at the fork in the ramp, merge onto Bellam Blvd., Turn right onto Anderson drive, Anderson drive becomes Francisco Blvd. (This place is not hard to find you can see it from the freeway. If you get into trouble find the on ramp to the 101 going back south, the Lunacee lounge is about 20 yards from this on ramp). Parking? Well since we are not in the city the venue actually has it's own parking lot. The Lunacee Lounge does not serve food so you're on your own there. See you at 8:00.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH, 8:00PM**

## **TGSF LIBRARY / POKER NIGHT**

Call Nancy Anne at (415) [REDACTED] for information and directions. Peruse our extensive archives or join in the game! Nancy Ann has been under the weather lately, so please call to confirm.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20TH, 2:00PM**

## **EDUCATION SEMINAR: - CREATING A FEMININE CARRIAGE: FIGURE, POSTURE, WALK, AND GESTURE**

It is not only important for us to know how to walk like a woman, it is perhaps more important to understand from where that movement comes and why women move the way they do. When we understand that, then we are not acting, we are being. Our movement comes from within and will have a natural, relaxed quality. Walking as women do, and using feminine gestures, are first a work of creating a female shape. Women move the way they do, to an extent, because of the shape of their bodies. Creating that shape as much as possible with our bodies will not only help us move as women do but also understand why.

Our speaker, TGSF member Elaine Sagant, has been a performing dancer and dance instructor for 25 years and is certified by an international dance teachers association. It has been her vocation to analyze her clients' movement and to communicate to them what they need to do in order to move the way they want. As

a transgendered woman, Elaine's technical expertise helps her to walk her talk every day.

The most powerful tool that we have to create the shape we want is our breath. Breath gives us the awareness and strength to maintain good posture. Correct posture allows us to move the body more easily. Posture is the optimal placement of the body as a whole, the sum of all parts working together. These elements: breath, posture, shape, and movement, as well as feeling, constitute carriage. What we really want to create in a whole package is feminine carriage.

We will discuss how the common female figure differs from the common male figure, and what we can do to create a female shape for ourselves. Exercises will help us become aware of our breath and posture. We will practice various positions and movements to learn where to place and how to move the body from head to toe. You will be able to try out movements and observe your sister participants to see what you like and how movements look on each other. Movements, positions, and gestures will be verbally described and physically demonstrated. An outline of the seminar will be given to everyone. Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk & Pine Sts, SF. Donations Appreciated.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 25TH, 8:00PM**

## **END OF MONTH SOCIAL**

Well if I follow my theme this event should be some sort of show. Unfortunately I have not arranged anything yet, so join us at the Blue Muse and if I come up with something it will be a surprise. The Blue Muse is located at 409 Gough street. Parking is easy, there is a lot right across from Marlana's (the TG friendly bar around the corner from The Blue Muse on Hayes St.).

**SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH, 8:00PM**

## **TGSF NIGHT OUT IN ANOTHER CITY**

Would you like to get out dressed en femme but are concerned that you might get recognized? Well here is the event for you. On Saturday March 27th SGA will be holding their Talent Show at Joseph's in Sacramento. For those of you that have not been, Joseph's is a great place to eat and the club upstairs is a great venue for the talent show. We may even end up going to Faces later that night (the best TG friendly dance club I have ever been to). So plan to have a great time in the capital, Joseph's is at 1454 Del Paso Blvd. in Sacramento. Near the corner of Del Paso and Arden Way. From San Francisco take the 80 into Sacramento, when the 80 and 50/business 80 split stay on the 50/business 80, not far past the 5 the 50 and business 80 split, stay on the business 80 (the business 80 only goes North), The exit past the exposition center is Arden Way, Take the Arden Way exit (stay to the left on the exit ramp), go West on Arden Way until you get to Del Paso. Joseph's is on the corner. There is parking all around the building.

In accordance with our by-laws I want to be sure to announce the annual meeting with the designated 45 days notice. Our Annual meeting will be held during the April End of Month social, April 29th 1999. The event will be held at either The Blue Muse or the One Thirty One Supper Club.

# Calendar of Events - March 1999

## 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, 510-841-6224

### 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 916-482-75GA (7742) for meeting locations.

### Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of every month, 8:00pm at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo 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, 2637 Pleasant Hill Road (@ Taylor Blvd.) in Pleasant Hill. 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-██████████

### 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 8:00 PM DVG	2	3	4 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	5 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	6
7 3:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	8	9	10 7:00 PM Trans Bay 8:00 PM TGSF: Mid-Month @ Lunacee Lounge	11	12 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night	13 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
14	15 8:00 PM DVG	16	17	18 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	19 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	20 2:00 PM TGSF: Seminar - Comport- ment
21	22	23	24	25 8:00 PM TGSF EOM Social @ Blue Muse	26 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	27 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
28	29	30	31			

## 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? \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing a Check  or Money order for:

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\$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)

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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:

I have only one word to say about my first Cotillion: FANTASTIC!

Actually a few more. In addition to Lesley, Lulu, and Diana, all of whom I have gotten to know over the past year, I must add Debbie and Nicole Cook to the list. In addition to arranging the catering for this function, they have tirelessly worked throughout the past year to arrange for all of our meetings and our Halloween Party. Plus, there were so many people working behind the scenes; Susie was one whom I met both at the check in table and backstage helping us nervous debutantes, and I know that many, many others put in hours of hard work to make the event happen.

Thank you all so much for this event, and for all that you have done for me during this past year. I promise that you will see me participating behind the scenes next year! Hugs to you all,

**Janis R**

## DEAR JANIS:

I can't agree more, especially about Debbie. She worked so tirelessly preparing the excellent food, even when several volunteers failed to show. When I saw her later in the evening soaking wet and overworked, she was still smiling and so cheerful. What an inspiration for us all.

