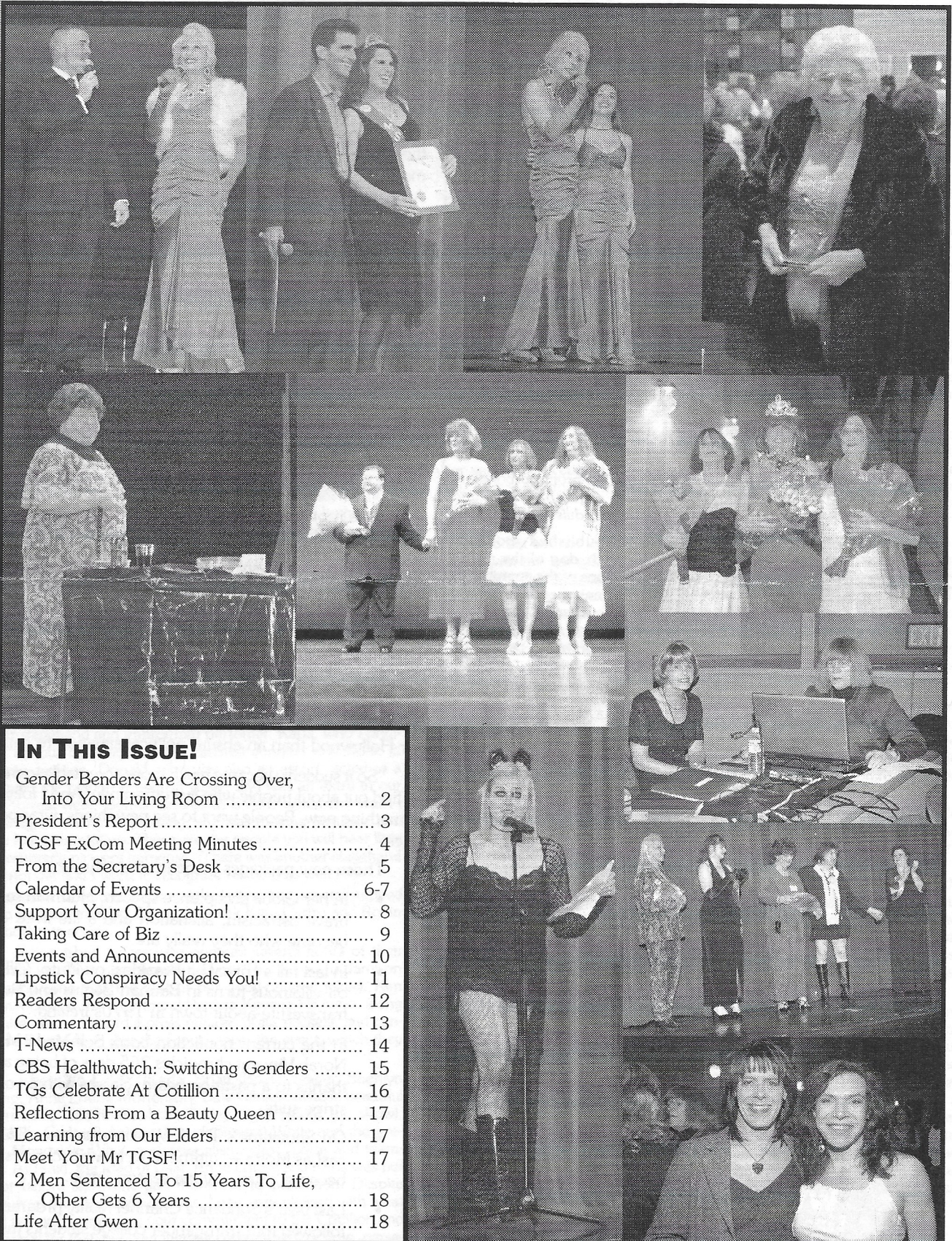


Cotillion 2006 Shines!



The Channel



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TGSF TransGender San Francisco is a group for all members of the Transgender 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.

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(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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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.

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4x5	\$ 60	\$300	\$ 600
Full Page	\$100	\$500	\$1000

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GENDER BENDERS ARE CROSSING OVER, INTO YOUR LIVING ROOM

In movies, at the bookstore and on TV, people are passing for the opposite sex.

By Joe Neumaier
www.miamiherald.com

Brokeback Mountain is riding atop solid box office (even in red states) and is lassoing every award in sight.

But the real sex story du jour in American pop culture? Try transgender people: Women identifying as men, and men as women. In movies, at the bookstore and on TV, people are passing for the opposite sex. In many performance spaces, drag queens and drag kings reign supreme. And the very human stories they're telling are dragging people in.

In publicity photos for some projects, femininity and masculinity are a mascara smudge away from each other.

Felicity Huffman took a break from being a desperate housewife to play a he becoming a she in Transamerica — and after a recent Golden Globe win for Best Actress in a drama, Huffman is a front-runner for a Best Actress Oscar.

A buzzed-about new nonfiction book, Self-Made Man: One Woman's Journey Into Manhood and Back, chronicles its female author's year and a half of living mannishly. The before and after pics are as different as X and Y.

And when even a straight-and-narrow icon like Barbie becomes part of the discussion, you know something's up.

So is it only a matter of time until that paragon of gangly girliness, Paris Hilton, dons a suit and fake facial hair to see what all the excitement is about?

"I think Brokeback Mountain and all these cross-dressing and transgender characters are part of the same phenomenon," says Paul Levinson, professor of communications and media studies at Fordham University.

"The gay-marriage debate during the 2004 election put these issues on the table in a way they hadn't been before, so Americans asked themselves, 'What is this all about?' It was absurd, and there's nothing better for Hollywood than an absurd political situation to capitalize on.

"So it suddenly became much more acceptable to mainstream America to find out about people who live differently. And Hollywood always loves something new. People want to see new things, wrapped up in new packages."

Those new packages come in a variety pack:

- In her Globe acceptance speech, Huffman saluted people "who brave ostracism, alienation and a life lived on the margins to become who they really are."
- In last fall's critical hit Breakfast on Pluto, Cillian Murphy — hot off villainous turns in Batman Begins and Red Eye — played a transvestite-about-town in 1970s Ireland.
- In the current nonfiction book Self-Made Man, lesbian author Norah Vincent chronicles 365 days of being a man among men, thanks to a paste-on beard, classes with a vocal coach and pin-stripe suits.
- On Showtime's The L Word, newcomer Daniela Sea joins the cast as Moira — girlfriend to Mia Kirschner's Jenny — who will become "Max" by the season finale.
- Last year's Sundance Channel reality program TransGeneration followed four transgender college students (two male-to-females and two female-to-males) as they transitioned from one gender

Continued on Page 15

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

The Morning After

I'm sitting here on the Monday after the Cotillion, trying to decompress and gather my strength. I took off from work because I am emotionally drained (and physically hurting) but feeling pretty good.

I first want to pay tribute to our wonderful new Mr. and Ms. TGSF, Sydney and Jennifer. I am very proud of both. Sydney, for his willingness to come in at the 11th hour and Jennifer, for her growth over this last year. They displayed poise, passion, energy and enthusiasm and dedication. They have already discussed their agenda for the upcoming year and I want to urge everyone to support them and help them achieve their goals. And Sydney, we will never look at Julia Child in the same way again! By the way, since our Mr. TGSF is from San Jose and our Ms. TGSF is from Santa Cruz (technically outside of the San Francisco Bay Area), I think that we have really expanded our geographic outreach.

The flip side of this is the hardest part to write. We had two other beautiful contestants – Lisa and Katra. They were our first runner up and Miss Congeniality, although these were not the titles that they sought. I know they are terribly disappointed and I hurt with them. I worked with them over the last two months and their presentations became part of me. They gave us everything that they had and left it all out there on the floor. Those of you who know them know that they have been integral parts of TGSF over the last year and important members of our community. They are not losers by any stretch of the imagination. They are winners and you should be proud of them. Most of us, including me, would not have the courage to do what they did by presenting themselves authentically. I adore both of them and I know that they will continue to be active in our community and will continue to reach out their hands in friendship to those who need it.