**Sandra**

## 17TH ANNUAL BE ALL - CLEVELAND ROCKS!

Join your sisters and brothers for what's developing to be the best Be All Convention ever! (And the BeAll Conventions are, one of the oldest and best!). Cleveland Rocks, and so will you!

Hosted by the Paradise Club of Cleveland (the oldest transgender support group for CD/TS in the Ohio Valley - 22 years in 99!), this Convention will feature great organized parties, a guided tour of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, terrific programs and presentations, and much much more. The Convention will be held at the Radisson Inn (near Cleveland airport - for reservations call 800-333-3333), from June 2 - 6, 1999. The Radisson will offer the special reduced convention room rate for two additional days preceding or following the convention for those of you wishing to stretch your experience.

For registration information and costs, hotel charges, convention schedule, and a list of vendors, contact Be All, PO Box 281, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222; email: [www.beall.net](http://www.beall.net).

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY TG FUNDRAISER!

by **Nadia Cabezas**

Come and party with us for our next fundraiser March 15th @ 7 pm (St. Patrick's Day).

Where: Mr. Leeonas, Turk and Leavenworth Streets.

Contact: TranSupport Group Center, 308 Turk Street Unit 7, San Francisco, CA 94102. 415-224-1189.

We are asking for community support. Our center and the transgender community, family and friends feel there is a need for a center that deals with the transgender community. We offer emotional support, counseling through social therapy, and referrals to shelters and clothing. We charge nothing for our services but donations are gratefully accepted. Our founder is a transsexual with over 20 years of transition and is always available to educate and help people better understand the transgender community. To contact us please call TranSupport Group Center at 415-224-1189. Also, we have two meetings a week on Mondays and Fridays from 5pm-7pm at 191 Golden Gate Avenue. Thank you.

## DEAR FRIENDS,

I am looking for someone that would have the knowledge, did work or research in Immuno-Suppressives Drugs in the case of Gender Reassignment (transexuality female to male) for a penile organ transplant.

Please, if anyone would know of such a person, would you ask them to contact me, or contact me directly with their coordinates at [redacted] Montreal, Quebec, Canada H1X 2M7; email: [redacted]@videotron.ca. Thank you for your time. Yours truly,

**Lyno Blaquiére**

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## New Members Fiscal Year 98-99

### January 99

Kathy Edwards  
Susan Flowers  
Erika Faust

### February 99

Serena Anderson  
Ellie Anderson  
Margo DuVal  
Natasha Price  
Gabrielle Taylor  
Meredith Memaran  
Robyn Burton  
Susan Seger  
Gwen Bajorek  
Gail Owens

## March's Birthdays...

0301	Dusty Prentiss	0313	Joan Roughgarden	0321	Kalani Makanani
0302	Radene Reed	0313	Dixie Mae Hensen	0321	Dave Miles
0302	Bobbi Dunne	0314	Roxanna Rochette	0322	Joan Sheldon
0302	Anne Brown	0314	Christiane S	0322	Kathy Ann Johnson
0303	Geri Handa	0316	Bernie Peterson	0322	Joyce Patterson-Rogers
0307	Shelley Wong	0317	Lisa Ronald	0323	Shelly Cohen
0311	Lucy Ann Jones	0319	Robin Black	0325	Evette RoqueLaurie
0311	Christi Rogers	0320	Donna Freeman	0327	Telzey Adams
0311	Erika Carter	0320	Marcie Lovell	0327	Brenda Didi Mau
0312	Christine Jamison	0321	Jackie Conner	0328	Annie Wright
0313	Deann Parkinson			0328	Michelle Wright

**Many Happy Returns of the Day!**



# Our Readers Respond...

## DEAR TGSF:

I am interested in running for a second term as president of TGSF. Most of you know me well enough after the last three years to know what I'm about and what you can expect from me in the way of effort and dedication. My concerns for the future include:

Continued financial recovery; better defining a transgendered agenda (can we continue to help people immerse out of the closet and at the same time keep up with those who are maturing as transgendered citizens); efficient administrative procedures so that volunteering time is increasingly satisfying; better attention to detail on my part.

Taking a leadership position in a volunteer organization such as TGSF requires a balancing act. Take care of business, be creative and innovative and take the time to have "a life" so as not to burn out too soon. I will do the best I can with the time available.

**Leslie Bailey**

## DEAR TGSF:

After reading Francis's letter in the last newsletter (Readers Respond Feb99), I went back and read what Sandra wrote to Dateline NBC (Jan99). (I must admit, since I did not agree with Sandra's review of the show, I did not even read her article). Unfortunately, I believe this resulted in a disservice to the organization. The letter was presented at the ExCom. I do not remember if it was before it was sent or after it was sent. It was my understanding that the letter was written from Sandra to Dateline. While in the strictest sense I can see where Sandra could take the position that she was not representing the group in the letter, her opening line "As Outreach Chair for TGSF..." makes it quite easy for someone to get the impression that her opinion was representative of the group.

What bothers me more is that the message in the letter was one of division and not unity. I feel strongly that our group should be all inclusive of the greater TG community which the person in the Dateline story was obviously a member. So I will sponsor an effort to try to make sure we do not face this situation again. First I will present the following as a new standing rule at the next ExCom:

While the ExCom recognizes each member's individual right to express their own opinion, no serving ExCom member may send a document or make a statement to the public, that identifies their position on the ExCom in such a way that it might be interpreted as a statement officially made by the organization, unless the content of the document/statement has been reviewed by the ExCom and that a 2/3rd's vote of the entire ExCom (not just the one's present at the meeting) is made to approve the document or statement PRIOR to its release.

In addition I would like to write a letter to Dateline NBC, making reference to Sandra's letter and indicate that the letter was in no way representative of the group as a whole, and that several members of the group have expressed their disagreement with the views expressed in Sandra's letter. This letter would of course be presented to the ExCom subject to the standing rule mentioned above. I would like to apologize for not recognizing and responding to this situation in an appropriate manner and I would also like to thank Francis for taking the time to write his article.

**Nicole Cook**

## 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:

lhall@aol.com or call 510 [redacted]

## DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN TGSF,

I am today announcing my candidacy for the office of Treasurer for the coming term. During the past years that I have belonged to the organization I have greatly benefited from the support that I have received, and have met so many wonderful people as well.

It is time for me to begin paying back the organization, and to allow some of you who have worked so hard over the past years to take a bit of a break. I feel that I am qualified for this position and for membership on the Executive Committee for the following reasons:

I have previously served as treasurer of the computer organization where I attended the university. I have a laptop computer, and regularly use such programs as Quicken and the Microsoft Works spreadsheet program. I am online on the Internet, and frequently in the Chat Rooms and other areas of Transgendered Forum, and have email access at: [redacted]@hisnher.com I also have experience building web sites. I have experience with mailing, legal filings, and related things through my work as a legal assistant for a group of attorneys.

Last February I took the big step, and walked into the Cafe Mars, not knowing anyone there or what to expect. I was warmly greeted by many people, including President Lesley and Miss ETVC 1998 Dianna. I hope that they realize how important that was to me. I have also had the opportunity to travel to Reno and Seattle, and have met many members of the transgendered and gay communities there as well.

During the past year, I have found myself in the position of meeting and greeting people on their first outings, both in person and on the Internet. I find that from my recent personal experiences I am able to relate to them and to help them take that first step as well. I have ideas for improving our group's web site, and for getting information to potential new members in a timely fashion. I look forward to working with the Executive Committee to implement these ideas.

**Sincerely, Janis R**

## Email TGSF:

President, Leslie Bailey ..... [redacted]@slip.net  
Secretary, Veronica Smith ..... [redacted]@aol.com  
Social Chair, Nicole Cook ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com  
Editor, Ayme Kantz ..... [redacted]@aol.com



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# JANUARY - FEBRUARY SOCIALS IN REVIEW

By Nicole Cook

On January 16th TGIF in the North Bay held their now bi-monthly social at Anne and Dianne's house in the hills South of Santa Rosa. 20 to 25 ladies were in attendance for this casual pot luck event. While we were there we saw several regular faces and a few not so regular. Heidi had made the trip from Mt. Shasta with her S.O. Monique. This was the first time I had the chance to meet Monique, hence we ended up talking with them for quite a while. Renee and Margo were also there, they are always a fun pair to talk to. Margo gave me her web site URL and I must admit the before and after pictures are rather astounding. Roxanne and Chelsea were also in attendance, I remember some of these people because I was pushing Cotillion tickets during the event.

On January 23rd we made the trek to Sacramento for the SGA social at Joseph's. There were about 20 to 25 ladies there and as it turned out. Heidi and Monique were here too, boy they are getting around :-). Miss SGA, Tina Louise was pushing Cotillion tickets here so I got to concentrate on having a good time. There was a birthday party for one of the TG members of the Sacramento court in the upstairs club. So after dinner we went upstairs for the show. The show was actually pretty good, sort of like the SGA talent show. We stayed at Joseph's until about 11:00 when we headed for (you should have known this was coming), yes that's right Faces. We can't go to Sacramento and not go to Faces. As usual we had a great time dancing until 1:00am or so.

What could be more tasteful than a Lingerie show, that's what I thought so that's what about 35 of our members did for the January End of Month social at the Blue Muse. Joyce of Joyce's Perfect Fit provided the outfits (except for one, the black teddy that I wore last, was purchased by me while I was trying on outfits at Joyce's a few weeks before the show). Five models participated in the show, Leslie, Lulu, Tianna, Didi and myself. At one point The Outrageous Miss Didi took her show up front, I'm not sure what she was doing but it was causing quite a bit of response. A number of very nice outfits were modeled and Joyce had a number of other items available for sale in the back of the room. In addition, Joyce brought in a rack of discontinued items each for \$5.00. Needless to say there was allot of interest in this rack after the show.

I think something happened on February 6th, oh yes the Cotillion. I would like to give a review of the Cotillion, but all I could talk about is the events in the Cotillion Kitchen. Actually we did see the last hour or so of the show. We had a few Blue Hawaiians and were floating by the end of the show. So I will leave the review to someone else, what I did see I thought was great. But you may find the kitchen story amusing so I will give you the short version.

We arrived late in a Ryder truck carrying the kitchen due to heavy rain and wind. Our number 1 Volunteer Chelsea was there already, this was fortunate because like the Halloween party there were several volunteer no-shows. Chelsea took charge of setting up the front serving tables and getting the bread & condiments on the guest tables. This allowed us to focus on the kitchen. As we set the tent up out back the wind was trying to fly it away, after tying it down to tables, we got the oven and electric eyes in the tent and we were ready to cook. At this point our next most valuable volun-

teers showed up, Dianne went out to help Chelsea and Anne stayed in the kitchen with us. I would like to stop here and say, that without the significant contributions from Chelsea, Dianne and Anne we would not have been able to pull this off. Even with this effort it looked like we were in trouble until just before we were to serve Heidi and Monique became on the spot volunteers at the serving tables. That gave us just enough people to make everything happen. Between 2pm and 7pm we cooked 400 dinners (in a tent in the rain), we served about 300 to the Cotillion guests and sent about 100 with food runners to the homeless shelters. At around 8:30 we started to break down the kitchen, we finished just before 10, everything was loaded dirty to be cleaned the following day. As soon as the truck was locked up I grabbed my gown and headed for the 3rd floor ladies room. I then performed a 30 minute dress and makeup session, one of my fastest ever. then at sometime near 10:30 I sat in my chair and was able to watch the end of the show. Once again I would like to thank the volunteers (there were two I did not mention, both were working with Chelsea, I think one of them was Teri, I apologize for not remembering who the other volunteer was).