And now, for the thanks part. Doing this event is not easy. It takes a lot of effort from a lot of people, though we had not nearly enough help. If thanking people offends you I (as I know it does some) then please feel free to turn the page because I will give thanks and credit where it is due. We could not have done the event – for you – without all of these people.

First, I want to pay tribute to our unsung heroes – our MVPs - if you will. Riley, Karla, Donald and Bonnie. Riley, who was an escort, also pitched in as an usher, bartender stagehand and impromptu performer. Karla, who I originally wanted only for our opening number, assisted Jennifer and Dale, in literally a last minute decision. Donald, who was also an escort, acted as a stagehand and moved the piano on and off stage, and was an extra in our little skit after the formal wear. Bonnie arrived at 8 AM. When she wasn't hammering or drilling or nailing or painting, she was moving furniture and helping Katra with her presentation. These are the people you will hear little about but whose contributions were immense. (There was another stagehand whose name I did not get and I want to recognize his help as well.)

We kind of got short on bartenders, but at the last minute, several stepped forward to help. In addition to Riley, I want to thank Kitty Castro and Robin for helping on a moments notice.

We had five distinguished judges who donated several hours of their valuable time to help us select our representatives. Thank you to Jamison Green, Cecilia Chung (who was the butt of our good-natured jokes), Kim Carver, Nora Sherwood and my dear friend Patricia Kevena-Fili (who, along with Arlyne Camire, also prepared a press release, press packets, and contacted the Bay Area Reporter so that they could cover the event, which they did.)

Performers – where do I start? Karla, Brian (Bogie) Singer, Sherilyn Connelly, CJ Khing, Anne Louise Mortenson, Dale Carlson (whose beautiful saxophone performance was finalized the Friday night before the show), Arianna, Davida (Judy Garland) Ashton, David (Sinatra) White and the irrepressible Carmen Monoxide. What professionalism, class, poise and teamwork you showed. As I said, the triad of Dale, Anne Louise and Karla was put together one hour before showtime and it worked to perfection. Despite some last minutes drop outs and cancellations, I was very pleased with what we put on stage. I not only appreciate your commitment to the Cotillion and your hours of rehearsal for that, but your lifetime commitment of time, perseverance and dedication to your craft. It is something I can only imagine



Rock star Carmen Monoxide poses with Joanna Caron Award winner Arlyne Camire (l) at Cotillion 2006.

Special thanks to Kara for stepping in as Debutante Walk announcer and for your little skit with Riley. I appreciated your willingness to help on last minutes notice.

Lenny and Donna – what a great team. Lenny was as usual, on top of his game and Donna's enthusiasm was really evident. She and Lenny meshed well as a team and added just the right amount of color to the show. I was very honored that they agreed to join us this year. I say we have them back again.

Also thanks to Jay and Arlyne, our other escorts. I was especially pleased to present my beautiful friend Arlyne with one of the Joanna Caron awards. She has contributed so much to TGSF and to the Cotillion in the last three years, including some of the fabric you saw in the evening wear section.

Thanks to our past titleholders who came back to help in various ways. Dale Carlson, who played sax, Anne Louise, who assisted on several numbers, boy tyler, and Rachel Hill who helped with flowers. Thanks for staying involved. And speaking of flowers, thanks to Tommie Bennfield and Michele Fiore (another Joanna Caron award winner) for the beautiful flowers. And of course, thank you to Rachael Janelle for presenting me with flowers. I was very touched by your words.

To Jenni, our beautiful Ms. TGSF 2005, I am so proud of you and thank you for all you have done. You were a wonderful representative and liaison and displayed so much dignity and class throughout this year. I wish I could have done more for you but I love you. You and Chris exemplified what love is all about and I know that the depth of your love for one another inspired so many.

We had fantastic backstage support from Carla Blair, Ericka and Madame Steele (another Joanna Caron award winner) and I know several other individuals, though not nearly enough. Thanks as well to Stephanie Anne and Roberta for once again coordinating the judges, tallying the scores and keeping this whole thing organized.

Thanks too to Mark Leno for attending and for recognizing TGSF and Jenni in particular. We are all grateful and appreciative that you show up each year and that you continue to carry on fighting for us. And we have seen the fruits of that commitment. You are no longer the voice in the wilderness, but the voice of reason. You've convinced others to see the light and we thank you.

And last but not least, our production and support staff. Veronica, who helped with the bar and security, and Billie Jean, Jay (who was also an escort), Riley, Tommi and Maria (at her first Cotillion) who helped as ushers were pressed into service at the last minute. Dawnne, who worked the booth and organized the silent auction (which raised about \$800), Alli, our technical director, who was unbelievable and who even acted as stagehand, set builder and painter, but without whose work you would have seen and heard nothing and Laura (another Joanna Caron award winner) our producer who did all of the little jobs that were needed to get this all done.

And of course, thanks to Carmen for filling in for me. Her speech was from "School of Rock" for those that didn't recognize it. She wanted to do "Blackboard Jungle" but didn't know any of the dialogue. I know she can be somewhat unpredictable but she tells it like she sees it and she won't like me saying thus but she is really a softy. Although we are different in many ways, I am proud to call her my friend.

I know I am forgetting people but forgive me. You see how many people it took? And it wasn't nearly enough. We all did the best we could. Some stated that it didn't have the glamour of past Cotillions. Maybe so. So what? We were not about glamour. We were not about flash over substance. Let's concentrate on what we did have. We had four beautiful and real people with substance, not as mindless Barbie (and Ken) dolls. We had people who will continue to work in this community long after the Cotillion is over. We had fantastic staff who worked long, hard arduous hours with little sleep or rest. We presented the members of our community as real, authentic and honest people – as dedicated and caring individuals. And I believe we were successful.

As for me. I've done some soul searching in the days after the Cotillion. I've thought about running for President again and helping to complete all of the work that still needs to be done. I want to support TGSF and our community any way I can. Alli has expressed an interest in running for President and I want to offer her my whole-hearted support in this effort. I will do whatever I can to help. Because of my desire to continue to support TGSF, we had a long talk and I have decided that the best role for me would be to run as treasurer. So that is where you will find my name on your ballot. The financial health of TGSF always has been of great interest and concern to me and I can be effective as treasurer to ensure that the next ExCom has all of the information that it needs to make financially responsible decisions. I'll talk more about this next month.

So it's once more into the bleach (and my penultimate column)...

February 4, 2006

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:03

Attending – Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Dawnne Woodie, Pamela Gray, Laura Marlowe, Allison Laureano, Lisa Dummer, Tommi Watson, Katra Briel. Absent – Jennifer Kennedy, Jennifer Anderson. The Minutes of the December 4, 2005 meeting were approved

President's Report – Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Jennifer Anderson will attend the San Francisco coronation as Ms. TGSF. We are not sure if Sidney will attend or not. If he doesn't, either Lisa or Katra should attend in his place. We are reviewing the possibility of holding a special showing of Screaming Queens, The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria on March 23rd, to be hosted by Susan Stryker, the producer of the film. If it can be arranged, it will be held in the sanctuary of MCC Church. Alli and Lisa will work with Susan on it. The next meeting of the ExCom will be devoted primarily to strategic planning for the next year.

Vice President's Report – Laura Marlowe

The cotillion lost about \$2,000, which seems to be about normal these days. 8 hours was spent on the Thursday before Cotillion to build the sets with another "painting party" on Friday. The sets were due to the hard work of Becky, Bonnie, Tommi and Katra. A special thanks to Bonnie for all her hard work on the staging, where she worked non-stop from early morning until the show was well over. Thanks also go to the people who assisted with bartending, ushering, security, and everyone else necessary to make the Cotillion a success. The Pride Committee for this year will be Laura, Alli, Jennifer, Katra, Dawnne and Lisa. They will work on a design for a potential float and determine the costs of building. It's estimated that a float will cost TGSF about \$3,000. The committee will look into a possible corporate sponsor or donor to underwrite the cost of the float. We will again need a number of contingent monitors for the float. We can also raise money for TGSF by serving as Safety Monitors on Saturday, during the parade and in the Celebration area on Sunday. We will need as many monitors as we can get. We may work the accessibility area again this year, although that was not certain. Lisa said that she had been looking into the purchase of laser engraved metal safety whistles that could be sold as a service to members and a fund raising endeavor. It was agreed to go ahead with the plan. Lisa will advance the costs of production.