The last event to report on is the February Mid Month on the 10th at the Coco Club. About 15 or so girls showed up for some live Jazz music at this underground club. Our first and second runner's up from the Miss TGSF show were both present (Serena and Tianna). I also saw Rachael, Lulu, Janis and Everette. I'm sure I know some of the others as well but when I write the review days later it's hard to recall who was there. The Coco club provided the usual casual laid back atmosphere, and we were even able to talk while the music was playing. As usual we had to leave early so if anyone showed up after 10:00 or so we did not see them. Actually I'm glad we got to see Serena and Tianna, since they are usually night owls and don't arrive until after we leave.

## STANDING UNITED 1999

IFGE's 13th Annual Convention and Transgender Health & Wellness Conference will be held March 17 - 21 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. Attend tours, see shows, dress for parties; visit vendors and seminars, banquets and workshops. Co-hosted by the Blue Grass Bells of Louisville.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the Holiday Inn: 800-626-1558; ask for the special IFGE \$85 rate (plus taxes). Price is for two double beds, so up to four can stay in the room (indicate smoking room please).

For full registration, discounts, payment/refund policy information or questions regarding this event, contact S. Kristine James or Alison Laing, Convention Management Team c/o Cioe Enterprises, PO Box 61, Easton, PA 18044-0061, (610) [redacted] (evenings) or email: [redacted]@aol.com / [redacted]@LNG.com; Fax: (610) 759-0223.

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### TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give

as of February, 1999

Sandra Brewer \$25.00  
Gail Owens \$10.00

**Bless you for caring and thank you!**

*Lingerie Fashion Show Photos*



## SECRETARY VERONICA'S LAST CALL FOR OFFICERS

I have to mail the ballot for the April 29th election by March 15. If you are interested in running for any office, please read the general descriptions below. Then send me a short statement and photo (either through snail mail or e-mail) so I can include you on the ballot. I want to emphasize that the below descriptions are very general and the ExCom is in the process of rewriting the officers' duties. Also, each new officer tends to customize her office to suit her strengths and more senior officers always assist the new officers. It should be noted that much of the ExCom's business is now conducted on-line, so it would be helpful if each officer had access to e-mail.

While I'm about it, I'd just like to respond very briefly to a letter of complaint that was printed in the last newsletter. You only get out of an organization what you put in it. Showing up at a social is a great first step, but it's only a first step. If you simply show up and expect all your needs to be taken care of, you'll be disappointed. If you want to meet people and to feel as if you are engaged in the life of the club, then you have to help on a project, join a committee, or run for office. In other words, you have to get engaged in the life of the club. ExCom officers are sometimes criticized for not greeting every single person and making that person feel as if she is the absolute center of the universe. Well, we try. But, you know, we all work full-time jobs. We have families and obligations. We do all the club's business on our own time and cost. One night out of the entire month we like to get dressed up and party with our friends. This is not being cliquish; it's being human. If you think it could be different, don't run away. Run for office! Don't get mad. Get elected!

The **President** is the chief administrator and is responsible for maintaining TGSF's operational integrity. Her duties include (1) chairing ExCom meetings; (2) conducting business affairs at membership meetings; (3) ensuring good communications among all the officers; and (4) serving as liaison with other organizations.

The **Vice-President** is the second in charge. Her duties are: (1) assisting the President in ensuring good communications among the officers; (2) assisting the President with managing the organization; (3) coordinating the efforts of the committees, especially Pride Parade and Cotillion; and (4) proposing a budget to the Treasurer for the fiscal year.

The **Secretary** is the general conduit of information between the ExCom and the members. Her duties are: (1) maintaining the membership list and club records; (2) documenting ExCom meetings; (3) presenting the minutes to the membership; (4) producing and distributing a newsletter to keep the members abreast of the organization's status and activity; and (5) proposing a budget for mailing and newsletter costs to the Treasurer for the fiscal year.

The **Treasurer** is the chief financial officer of TGSF. Her duties are: (1) maintaining a checking account and, if appropriate, a savings account; (2) paying TGSF's bills and collecting monies due; (3) reporting on TGSF's financial situation at each ExCom meeting, with the statistics printed in the newsletter each month; and (4) presenting a financial report for the past year and proposing a budget for the next year at the Annual Meeting.

The **Chair of the Outreach Committee** is responsible for areas of publicity, advertising, speaking forums and educating the general public. Her specific duties are: (1) chairing the Committee; (2) encouraging members to join the Committee; (3) reporting the Committee's views to the ExCom; (4) reporting the Committee's activities in the newsletter; (5) proposing new Committee activities; (6) serving as liaison with other organizations; and (7) proposing the Committee's budget for the next fiscal year.

The **Chair of the Education Committee** is responsible for offering educational opportunities to the membership. Her specific duties are: (1) chairing the Committee; (2) encouraging members to join the Committee; (3) presenting seminars of topical interest for the members; (4) securing speakers and locations for the monthly seminars; (5) reporting on the seminars in the newsletter; (6) apprising the membership when, where and on what topics the seminars will be; (7) apprising the membership of other non-club educational activities; (8) maintaining TGSF's Library and obtaining the most recent, pertinent educational materials; and (9) proposing the Committee's budget for the next fiscal year.