Treasurer's Report – Pamela Gray

There is approximately \$2,100 in the bank and about \$500 in bills to come in. Letters to 18 former Channel advertisers will be sent out this week in the hopes that we can entice them to begin advertising again.

Secretary's Report – Lisa Dummer

The Channel was not mailed until February 1st, due to a delay in the address labels being acquired. We should be back on schedule for March. The March profiles will be Jennifer Anderson and Sidney Mason as the new Ms. and Mr. TGSF – 2006. Dawnne Woodie has picked up the mail and delivered it to Roxy. The March channel will be devoted primarily to the Cotillion Poster.



Education – Dawnne Woodie

We have been approached by a self defense school who is interested in teaching a few basics on self defense for our members. The committee is also working on Seeking and Searching – Religion for the Transgender Person in conjunction with the Human rights Commission. Possible other events are a MAC makeover session in May, a dance class, a corset demonstration by Romantasy or Dark Garden and a presentation on transgender rights under the law by the Transgender law Center. Lisa will speak to MAC in the Stanford Shopping Center about hosting the event. If not, Dawnne's contacts at the Fillmore MAC store would love to host one.

Outreach – Allison Laureano

It was mentioned that Jennifer Anderson has taken over responsibility for the hotline. It was determined that this needs to stay with the Outreach committee so that a consistent message is given to all callers. Alli and Jenni will work on a script so that others may eventually be able to assist them. A number of ExCom members are working on a fund raising project in conjunction with SF Pride to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Compton's Cafeteria riots. The money will be used to place a plaque in the sidewalk at the corner of Turk and Taylor, where Compton's used to be, as well as finish the funding of Screaming Queens. There has been some discussion that some portion of money collected in excess of the \$17,000 needed will be donated to TGSF for its work on the project. Nothing is definite on that, though. Dawnne did a presentation to the SF Art Institute during January.

Social – The next mid month will be held on March 16th, which will also be the last date for candidates to formally announce their candidacy for TGSF office, with the elections to follow in April. The end of month will be held on March 23rd. the budget for the Wedding Party is about \$535, and we expect to make about \$200 profit from it. The admission charge for the Wedding Party will be \$12, with additional fees to the preacher for those wishing to be married.

Old Business

The status of the TGSF storage locker was discussed. Alli will check into pricing of storage units or other possible alternatives and present the findings at the next ExCom meeting.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Next meeting – The next meeting of the ExCom will be Saturday, March 4, 2006. The meeting will be primarily devoted to strategic planning for the next year, including Pride and the upcoming Social Calendar. It will begin at 1:00 and will be held in the 4th floor conference room at the LGBT Center on Market Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Lisa Rae Dummer

Winning

What is winning? Most people define winning as coming in first, but I have to disagree with them. As the first Runner-up in the Ms. TGSF contest at the recent Cotillion, some might say I came close but I didn't win. I am here to tell you that those people are wrong. I and the entire transgender community won because TGSF got two wonderful representatives to see us through the next year. I truly believe that Jennifer Anderson will follow in the footsteps of her predecessors and make TGSF a more visible, friendly and powerful organization than it has ever been. In that action, Jennifer has my total support. I will give her whatever help and assistance she needs. Being able to work with Jennifer at the last two Cotillions and into the future is winning.

More than that, though, I am a winner because I was on that stage. I felt the love of the audience and their sincere wishes that I do well. I had so many people come up to me during and after the show to say how much they enjoyed and admired me. That is winning.

I made two beautiful new friends, Veronica from Cincinnati and Megan from Illinois. They flew out here just to attend the Cotillion and I hope they make it back for Pride. I have invited them and they are planning on it. I sure hope they can make it as I will love to see them again. Meeting new friends is winning.

I was able to renew a number of old friendships as well, especially with my fellow competitor from 2004, Kara Flynn. Kara was the first transwoman I ever met and has always been open and welcoming to me. Even though I don't see her as often as before, I still count her as one of my dearest friends. I would have loved to share the stage again with her this year and hope that she will again be up there for all of you. Renewing old friendships is winning.

I got to work with four wonderful and dedicated people - Roxy, Laura, Dawnne and Alli. These people gave their time and hearts to making the Cotillion a success and it was. But more than that, they gave of their time and themselves to work with us, the contestants. While we only rehearsed for a half hour at a time, they had to sit through all of them, giving advice and working to make us as great as we possibly could be. After we all finished, they spent more hours making sure everything else was as perfect as humanly possible. There could not have been a Cotillion without them. I can't thank them enough for the time they spent for all of us. Working with such talented and wonderful people is winning.

Behind the scenes and the scenery was Bonnie. She designed all the beautiful stage sets and helped build them. She was there at Cowell Theater from 8:00 in the morning until the show was over. She was the one who rushed all of my props onto stage for my various parts,

including the damp hairbrush I used to fling water at Donna Sachet. When one of my hats got misplaced just before I was to go out for my presentation, Bonnie, along with Ben, searched all over back stage until she found it. At the same time, she kept me from panicking. Having Bonnie as a friend makes me a winner

I also got to spend a lot of time with my closest friend, confidant and advisor, Anne Louise. Even though she is no longer Ms. TGSF, she still gives of her time and herself for me and all of TGSF. Without the hours she willingly gave me to rehearse the poem and working with me to write the music as accompaniment, I couldn't have done what I did on stage. Having sisters like Anne Louise who are always there for you is winning.

I was able to work with our Ms. TGSF - 2005, Jenni Kennedy, and her lovely partner, Chris, again. I competed with Jenni last year and was glad to have her there with us again. We opened our dressing room door to them, and they opened their hearts to us. Although I have only come to know them over the past year, it seems as if they have been there for me forever. This again is winning.

Finally, I was able to work more closely with my "little sister", Katra. Since her rehearsal and interview times were right after mine, we were able to spend more time together than ever before. Many nights she stayed with me since it was too far for her to go back to her home in Vallejo. Even though I think she felt like she was imposing, I love having her stay there. And she is always welcome to come back any time she feels like cleaning my bathroom again. In the beginning of this paragraph, I put quotations around the words little sister. There should be no quotation marks around it. Katra is, and always will be, my little sister, my family. Being able to spend so much time with her is winning.

For those of you who saw me break down in tears while presenting the contestants' gifts to the production staff, those were tears of joy because I am truly a winner. So when you tell me how sorry you are that I didn't win, I appreciate the support, but I'm not a loser. I didn't get a title but I got so much more out of this experience. In my mind, that makes me one of the biggest winners ever.

GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center
www.defrank.org

This youth program will provide space for discussion groups, workshops and activities, specifically for genderqueer youth and their allies. We are excited to be offering this new programming, for an underserved population, even in our own community. This new group is for young people 20 and under, who identify somewhere on the gender non-conforming spectrum, who are questioning their gender identity or who are considering transitioning.

This group will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 5-6pm at the DeFrank Center, which is located at 938 The Alameda, in San Jose. For more information please contact T. Aaron Hans, Program Director at 408.293.3040 ext. 112 or at progdir@defrank.org.

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TGSF Events in March

Wednesday / March 1 / 7:30pm

MID PENINSULA SUPPORT GROUP

Meets from 7:30 to 9:30 at the Full Circle Bookstore on the El Camino in Belmont. For information, contact Laura Patterson at laura@laurasoft.com

Saturday / March 4 / 12:00pm

TGSF EXCOM MEETING

The meeting will be primarily devoted to strategic planning for the next year, including Pride and the upcoming Social Calendar. It will begin at 12:00pm and will be held in the 4th floor conference room at the LGBT Center on Market Street.

Saturday / March 4 / 6:30pm

CARLA'S MONTHLY DINNER

Carla's Monthly Dinner in March will be at the House of Genji on Saturday the 4th. Meet at 5:45 at Carla's to carpool, or be at the House of Genji by 6:30. **Please RSVP to attend this dinner:** carla@carlas.com or (408) 298-6900.