The **Chair of the Social Affairs Committee** is responsible for offering social opportunities to the membership. Her specific duties are: (1) chairing the Committee; (2) encouraging members to join the Committee; (3) conducting social activities at the membership meeting each month; (4) reporting on the socials in the newsletter; (5) apprising the membership about the monthly socials; (6) apprising the membership of other social activities; and (7) proposing a budget for the Committee for the next fiscal year.

### OPEN HOUSE for TGSF Members

Thursday, March 4th, 7:00pm at

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**Dawn Marrero, Manager**

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March 4th to enter our **EpiLight** drawing.  
*Present this coupon anytime to receive your discount.*

## NEW TRANS COURSE

by Loree Cook-Daniels [REDACTED]@aol.com)

For those of you in the San Francisco Bay Area, please note and pass along the following announcement of a course of mine being sponsored by the Harvey Milk Institute on "Transitioning in Relationship." If anyone would like flyer(s) on the course to distribute to a local group or send to someone you know, please send me a private e-mail.

### Transitioning In Relationship

5 Thursdays, April 22 - May 20; 7-9 pm

Location: HARVEY MILK CIVIL RIGHTS ACADEMY, 4235 19th St @ Collingwood Course #: 99A-054

Cost: \$60

Nothing is as personal and individual as one's gender identity, but changing from one gender identity to another when you're intimately involved with someone is definitely not a solitary pursuit! The purpose of the course is to allow couples or family groups (or others in a close relationship) to explore together what one partner's gender transition means or might mean to each of them. The goal is to create a team approach to the transition, one that takes into account the relationship as well as everyone's individual needs and feelings.

This course will provide a safe place for those who are or are considering gender-transitioning and their loved ones to explore jointly the issues involved. Through group discussions, pair/triad work, worksheets, journaling, and readings, we will help each pair/group:

- Identify their hopes, fears, griefs, and uncertainties;
- Identify and solve the issues/decisions they face;
- Approach those issues/decisions as a problem-solving team.

Although participants' specific needs will set the ultimate agenda, issues likely to be discussed include: sexual orientation identity; timing of transition steps; emotional support needs; coming-out; money; body image; employment; community/friends; sexuality; legal issues; children; and sex roles.

This class will not substitute for individual or couples therapy, nor will we cover basic medical or legal transition information. Instead, the focus is on managing relationship issues before and during transition.

Both/all members of a partnership/ relationship are strongly urged to register and attend classes together. However, those whose significant other(s) are unable or refuse to attend are also welcome.

Loree Cook-Daniels and her partner Marcelle have been together 15 years, 3 of them post-transition. Loree is the national SOFFA (significant others, friends, family, and allies) coordinator for American Boyz, an F2M and SOFFA organization, and is the author of "Trans-Positioned", an article about the Lesbian-identified partners of female-to-male (FTM) transsexuals. She holds an MS in conflict management and has written, taught, and consulted on conflict analysis and resolution issues for twelve years.

To register, call Harvey Milk Institute at 415/552-7200 or register online at [www.gayglobalsf.com/harveymilk](http://www.gayglobalsf.com/harveymilk).

## 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](mailto:www.aluckywife@aol.com) and explain a little about your situation.

## A FOND FAREWELL TO THE COTILLION

by Sandra Brewer

After five years of participating in the Cotillion, it's time for me to move on to the pursuit of other efforts. This in no way dilutes my enthusiasm for this event which has been among the most exhilarating experiences in my life. The 1999 Cotillion was a pinnacle, and there is no way I can ever top it; it's truly a high point to end on. I was inspired by the presence of twenty of my colleagues and college instructor friends from outside the community, and hundreds from within the community. My participation, especially in the presentation of my comedy monologue on transgender issues, came off flawlessly; there may be no greater high for anyone living a transgendered life.

My article 'A contestant's Perspective of the Cotillion' in our May/June 1996 newsletter expresses sentiments that have prevailed in each succeeding year. Five Cotillions preceded my joining ETVC; I attended five events before participating, and I have now completed five years of participation. How fitting I was contestant number five in my last Cotillion presentation. All of you have helped me realize the joys of participating; I hope I've been able to return some of the excitement by sharing it with you. Finally, I hope all of you will consider filling my vacancy from the lineup of contestants. You can expect one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of your life. The best advice I can give to all potential contestants is to just be yourself, but be the best you can be.

This does not mean my involvement with TGSGF is finished. I expect to continue as outreach chair if you will have me. I invite feedback on the observations and insights presented in my Sandra Reaches Out column, especially since I've seen evidence many of you actually read it. Finally, I will continue outreach efforts outside the community; I encourage all of you interested in sharing this effort to project our best positive image to join me.

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## AN APPEAL FOR HELP

by Paul Barwick [REDACTED]@compuserve.com)

[QUILL-CA] High school student Adam Colton wears the cuts and bruises of a solid beating. They mark his face, his chest, his abdomen, his back. And carved into his flesh with a pen is the word "fag."

The 17-year-old was targeted for the second time this school year, the same year he decided to reveal that he is gay and formed the Gay-Straight Alliance at San Marin High School in Novato. City police are investigating the attack as a possible hate crime, said Sgt. Jim Laveroni.

Colton has no memory of the assault. Though he doesn't remember driving to school, Colton said police found his locked car in its parking lot, "which makes it a strong possibility that I was beaten up on campus," he said. Colton, a senior, wandered into a classroom after the attack, saying something about having been followed, other students have said. Then he passed out. The next thing Colton knew, he was lying in a hospital bed. He's now at home recovering.

"When I woke up in the hospital, the first thing I thought was that I'd had a diabetic emergency or was in a car accident," Colton said Saturday. "Yesterday as a whole was pretty cloudy for me." School Principal Rudy Tassano was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

The day of the first attack, on Sept. 15, someone had taken several napkins, spread them on the hood of his car parked in the school's lot, and written an obscene message in ketchup, Colton said. Early that evening, he was grocery shopping for his parents. A group of three high school teens approached him, taunting him with anti-gay epithets. He went inside and did his shopping. When he came back out, the teens jumped him.