Thursday / March 16 / 7:00pm

TGSF MID MONTH

Another fun Mid-month is being planned by Katra Briel. For more information, please contact Katra at katra.briel@tgsf.org

Thursday / March 23 / 7:00pm

TGSF END OF MONTH

The End of Month will be held on Thursday, March 23rd. It will be held at the MCC Church, 150 Eureka, San Francisco, to attend a screening of "Screaming Queen's - The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria", Hosted by the Compton's Cafeteria Commemoration Committee. This will kick off the 40th anniversary celebration of the riots and the fund raising campaign. **There is no charge for this event.** For more information, please contact either Alli at Allison.laureano@tgsf.org or Lisa at lisa.dummer@tgsf.org

Saturday / April 1

TGSF PUB CRAWL

Join TGSF for the first Pub Crawl on Saturday, April 1st. We will be visiting a number of different bars to view the different atmospheres as well as taste their delectable libations. For more information, contact Katra at katra.briel@tgsf.org

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March's Birthdays

3/01	Dusty Prentiss
3/07	Shelley Wong
3/08	Cheryl Sheppard
3/11	Lucy Ann Jones
3/14	Christianne Servat
3/15	Damon Helton
3/16	Jodie Marie Buschman
3/17	Michelle Cowan
3/19	Mina Schwartz
3/20	Donna Freeman
3/21	Jackie Conner
3/21	Diane Tumas
3/22	Joan Sheldon
3/22	Kathy Ann Johnson
3/22	Joyce Patterson
3/24	Robyn Lynn Graves
3/25	Evette Roque La Ray
3/27	Telzey Adams
3/30	Danielle R. Castro
3/31	Julianne Antonio

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Bay Area Calendar - March 2006

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

Meets 1st & 3rd Monday every month. 8pm 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 Thursday of every month. 7pm at Rainbow Community Center, 3024 Willow Pass Road in Concord 925-937-8432.

FTM International

Support group for Female-to-Male CDs&TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTMI, 160 14th Street, SF, CA 94103; 415-553-5987, or email: info@ftmi.org

I Love It Girl Socials

Every Wednesday night at I Love It Boutique, 45979 Warm Springs Blvd., #7 in Fremont. Call Jo-An at 510-656-4738.

Mid-Peninsula TG Group (MPTG)

TGSF-sponsored support group; 7pm, First Wednesday of each month at Full Circle Books in Belmont, CA. Contact Laura Patterson at Laura@laurasoft.com.

Pacific Ctr for Human Growth (PacCtr)

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

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

Bi-weekly social/support group for gender-gifted persons serving Santa Cruz and Central Coast. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays every month at The Diversity Center, 177 Walnut Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-5422; 7pm

SCOUT (SCOUT)

Santa Cruz Organization for Uniting Transmen, meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Diversity Center (listed above); 7:30pm

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

TGIF

Social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707-544-1540.

T.R.A.N.S

MTF support group meets every Wednesday afternoon 2pm at 1145 Bush Street in San Francisco.

TransSpirit Ministry (TSM)

Gathering @ Metropolitan Community Church of SF, 150 Eureka, SF. Second Friday each month. Potluck dinner, social, and discussion time. For information, contact Dawnne Woodie (415) 748-2396 or sf_dawnne@yahoo.com

TransVis-HWD

TransVision Social TG Women meets 7pm, 4th Friday every month. Light refreshments and a wonderful atmosphere. Contact Tiffany at (510) 713-6690, ext. 9.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social 7:30 PM MPTG	2 7:00 PM DVG RCC	3 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	4 12:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting 6:30 PM Carla's Monthly Dinner
5	6 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	7 7:00 PM SCT	8 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	9	10 7:00 PM SVGA 7:00 PM TSM 8:00 PM PacCtr	11 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
12	13	14	15 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	16 7:00 PM TGSF Mid-Month TG Legal Clinic	17 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	18
19	20 8:00 PM DVG	21 7:00 PM SCT	22 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	23 7:00 PM TGSF EOM	24 7:00 PM SVGA 7:00 PM TransVis-HWD 8:00 PM PacCtr	25 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
26	27	28 7:30 PM SCOUT	29 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	30	31 8:00 PM PacCtr	

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is billed annually upon enrollment: \$40 Single / \$45 Family

Special \$35 Single Membership w/ Email-Only* Delivery of CHANNEL

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? _____

*Email: _____ Website URL: _____

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

May we use photos of you taken at TGSF events in our newsletter or website? 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.

Support Your Organization!

TGSF Sustaining Memberships

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Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Original Signed Photo of Ms / Mr TGSF
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

PATRON LEVEL: \$1000

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

ANGEL LEVEL: \$500

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
One complimentary ticket to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

CENTURY LEVEL: \$250


Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Framed Recognition Certificate

MERIT LEVEL: \$100

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Recognition Certificate

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Make your CONTRIBUTION to TGSF Today!

Your Sustaining Membership contribution will be used to support the educational and social activities for TGSF.
Please make your contribution now!

Please indicate your level of giving:

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Check if you DO NOT want TGSF to acknowledge you as a Sustaining Member

Please mail this Tax Deductible Sustaining Membership Contribution Form along with your Check payable to TGSF to:

TGSF P.O. Box 426486 San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Thank you for your support of TGSF!

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF FINANCIAL REPORT

As of February 15, 2006

Assets

Cash	\$2,186.45
Decorations	\$100.00
Beverages	\$50.00
Total	\$2,336.45

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Receivable	\$663.00
Accounts Payable	\$443.94
Total	\$219.06

Statement of TGSF Income

Memberships	\$370.00
Advertising	\$25.00
Donations	\$764.56
Cotillion Raffle	\$113.00
Cotillion Bar	\$573.79
Cotillion Silent Auction	\$760.00
Cotillion Ticket Sales and Advertising	\$342.08
Total	\$2,948.43

Expenses

Channel	\$125.00
Phone	\$50.83
Piano Rental for Cotillion	\$1,075.00
Cotillion Photography	\$850.00
Cotillion Awards	\$283.71
Cotillion Food	\$569.46
Insurance 2006 second half	\$562.50
Cotillion Programs	\$540.44
Misc. Cotillion Expenses	\$186.78
Total	\$4,243.72
Net Income (Loss)	(\$1,076.23)

TGSF DONATIONS

Our Friends Who Give
as of February 15, 2006

Lisa Rae Dummer	\$128.35
Roxy Carmichael-Hart	\$233.21
Rachel Hill	\$117.00

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

CONTACT TGSF!

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Vice President

OPEN

Secretary

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Calendar www.tgsf.org

*Submissions can be made online directly.
Cancelling mistakes or for other problems,
please contact the Webmistress.*

PISSR

People In Search of Safe Restrooms

PISSR is committed to establishing gender-neutral bathrooms. We believe that all people, regardless of their gender identification or presentation, have the right to access safe and dignified restroom facilities without fear of harassment, judgment, or violence. General meetings are always the first Monday of the month; 7 pm at 870 Market Street (Flood Building), 4th floor in San Francisco.

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Events and Announcements!



Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, March 1, 2006

Full Circle Books

1538 El Camino Real, Belmont, CA 94002
(650) 508-9546

7:30 - 9:30 P.M.

All welcome regardless of race, age, gender, gender identification
\$1 donation will be requested but no one will be turned away.

For more details please contact Laura Patterson at
Laura@laurasoft.com

Please note: This is a support group. The views expressed in this group are reflective of the attendees and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ExCom and members of TGSF.

You are encouraged to speak to your personal physician and/or therapist regarding your specific treatment and care.

NEW SANTA CRUZ TG SUPPORT GROUP

Thinking about transitioning? Don't know where to start? In transition and need some support? Made the journey already and would like to share your experiences or just meet new people?

Announcing a brand new support and social group at the UC Santa Cruz campus for transsexual, transgendered, questioning folks and their allies. The group is geared towards those making, thinking about making, or who have made the physical and/or social transition from female to male (FTM) or male to female (MTF).

Students, staff, and faculty are all welcome.

The first meeting will be at the Lionel Cantu GLBTI Center on the UCSC campus, Tues. Oct. 11th @ 7:30pm. The group will be deciding on a name for the group so please bring your ideas! Regular meetings will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

Questions?

Email **Nic Winter** winter@chemistry.ucsc.edu

TGSF ELECTIONS IN APRIL!

The TGSF election of officers is just around the corner. If you've been thinking of getting more involved in your community, now is your chance. We will be electing a President, Treasurer and one co-chair, each, for the Outreach, Education and Social Committees at our Annual Meeting, April 27th. Continuing for one more year are Vice President, Secretary, and the other Outreach, Education and Social Committee Co-chair positions.

In order to declare your candidacy, you need to email me your declaration to me (lisa.dummer@tgsf.org). You must declare your candidacy for office not later than **March 16, 2006** so that ballots may be prepared and mailed to the members. Of course, write-ins are allowed.

I will need a short campaign platform or statement from each contestant that will be published in the April issue of the Channel.

TGSF needs dedicated people willing to work towards the betterment of our organization and our community. Please take the time to seriously think about running. TGSF needs you!

TG HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE IN SANTA CRUZ

Beginning in October of this year under a California Endowment Grant, The Diversity Center of Santa Cruz and Planned Parenthood Mar Monte Westside Health Center are jointly working to provide therapy referrals, health care and hormone therapy services to the Santa Cruz transgender community.

They also offer a support group the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month between the hours of 7:30 and 9:30pm at the Diversity Center of Santa Cruz office located at 1117 Soquel Avenue.

For more information about this exciting program, please contact **LuLu Manus** by e-mail lmanus@diversitycenter.org or **(831) 425-5422**.

**New weekly FTM social group will
replace the "Transitioned Men's" group**

FTM GET-TOGETHER AND SUNDAY BRUNCH

Every Sunday @ 1pm • The Crepevine 216 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114 • Castro †Cross street: 15th & Market St. • (415) 431-4646. For further directions call Marty @ 415-845-1157.

TRANSVISION SOCIAL — HAYWARD

TransVision Social Transgender Women will meet at **7:00pm on the fourth Friday of every month** to celebrate our survival. Come and share your journey of daily living and participate in the affirmation of our lives. For each of our journeys and our vision, let us validate, support and affirm each other and celebrate our success.

There will be light refreshments and a wonderful atmosphere. Come for that good feeling. For more information, contact Tiffany at (510) 713-6690, ext. 9. Don't miss this!

Events Horizon...

Coming April 15th!

LIPSTICK CONSPIRACY NEEDS YOU!

Greetings, everyone. Sarafina Maraschino here, singer and guitarist from Lipstick Conspiracy, "America's premier trans band." Ayme and Roxy have graciously permitted me some space here in *The Channel* to let everyone in the readership in on what me and the rest of the girls in the band are up to. And for those that are unfamiliar with us, be sure to have a look at our website:



Sarafina Maraschino

<http://www.lipstickconspiracy.com>.

Lipstick Conspiracy has a lot things going at the moment. First, we are in the studio at Different Fur (here in SF) to record the much-anticipated sophomore album with Top 100 producer Buddy Saleman, to be released in May of this year. Our plans are to tour the country this summer to support it. As of this writing (February 9th), we have been asked to play Portland, Norfolk and Los Angeles Pride, with numerous more dates in the Pacific Northwest, the southwest and the Deep South to be added. We will be releasing three singles, and producing some music videos locally to accompany them. Unfortunately, this sort of production always comes with a price tag, and we're looking for investors to help us with the costs. Lipstick Conspiracy is still an independent band, after all. Our business plan for the year 2006 is available should anyone within the community be interested in helping out. The investment return will come from royalties and album sales. Bear in mind, we are actively pursuing a variety of television and film projects, and the payoff in syndication can easily return an investment many-fold. Again: it's all in the business plan. I will be happy to supply additional details upon request. Contact me at sara@lipstickconspiracy.com.

Second, Lipstick Conspiracy placed in the first round of Emergenza, the international battle of the bands on January 9th. In fact, on the night that we participated, out of seven bands performing at the Red Devil Lounge, Lipstick Conspiracy was the highest scorer.

Moreover, we were the *fourth highest scoring band in San Francisco out of a total of 278 bands participating*, and our performance was on a Monday night, rather than the easy-ticket-sales evenings such as Friday or Saturday. Plus, out of literally 100s of bands, and the first rounds being conducted in 190 cities internationally, we are the only transgendered act in the entire program. First round down, four more to go. Simply put: **We need your support!** Basically, this is a popularity contest...whoever gets the most votes from the audience moves on to the next show. The fifth, and final round, is to be held in Europe.

Our next round is on **April 15th, at 12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission Street @ 22nd - 10:00pm**. Advance tickets are \$10, \$15 at the door. Contact info@lipstickconspiracy.com (that's me, too!) to arrange a sale. As a special offer, anyone that purchases an advance ticket to the Emergenza show on the 15th will automatically be placed on the CD pre-sale list. So, that amounts to a free copy of the new album when it is available. Before it's in stores or online! Beat that!



Sara, Shawna & Marilyn



Marilyn and Sara



Tori

This is a wonderful opportunity for community members to help Lipstick Conspiracy continue to show the world what a handful of TGs can do. Help us spread the word that the trans community is a force to be reckoned with. Thanks for listening, and I hope to see you at the next performance.

Readers Respond

A CHILD UNKNOWN

Lisa Rae Dummer

Many of you know that I have two children who are not speaking to me since my transition. what I kept buried deep in my heart is that I had a third child who died before birth - who never saw the light of day. Although that was 35 years ago, it still tears me up inside. This is a poem I wrote in honor of that child.

You died before you were born
Leaving me so forlorn
To never hold you in my arms.

What do they know,
The ones who said,
This child is better dead?
How does that ease my aching heart?

You never made it to your birth
To realize your own true worth
Or know your parents' love.

Your death, it tore apart
The place I made in my heart
To hold you ever more.

You never got to know
How the sun can set your skin aglow
Or the feel of raindrops on your tongue.

Though you never had a name
I love you just the same
As the ones who saw the light of day.

No matter what they say
You are with me everyday
In the place I made for you.

Though others may forget
I remember yet
The babe I never knew.

MID-MONTH SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

TGSF is looking for some enthusiastic and motivated people to help plan our mid-month socials.

All it takes to plan these events is for someone to call a venue that is hopefully very TG friendly and see if they would be willing to host our event. Mid-months can expect anywhere from 10-20 people.

If you would like to help with these events, please contact roxyhart72903@sbcglobal.net Thank you!

KATRA BRIEL ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR SOCIAL CO-CHAIR

Wow, Election Time is coming Quickly! I know I was **not** elected to the Social Co-Chair position, but it was vacant and I thought that would be a good way to help out and become more involved.

So I asked, they acquiesced, and there I was, on the Executive Committee of TGSF! I have been trying to find my way and help with some new ideas while revitalizing some old ones. And my work is not finished, rather it has just begun.

So I wish to actually RUN for the Social Co-Chair since it is my chair that is up for election. It is a lot of time and hard work, but I enjoy it and the thought that what I am trying to do may help you or find something you are interested in or just putting something together that is fun to do. I am really trying to find things that are not going to cost a bunch of money, or things where we just get together as friends. No talking heads, no politics, nothing to really have to pay for except maybe just a drink or two and a bite to eat. Just purely social things. And a few others.

I do have an agenda. It isn't hidden, it isn't insidiously or evilly designed to separate you from your Benjamins. It is simple and I hope elegant in a way you will appreciate.

I intend to bring back the fun, the good things about just being with old friends and meeting new ones and being excited about going to a meeting or gathering at TGSF. I want to do things with other organizations and broaden our horizons on what there is to do out there to experience the good things in life!

So to do this I want to simply find as many different events and things to do at various times of the month so that there is almost always something small happening at least once a week. I can only do this if you are willing to do three things.

Vote for me to be Elected into the position of Social Co-Chair, Communicate to me and the Executive Committee any and all ideas YOU have for improving TGSF's Social Calendar and please, give ME a chance to convince you that remaining a member of TGSF is something you really want to do and a good thing for you, our community and TGSF.

I am counting on you, my "Band of Sisters".

Katra Briel
Social Co-Chair



HEY!