The next week, he said, his car got keyed. The week after that, there was another ketchup message on his car. That weekend, someone wrote an epithet in lighter fluid on his family's driveway and tried to ignite it. Then there were the looks and the taunts at school, the kids who would pass him in the hall and make a hateful comment to their friends, loud enough for Colton to hear, about gays.

The pressure was exhausting. "I love going to school, but I was really starting to hate it," Colton said. Friday's assault occurred almost a year after a group of San Marin students allegedly yelled a racial epithet at some black players from nearby Tamalpais High. Three were suspended and one charged with disturbing the peace.

When he decided to come out of the closet at San Marin, Colton said, several people asked him why he would chance violence against himself. "I didn't want to keep it inside anymore," Colton said.

### Please Help

It's too late to help Matthew Shepard, but it's not too late yet to help Adam Colton. Seventeen year old Colton was courageous enough to start a gay student group at San Marin High School in Novato, California. Since then he has been physically attacked twice. Adam was found dazed and bleeding on the school grounds. He has been unable to remember who attacked him, and there were no witnesses. He suffered facial injuries in this beating, but was able to be released from the hospital after several hours treatment.

In September Adam was attacked and beaten in the parking lot of a supermarket by three teens who yelled anti-gay remarks as they beat him to the ground. At that time the police said that they were concerned for his safety and promised to do what they could. His attackers were never identified.

Adam seems to be getting discouraged. He says now that he wants to leave San Marin High. The townspeople seem supportive towards him, with the mayor of the town taking a strong stance against hate crimes, and the police with the support of the Chamber of Commerce and various residents are offering a \$7,000 reward for information leading to the arrests of the assailants.

This is a scared, frightened young man. Let's let him know that people do care. Send him a card or letter of support. Mail it to him in care of his high school. A flood of support mail just might make the school a little more aware that people care, too.

And spread the word about Adam's attack. This is not an isolated incident. Young people all over our country go through these kinds of things all the time just because they are perceived to be gay. All children deserve to be safe in their schools. Write to: Adam Colton, C/O San Marin High School, 15 San Marin Drive, Novato, CA 94945.

I'd suggest everyone contact their local papers - just call up the main number and ask for the news room and/or news editor - and ask them to report on this story. It's on the Associated Press wire now, and there's no reason why local press shouldn't be writing about it. By the way, journalist friends of mine highly recommend this strategy - they say people would be surprised as to how much newspapers listen when you call up and tell them what kind of news you'd like to see covered.

In addition, why not write an email letter-to-the-editor to your local paper about this incident. You could simply express outrage or grief - you could call for a federal hate crimes law - or you could urge local schools and public officials to do more to counter anti-gay violence and discrimination. You can find state-by-state email addresses for many local papers at: (<http://www.ifas.org/oldactivist/>). You can watch a recorded news broadcast on the Colton attack with RealPlayer at ([http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/ramhurl.cgi?file=1999/02/13-hatecrime\\_kronv.rm](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/ramhurl.cgi?file=1999/02/13-hatecrime_kronv.rm)).



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***“Remembering the Dead” takes a reverent look at those killed by hate, prejudice.***

## **WEBSITE MEMORIALIZES TRANS DEAD**

All Rita Hester wanted to do was live her life just like any other woman. When Hester, a transgendered woman who lived in Boston, was found murdered by multiple stab wounds in her own apartment late last November, this was more than Gwen Smith, another woman living across the country, could bear. Ms. Smith, a professional Web designer living in the San Francisco Bay Area, did not want to do a project relating to violence and prejudice against transgendered individuals. She had to.

Ms. Smith's desire for justice led to her creation of the "Remembering Our Dead" website, a memorial to individuals killed for the simple "crime" of trying to be oneself. For example, 9-year-old Steven Wilson, taunted for playing with "girl's toys," who was raped and drowned by a neighbor child. Or Tyra Hunter, taunted with racial and transphobic slurs and neglected by emergency personnel, who died from inadequate medical care. Or Debra Forte, who suffered multiple six-inch stab wounds to the chest, any one of which would have been sufficient to kill her. As Ms. Smith notes, "When one looks at how many transpeople are murdered, and considers how much complacency there is towards these murders, one realizes that something needs to be done."

There have been seven documented trans murders since August of last year.

- Luana (Junior da Silva Lago) - August 4, 1998
- Fitzroy Green - August 22, 1998
- Monique Thomas - September 11, 1998 (estimated)
- Chanel Chandler - September 20, 1998
- Rita Hester - November 28, 1998
- Lauryn Paige - January 9, 1999
- Steve Dwāyne Garcia - February 6, 1999

One is too many.

Currently, the stories on the website date back as early as 1969, and as recent as February 6th, 1999. With a reported 60% of transgender individuals having been the victim of a violent assault, it is doubtful that this site will stop growing anytime soon. Hopefully, through public education and awareness, this issue will receive the attention it deserves, along with more well-publicized accounts such as the murder of Matthew Shepard.

The "Remembering Our Dead" Website can be found at <http://www.gender.org/remember/>. Gwen Smith can be reached at [gwen@gender.org](mailto:gwen@gender.org).

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## **P-FLAG PUSHES FRANK AND KENNEDY FOR TG INCLUSION IN ENDA**

PFLAG's membership voted in the fall to become inclusive of transgendered people and family members and friends. We are firmly committed as an organization to securing the basic civil rights of transgendered persons, as well as those of our lesbian, gay and bisexual loved ones.