\$10 Bucks Per Issue Gets You An Ad Like This...!

Tall, feminine, graceful closet CD seeks Big Sister to help with shopping and makeup tips. I live alone so it's helpful if you can come here, but I can certainly travel. SF Area. Call (415) 000-0000. Up to 40 words only \$10.00. Send text of ad and Check or Money Order to TGSF's PO Box. ATTN: Editor. Reach out and come out!

Commentary

THE STORY OF XXXXX

By Dawne Woodie

Imagine, if you will, the following scenario. A transgender woman has been assaulted and very badly beaten and brutally raped. She is found lying bloody and broken, barely conscious, in a hallway in one of those ratty Tenderloin hotels. She is taken to General Hospital, where PD calls me to assist them in getting her cooperation to allow them to do the required investigation and examination, a humiliating and demeaning task in itself, and try to get evidence for prosecution. She has numerous broken and shattered bones, severe internal injuries, head injuries, and (as if that wasn't enough) she is strung out on heroin. She has needle tracks from head to toe. She tells us her name is XXXXX. That was how she spells it for us. That is all we can get out of her. She goes into surgery, and never regains consciousness. I get word this morning early that she has died. There is no record of who she is, or of where she lived. No one knows her, and no one seems to care. She is just another lost soul, soon to be forgotten, her existence soon to be lost.

So we lose another one. Granted she was a drug addict, and it was fairly obvious that she was also a sex worker, and many in the community think they are above that. But she was still a human being. And who knows if we might have reached her, gotten her off the street, and into a rehabilitation program. Who knows if we might have assisted her in making a change in her life, a change that would lead her to become the self-respecting, honorable member of our community, and society in general. We had the opportunity to meet her, to let her know that we cared. But we had no chance to reach her, no chance to assist her in making something better of her life. Instead, she died, her family likely never knowing what has happened to her, and no one else able to help. Perhaps no one cares.

I'm hurting tonight. This story was way too close to home. It hurts when we lose someone in such a senseless way. It hurts when our community loses the opportunity to reach one that might have been able to overcome the addiction, to overcome the life of destruction that she led. And it angers me that likely there will likely never be a resolution to the crime; that the perpetrator will never be brought to justice. And it angers me that this will not be the last one.

Y'all wonder why I react the way I do sometimes? It is because I have no tolerance for bullshit. I have no tolerance for those who have everything going for them, yet can't do the very things they make a pledge to do. Or can't keep their commitments, commitments that are so simple to keep. I despise those who present themselves as leaders and icons for the community, yet can't even do the job they need to do, but then try to tell others how to do their jobs. We are privileged. We have opportunities that XXXXX never had, and now, never will. We eat every day. We (or at least we all seem to keep it hidden well if we do) don't have addictions that drive us out into the streets to perform dangerous acts with individuals - no, animals - that have no compunction of assaulting or maiming or killing someone, just to get their thrills. And we have the capability to make commitments, and then follow through with them. That's why I am the way I am. That's why I have no tolerance for slackers, or for bullshit. Just in case someone wonders why I blow so readily.

We can all make a difference. We can create change and make change in the world. But we can't make change, we can't make a difference, if we don't live up to the commitments and promises we make.

There have been harsh words that have come between some of us, and the anger I have had these past few weeks was real, and I want you to make sure you understand that my passion is always, only, directed toward the absolute best for the trans community. As long as you understand that, you understand me, and can better deal with my tirades. When I smell the stuff somewhere, I look for the depositor. I usually find that individual, somewhere off trying to feather their own nest, trying to build their own ego by walking on the backs of others. That's the bullshit that pisses me off the most. I hate self-serving suck-ups that are only trying to build themselves up by tearing others down.

I have told you hundreds of times - I don't want the glory. Just let me get the work done that needs to get done. I don't care about titles. I just want the community to succeed, to thrive, to gain that acceptance that we all so desperately want and deserve. Give me a cause and turn me loose. I will kick ass and take names, but the task will be done, and it will make EVERYONE look better for it. Always remember that about me. But don't let those self-serving bullshit artists that only want to glorify their name get in my way. I will cut them off at the knees.

That's my statement, and I'm sticking to it. If I didn't believe in TGSF and its mission, do you think I would stay around and raise hell like I do? Not no, but HELL NO!!!! But I do believe that we can make a difference in the world. We can be the change that makes the world better for the next generation. But we have to work at it, not just glory in our title, or our office, or our fancy clothes, or our cars, or the many other things we put forth as important in our lives.

Now you have my side of the story. Much comes down the pike to me that is in direct contradiction to the reality of the world we have to live in. And that is the bullshit I have no tolerance for. Those high and mighty sounding platitudes are crap, if they aren't backed up by someone that cares for others, instead of just making themselves look good in their own eyes. When the majority of the community is disgusted with that one, but "don't want to rock the boat", then I am not afraid to sound off. I am not afraid to speak the truth. I am not afraid to tell them that their stuff stinks.

So that's it. That's where I stand, and I won't back down. I will never back away from the truth, from the reality that needs to be heard. And I won't just quietly go away. I hope you won't either. We can't afford to back down. We can't afford to sit back and let the world go by.

Transcending Transgender

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

A support group facilitated by 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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SUIT SEEKS ACCESS TO MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR IMPRISONED TRANSEXUALS

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Milwaukee, Wisconsin) Two transgender women have filed a federal lawsuit challenging a Wisconsin law that bars them from access to medical treatment while they are incarcerated.

"The Wisconsin legislature should stick to solving the problems of the state, not interfering in the medical treatment of prisoners," said John Knight, senior staff attorney with the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project which, along with Lambda Legal, is representing the women. "This law bars prison doctors from properly treating their patients and puts lives at risk," said Knight.

Over the objections of the Department of Corrections, the Wisconsin legislature passed a law last year that bars prison doctors from deciding the best course of treatment for transgender people by denying them access to any type of hormone therapy or sex reassignment surgery while in state custody.

Lambda Legal and the ACLU are representing Kari Sundstrom and Andrea Fields, who are both serving time in Wisconsin prisons on forgery charges.

Sundstrom, 41, has been on hormone therapy since 1990. Fields, 29, has been on hormone therapy since 1996. "It is well-established medical practice to prescribe hormone therapy to transgender people," said Dr. Randi Ettner, a clinical psychologist who practices in Evanston, Illinois.

"Blocking people from access to hormone treatment after they have been on the treatment is especially dangerous and could cause life-threatening damage including hypertension, diabetes, muscle wasting, osteoporosis and potentially even heart failure."

Legislators supporting the law claimed that it was necessary to reduce expenses. However, when the law went into effect on January 24, 2006, only a handful of people in the Wisconsin prison system were receiving hormone therapy.

"This legislation has absolutely nothing to do with costs. It is designed to punish transgender people and deny them access to necessary medical care," said Cole Thaler, Lambda Legal's transgender rights attorney. "Doctors, not lawmakers, should be the ones deciding what health care is appropriate for their patients."

The lawsuit charges that it is a violation of the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection as well as the guarantee against cruel and unusual punishment to bar transgender inmates from access to individualized medical care.

In legal papers filed Tuesday, the organizations asked the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin to issue an immediate order barring the law from going into effect so that the two women will continue to receive the prescribed medication they have been taking for years.

The legal groups base their challenge on federal case law which establishes that health care providers must determine proper treatment for all prison inmates. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit do not seek sex reassignment surgery, but merely seek to continue the hormone therapy they have received for all of their adult lives.

According to the ACLU and Lambda Legal, Wisconsin is believed to be the only state in the country to have enacted a law denying transgender people access to medical care while in state custody.

CA Assembly Approves Limit on Use of 'Gay Panic Strategy'

ASSEMBLY BILL 1160

PASSES ASSEMBLY, MOVES TO STATE SENATE

(Sacramento, CA) - Assembly Bill 1160, authored by Assemblywoman Sally J. Lieber (D-San Jose), which limits the use of the 'gay panic strategy,' passed the California Assembly along party lines. The 'gay panic strategy' is a term used to describe a strategy or excuse employed by some murder defendants who argue that they did not intentionally kill their victim. Rather, the defendant asserts that he or she flew into such a rage upon learning that the victim was gay or transgender that the killing was actually the lesser offense of manslaughter.

A.B. 1160 declares that it is against public policy for a defendant to play upon the bias of the jury, or for a jury to allow bias against the victim to enter into its decision-making. The bill further mandates a revised jury instruction to ensure that a juror's duty to operate free from bias is clearly stated to each juror.

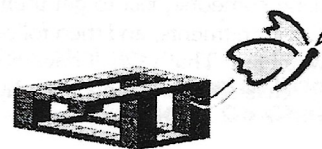
"This is a critical step forward in the effort to rid our courtrooms of bias," said Lieber. "We must ensure that California's criminal justice system treats all victims equally."

A.B. 1160 was introduced in response to recent cases in California in which murder defendants have tried to lessen the charges against them by arguing that they acted in a panic after discovering that the victim was gay or transgender. The most prominent of these cases was that of Gwen Araujo, a transgender teen from Fremont, who was murdered by acquaintances when they discovered she was biologically male.

"California has a powerful law that enhances the penalties of criminals who commit hate crimes," said Geoffrey Kors, EQCA Executive Director. "The 'panic' defense all but invalidates this law by reducing sentences due to the hate the defendant had for his or her victim."

The Assembly approved the measure on a vote of 45 - 32, with 2 members not voting and 1 member absent. The bill now moves to the Senate.

legal questions about gender?



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Health:

SWITCHING GENDERS

**Stephanie Stahl
(CBS 3) PHILADELPHIA**

Medical Reporter Stephanie Stahl reports on a surgery on the rise, switching genders, or men becoming women and women turning into men. It is a delicate and complicated surgery and a difficult psychological journey.

They look like an ordinary couple, but Matthew and Isabel are switching genders. Matthew, who's 23-years-old, was born a girl named Meloney and Isabel, who's 44, was a man named Dwayne. "Everytime I looked in the mirror I always felt something was wrong," said Isabel.



Matthew and Isabel

Isabel and Matthew have been taking hormones for a year and are already dressing for their new genders, but Matthew is still a woman under his clothes and Isabel a man. "It's been a turmoil all my adult life," said Isabel. She lived the life of a man, was married to a woman, had two children, but always felt he should be a she.

It was the same for Matthew who felt he was born with the wrong body. "What I want is to have the body I should have had all the time, which I feel should have had all the time," said Matthew.

After meeting online, they came to the Philadelphia Center for Transgender Surgery. "There's an enormous demand for it," said Dr. Sherman Leis.

Dr. Leis, who specializes in gender reassignment surgery, said it's not about sexuality, but gender identity. For some people, like Matthew and Isabel, the brain doesn't fit with the body. Now the couple is about to have the first of several surgeries. "I'm nervous 'cause it's my first surgery," said Matthew. Matthew will have his size D breasts removed and Isabel is getting breast implants.

Dr. Christine McGinn, who is on the surgery team, identifies with Isabel's need to make the transformation in a special way. "Ever since the age of three I knew something was different," said Dr. McGinn. Dr. McGinn was a man until four years ago, at one point a prominent surgeon in the Navy. She said gender reassignment is not a freak show, it is simply fixing nature's mistake. "It was just a wonderful thing that I wanted for my whole life," said Dr. McGinn.

After Matthew and Isabel's breast surgeries comes genital reassignment. Isabel's male genitalia will be turned into a female's and Matthew will become a man with tissue from his abdomen. "The female to male is a little more complicated," said Dr. Leis. "The problem with female to male is that instead of shortening the urethra, which is the tube that we urinate through, we have to lengthen it." Dr. Leis said the reassigned body parts eventually looks and works just like the real thing.

For Matthew and Isabel, their families have accepted their new identities and someday they could even be coming to a wedding. "We don't know what the future keeps for us but we hope that it's gonna work for a long while," said Matthew.

There are about 12-hundred transgender surgeries a year in the U.S. It costs between 20 to 50-thousand dollars and it is not covered by insurance. Like with any surgery, there are some risks.



**Gender Benders
In Your Living Room...**

Continued from Page 2

to the other during a school year.

- In a recent scandal that still has publishing tongues wagging, a San Francisco woman, Laura Albert, created a male pseudonym, "JT LeRoy," as the author of two books, including a "memoir" about growing up as a sexually confused male prostitute. Albert hired a woman to play Mr. LeRoy at events before the scam was exposed.
- The trend was dressed for laughs in fall 2004 when TBS debuted the reality show *He's a Lady*, featuring burly, ultra-macho guys all dolled up to experience life in high heels.

The collective result has created a higher profile for a community long relegated to the fringe.

"We're becoming more visible," says Mara Keisling, executive director at the National Center for Transgender Equality, "and so we're more likely to be represented in popular culture. Fifty years ago, people used to freak out about women wearing pants. Fortunately, humans evolve."

Some humans, though, don't want Barbie to evolve. Earlier this month, a Christian conservative group — the Concerned Women of America — attacked the iconic plaything's website (www.Barbie.com) for an online poll it had run that asked children for their age and sex. One choice for the answer was "I don't know."

The CWA's Culture and Family Institute fumed that Mattel, Barbie's manufacturer, "was being influenced by the transgender movement." Mattel stated merely that "I don't know" should instead have been "I don't want to say." The choice for the answer has since been altered.

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Cotillion 2006!

TGS CELEBRATE AT COTILLION

by Kate Golden
Bay Area Reporter

Ms. Transgender 2005 Jenni Kennedy, left, hands off the tiara to 2006 winner Jennifer Anderson. Photo: Kate Golden

If you had a fur coat, this was the night to wear it. If you had never worn a dress before, this was the night that demanded a trip to the mall. And if you were ever afraid to wear that dress in public, this was your chance to strut across a stage to catcalls and cheers from an equally bewigged, sequined audience.

This year's performers, in keeping with the "Hooray for Hollywood!" theme, included impersonations of King (or Queen) Henry V, Frank Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe, and Judy Garland. Hosts for the night were Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet.

The theater wasn't full, but it was mighty convivial.

Sachet, clad in her trademark full-length red satin gown that matched the drapes behind her, played diva to the hilt. Her gold reading glasses came off and went on so slowly and so many times that the crowd howled when Broberg, eyes twinkling, pulled out a pair of his own to mimic her. No one escaped the hosts' mirthful wrath.

"My therapist called," said Broberg, after the mini-skirted Carmen Monoxide, also known as TGSF President Roxy Carmichael-Hart – the show's writer and director – finished her air-guitar routine. "He's offering us a group rate."

Only four contestants competed; the judges outnumbered them. Katra Briel, Jennifer Anderson, and Lisa Dummer competed for Ms. TGSF. Sydney Anderson Mason, the only man competing, seemed assured of victory in his category, but the emcees announced he'd still have to pass a minimum-score muster.

Just like Miss America, these contestants weren't judged by glamour alone. The winner becomes the face of the transgender community in San Francisco. Forty percent of their score was based on interviews.

"I have values that I want to be raised," said judge and former contestant Patricia Kevena Fili. "Commitment. Service."

The other 60 percent was kitsch and glitter, with a good dose of introspection. Mason played "Julia Childhead" on a makeshift "Trans Can Cook." Briel, in clanking armor, rallied the trans troops with a regendered St. Crispin's Day speech from Shakespeare's *Henry V*.

"We few, we happy few, we band of sisters," she proclaimed. "For she who fights with us today is indeed our sister. Be she e'er so vile, this day shall gentle her."

Briel, an elected TGSF board member, won Ms. Congeniality.

Anderson, also on the board, donned the tiara of Ms. TGSF. Mason became Mr. TGSF.

"I'm excited and relieved," Anderson said afterward. "The last few nights I've been awake at 4 a.m."

This night wasn't all pageantry. Amid the glitter, the organization gave its annual awards to those who have contributed exceptional service to the transgender community. California Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) appeared as well. Dozens of people were acknowledged and cheered.

For some, being out was old hat – and Cotillion a clear excuse to buy a new one.

But for others, like Rebecca, 38, the Debutante and Guys' Walk in the show's second act marked their entrée into the world as the proper gender.