We encourage you to assist now in efforts to persuade Senator Kennedy and Representative Frank to include transgendered people in the version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) coming up before the 106th Congress. Because the impeachment hearings have virtually stopped other business, now is the time to write letters and make calls to their offices to make our case. A letter from PFLAG National President, Paul Beeman, and Executive Director, Kirsten Kingdon, will soon go out to Kennedy and Frank encouraging them to include transgender people in ENDA.

Here are their addresses, phone numbers and key talking points:

The Honorable Edward Kennedy, Senator from Massachusetts, United States Senate, Washington D.C. 20510. 202/224-4543.

The Honorable Barney Frank, Representative from Massachusetts - 4th District, United States House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20510. 202/225-5931.

Consider having a letter writing party at your next chapter meeting. Volume of letters makes a difference! Handwritten letters are the most effective. Talking points for calls and letters designed to address possible concerns and objections to TG inclusion. Please adapt into your own words:

- Please include transgender people in ENDA. Transgendered people face widespread discrimination in our society and as parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people we cannot advocate for some of our loved ones, but not others. We are also concerned that unless gender identity is covered in civil rights legislation, lesbian, gay and bisexual people, as well as heterosexual people, who do not conform to traditional gender norms may not be protected under ENDA as currently written.
- Non-discrimination policies around the country are beginning to recognize the importance of transgender inclusion. Examples of this include our PFLAG chapter in New Orleans, Louisiana, which took a leadership role in getting an ordinance passed last summer adding gender identification to that city's non-discrimination and intimidation laws. The State of California has since amended their hate crimes statute to recognize transgendered people as a protected class. Last December, Portland, Oregon's City Council unanimously approved a resolution to take specific steps to prohibit discrimination based on "gender identity" within its work force.

# TPeople Social Mobility QUESTIONNAIRE

Provided by **Bella Kinney and Raven Kaldera**  
 (██████████@net1plus.com)

Dear folks, I'm Bella Kinney, a transwoman working towards my MSW, is doing a paper on social mobility (or the lack thereof) among transpeople. If you'd like to fill it out the questionnaire below, you must send it privately to ██████████@net1plus.com; but don't put your name on it, as this is anonymous. I will not be copying down the names or email addresses of any answered questionnaire; we're not interested. Here goes:

## Questionnaire on Transgendered Social Mobility

1. What social class do you consider yourself to be currently a member of?

List A:

- ( ) Welfare class (poverty-stricken) ( ) Working class  
 ( ) Lower middle class ( ) Middle class  
 ( ) Upper middle class (affluent) ( ) Other (please describe)

2. What was your class upbringing? Select from List A.
3. If post-transition, what was your social class before transition? Select from List A.
4. What is the predominant social class in the neighborhood where you live? Select from List A.
5. What is your educational level?  
 ( ) Dropped out of high school ( ) GED or diploma  
 ( ) Some college ( ) 2-year degree  
 ( ) 4-year degree ( ) Advanced degree
6. What is your approximate annual income?  
 ( ) Less than 15K ( ) 15K to 20K ( ) 20K to 30K  
 ( ) 30K to 60K ( ) 60K to 100K ( ) Over 100K

7. Do you currently receive welfare, disability, SSI, SSDI, SSRI, pension or other retirement benefits?
8. What is your current gender role situation?  
 ( ) Pre-transition ( ) Transitioning now  
 ( ) Post-transition ( ) Don't intend to transition
9. Are you: ( )FTM ( )MTF
10. Have you been diagnosed with any psychiatric disorder other than gender dysphoria?
11. If post-transition, are you diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder other than gender dysphoria that was not significantly improved by transitioning?
12. If you are married or in a long-term committed relationship, does your spouse/partner's social class position contribute to or support your own?
13. How many other transgendered people do you know personally who have achieved upward social mobility due to transition?
14. How many do you know personally who have lost ground due to transition?
15. How many do you know who have remained in the same class position?
16. Anything else you think we should consider?

Thank you for answering this questionnaire. The results may eventually be published somewhere, but no ones' name will be used or even kept track of.

*Barbara F. Anderson*

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

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## EQUALITY BEGINS AT HOME...

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Equality Begins At Home will focus on organizing and educating at the state level. Clearly, more and more battles are fought in the states. With initiative and referenda from Colorado to Maine, attacks on GLBT families and youth from California to Georgia, and the right wing organizing more furiously than ever, we must build our state movement. Equality Begins At Home is a tremendous opportunity to bring together youth activists, state and local organizers, and community allies to strengthen our efforts in states and create a more powerful network across the country.

### Why Should We Focus Our Energy At The State Level?

Political momentum has shifted to the state houses. More states than ever before are facing anti-GLBT legislation and/or fighting for pro-GLBT civil rights measures. We need to strengthen our statewide political movement. Despite the increase in both favorable and unfavorable legislation, state groups remain vastly underfunded. As these groups face huge political challenges in their states, most groups do not have adequate staffing, equipment, or resources to meet those challenges. We will not succeed nationally until each state group is stronger. The national movement is only as strong as our state movement, so strengthening our work in the states is a needed next step.

The Equality Begins At Home actions will be organized by the Federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Political Organizations. National coordination and resources for these events are provided by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

### Contact Information

Equality Begins at Home, Dan Church, Michigan EBAH, Field Coordinator, Triangle Foundation, 19641 West Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48219-2721. 313-537-3323; [redacted]@aol.com. For a complete calendar of MI activities visit [www.tri.org](http://www.tri.org).

Paula Eitelbrick, National Coordinator, TEL 212-633-9775 FAX 212-627-4136; [www.equalitybeginsathome.org](http://www.equalitybeginsathome.org).

### 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.

## FOR THE KIDS OF TG FOLKS

A personal friend for whose integrity I can vouch has asked me to send this announcement out to all of my email contacts concerned with transgender issues, in particular those related to kids of trans people. She and another colleague have set up an email list that will allow children of trans persons to exchange thoughts, ideas, feelings, experiences, etc. She and her friend will monitor it, based in Connecticut. Please put this announcement in any newsletters to which you may have access or know about, and spread the word to concerned friends, colleagues, contacts.

"TSParents," a private email list for transsexuals with children, is proud to announce the formation of "DialUp," a private email list for children with a transsexual parent. Although we welcome the parent to participate in "TSParents," by NO means is it a requirement for the child to be able to sign up for "DialUp." For more information concerning "DialUp" and details on signing up, contact Julie Gilkey <[redacted]@AMNIX.com>.

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*Cynthia Young, M.A.*

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## Your Advice Needed

# TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE - THE ONES WE LEFT BEHIND

by Boyce Hinman, Lambda Letters

We need your advice on a legislative matter. The transgendered portion of the L/G/B/T community has been left far behind the rest of us in the struggle to gain full rights and respect in our nation. Table I graphically illustrates this fact.

### Table I - The Road To Freedom

1960 Gay sex illegal in virtually all states and the District of Columbia. Several states ban the serving of alcohol to known homosexuals. Lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered people regularly arrested and, sometimes, beaten, by police for simply gathering together. No laws prohibit sexual orientation or gender identity based discrimination.

1966 City of San Diego bans cross dressing.

1969 The Stonewall riots in New York City signal the beginning of the modern "gay rights" movement.

1972 California legislature passes legislation legalizing gay sex between consenting adults in private.

1979 California Supreme Court bans employment discrimination against lesbians and gays. Transgendered people not protected by the decision.

1979 Governor Brown issues executive order banning sexual orientation based discrimination in California government. Transgendered people not covered.

1985/86? California's legislature enacts the Supreme Courts' 1979 decision into law, making the protections of that decision more secure. Transgendered people still not covered. Protections for lesbians, gays, and bisexuals are weak.

1989 California legislature passes Hate Crimes Statistics Act requiring the reporting and counting of sexual orientation based hate crimes. Transgendered people not covered.

1990 Congress passes Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act requiring the reporting and counting of sexual orientation based hate crimes. Transgendered persons not covered.

1998 California enacts legislation providing enhanced penalties for hate crimes against transgendered people and requiring the counting and reporting of such crimes.

1999 10 States, including California, and 50 cities and counties ban sexual orientation based employment discrimination in private industry. No states and just a few cities ban employment discrimination against transgendered people.

9 states and 30 cities and counties ban sexual orientation discrimination against their own government employees and just a few cities ban employment discrimination against transgendered people in government.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, 320 "Fortune 500" corporations offer sexual orientation protection as part of their personnel policies. Just a few companies provide similar protection for transgendered people.

San Diego still bans cross dressing by transgendered people.

The election of a moderate Democrat to the Governorship of California, raises the possibility of enacting laws which would significantly advance the rights of lesbians and gays in our state. Several bills are being introduced in the state legislature to do just that. Unfortunately, transgendered people may again be left in the dust.

The current ban on sexual orientation discrimination in California is weak. The ban could be strengthened by adding the it to the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

At a December 5th meeting of the new statewide lobbying group, CAPE, a majority of the CAPE members present voted to support legislation to add protections for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered people to the FEHA. However, respected legislative staffers, who have done much of great value for our community, cautioned that Governor Davis is a moderate and that adding transgendered people to a FEHA bill would probably kill it. At this point it appears that no legislator is willing to introduce a bill that adds transgendered people to the FEHA.

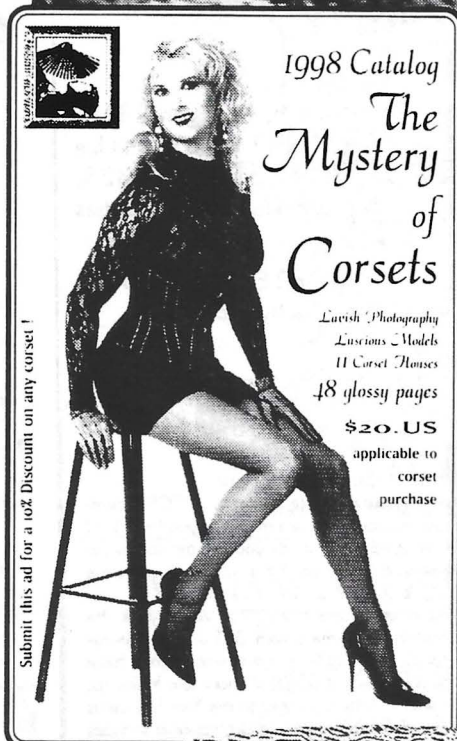
The issue we face is when is it time for us to risk our political capital to bring the transgendered community along with the rest of us. I'm not sure anyone knows the right answer. Should Lambda Letters forcefully advocate for the inclusion of transgendered people to any bill providing FEHA protections for lesbians and gays? If it did so, and the bill failed for that reason, there would be a lot of people angry at us. Should Lambda Letters support separate legislation to add transgendered people to FEHA? That legislation seems less likely to pass on its own. Should we simply wait until lesbians and gays are added to FEHA - hopefully in 1999 - and then put the full force of the community behind a bill for transgendered people?

We'd like your input. Please put a check next to the option you prefer in Table II and return it to us at [Lambdalp@aol.com](mailto:Lambdalp@aol.com).

### Table II - Options

I urge Lambda Letters to:

- Support the inclusion of transgendered people along with lesbians and gays in this year's FEHA bill.
- Support the introduction of separate legislation this year adding transgendered people to the FEHA.
- Wait until next year to support legislation adding transgendered people to FEHA.
- Other. (Please explain.)



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