Rebecca, a Silicon Valley web developer who asked that her last name not be used, said she had only gone out in public as a woman once before – just that week. Friends pressured her into walking at Cotillion.

Inexorably, like every woman who's ever been crippled by stage fright, she realized she had nothing to wear.

That is, she had women's clothes, but all from the Internet. Clothes from the Internet don't always fit quite right, the six-foot-something woman said.

Dressed as a man, Rebecca went to the mall as early as possible, hoping for relative privacy. She eyed the packed racks, brushing the dresses with one finger.

"I was freaked out," she said.

An angel of a saleswoman picked up on her problem and started pulling dresses off the racks.

"Are you going to try this on?" she said.

A few dozen men and women strutted across the stage, in the annual Debutante and Guys' Walk that symbolized coming out.

"Tonight is part of the journey to being loved as who you are," said former contestant Kara Flynn.

Some, like the impossibly big-haired Blanche Du Bree of Manhattan, worked the emcees, worked the crowd, kissed everybody, and twirled off. The crowd loved those divas. Some, like Rebecca, in a long, dark purple gown, made one dignified pass across, and the crowd loved them, too.



Cotillion 2006!

REFLECTIONS FROM A BEAUTY QUEEN

By Jennifer Anderson
Ms. TGSF 2006

I can't begin to tell you how honored and privileged I feel for having been selected as your Ms. TGSF for 2006. What amazes me most is all of the love, support and encouragement that I received in preparation for this dream.

One of the questions I was asked in the judge's interview was "What do you hope to gain personally from being Ms. TGSF?" My response was that I hadn't really given any thought to what I might gain personally from being Ms. TGSF. What I can say is that I have gained a tremendous amount as a Ms. TGSF contestant. The outpouring of love, support and encouragement from every area of my life blew me away. Friends from every area of my life (both inside and outside the community) came forward to support my dream, encourage my dream and demonstrate to me an incredible generosity of spirit toward my pursuit of a dream.

My friends encouraged me to walk better and talk better. They encouraged me to dress better and accessorize better. They explained to me the difference between singing a song and giving an audience an experience. They taught me to stay present in my experience no matter what; that it is more important to connect and have relationship than to stand on a mark and achieve the perfect pose. They encouraged me to think long and hard about what a Ms. TGSF could accomplish and what gifts, talents and abilities I could bring that would make me the best choice. They gave me my mantra for the show: Stand tall, have fun and be yourself!

I told the judges that win, lose or draw I had already received so much more than I ever could have dreamed and that I was forever changed. And finally, I told them that, if I were selected as Ms. TGSF that I would feel a special obligation to continuously affirm the faith that these folks had invested in me by passionately performing each duty presented to me.

I look forward to fulfilling that pledge each day this year and I promise that by the time January rolls around again that I will be (blissfully) exhausted and spent, having held nothing back in seeking out opportunities and performing my duties. My goal, my dream for the coming year is to lift the achievement bar for what a Ms. TGSF can be higher than it has ever been held before. And then, when it comes time to pass the crown along, to be there in support of the next Ms. TGSF to lift the bar even higher.

Thank you so much!



MEET YOUR MR TGSF!

Husband, brother, son, Veteran (USAF '81-92), Buddhist, TV personality (PFLAG TV Mt View, 2003), medical biller, Scorpio, gardener, aspiring chef, aspiring florist, fancy guppy breeder, computer game player, funny poetry writer, student of Tai Chi, student of life, college graduate (medical billing), native of West Virginia, world traveler (Germany, East Germany (Berlin), Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands (Den Hague), baby boomer (sort of; 1959), shaman (a secret, a new name, and scars), pool player, dart thrower, Pente player, cheese connoisseur, body builder (sometimes), ancient history buff, student of Chan, Zen and Nyging Ma, green tea drinker, Treasurer RGA, Mr TGSF, 2006, a man.

In times past: paper carrier, clarinet player, chess player, licensed nail technician, jewelry maker, Kirby salesman, cat owner, dog owner, homeless, unemployed, under-employed, disowned.

Fav food: Spicy tuna hand roll; sashimi

Fav alk drink: E & J Brandy

Fav non alk drink: Diet Caffeine free Pepsi w/ shot of Cherry syrup

Fav desert: Green Tea or Mint chocolate chip ice cream; Cranberry Granita

Fav Flower: Star lily

Fav book: Lady Chatterley's Lover

Fav Movie: Dracula (with Frank Langella); Rocky Horror Picture Show

Fav music: 80's, ambient, new wave

Fav TV show: Forever Knight

Fav time with wife: Cooking together

Fav time of year: Fall

Fav month: October

Fav Holiday: Halloween

Fav Pastime: Going to the Rep to see live theatre



LEARNING FROM OUR ELDER

By Jennifer Anderson

I've spent a lot of time in reflection these past few weeks about what it means to be "in community." I feel so fortunate to have been born in the time and place that I was. When I became aware of, and accepted transgenderism as a part of who I am, there were many established institutions and many experienced individuals who had gone before me who were willing to welcome me with open arms. That has made my transition in to a member of the TG community a fairly easy and painless one.

However, I was recently reminded while watching a documentary on PBS that it wasn't that long ago that the simple act of a man wearing a dress in public (even in SF) was considered a crime, subjecting the offender to arrest and humiliation. And worse, that opportunities for economic self-support as a TG woman were so few that most were forced to drugs and prostitution in order to survive. We owe so much to those who came before us and lead us out of these dark ages!

I had the great privilege of spending time with Joan Sheldon the night before the Cotillion. She was one of the founding members of our organization. In many ways I found her to exemplify what is best about our community through her generosity of spirit. Joan is 85 now and it would be easy for her to fade away in to a well-deserved retirement. Instead, she still seeks ways to build and strengthen our community and clearly without any thought of personal gain.

During the contestant interview for Ms. TGSF I was asked what my focus for the year would be if selected. Without hesitation I answered school outreach, and the earlier the better. As I start working to make that dream a reality, I've now realized that it not enough to create a vision for the future. We must also educate about our past.

I believe the future of our community is at a crossroads and it concerns me. The selfless giving that built our community is becoming much less common. It is being replaced more frequently by what my counterpart Sydney, Mr. TGSF calls "me-ism." I see "me-ism" this way. Rather than asking ourselves what the community needs and how we can provide it (without thought of personal gain), we ask ourselves what do I like to do and how can I increase my power and stature in the community by producing it. Unfortunately, as more and more people seek power and stature, our community becomes weaker and more fragmented as a result. And, as our community weakens then we become more marginalized by society as a whole.

It's time for us to start pulling together again, both within and between organizations that support the LGBTIQQ community. Let's honor the legacy we've been handed by Joan Sheldon and countless others who came before us. Let's make them proud for having passed the baton to us and for what we have done with it.

Significant Other Support East Bay

Questions or concerns about your partner's crossdressing? Please call Julie at (925) 937-8432, or e-mail julie39@comcast.net, or write to: Julie Freeman, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885.

Prison For 3 In Transgender Teen's Slaying

2 MEN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS TO LIFE, OTHER GETS 6 YEARS

Henry K. Lee, SF Chronicle Staff Writer

An Alameda County judge sentenced three men to prison Friday for their roles in the 2002 slaying of a Newark teenager who was biologically a boy but lived as a girl, ending a nationally watched case that focused attention on violence against transgender individuals.

At a packed hearing at the Hayward Hall of Justice, Superior Court Judge Harry Sheppard sentenced Michael Magidson, 25, and Jose Merel, 26, to 15 years to life in prison for second-degree murder in the killing of Gwen Araujo. Jason Cazares, 26, who struck a deal with prosecutors last month by pleading no contest to a lesser charge, received a six-year sentence. A fourth defendant, Jaron Nabors, 22, who testified against the others, is expected to be sentenced May 22 to 11 years in prison. Sheppard denied motions from Merel and Magidson seeking a new trial and their requests that he reduce their convictions to voluntary manslaughter.

Sylvia Guerrero, Araujo's mother, was among many relatives who spoke during the hearing. "We each have been given a lifetime sentence of loss and sadness," Guerrero said. "While any one of them could have stopped this from happening, none of them did. If they miss birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, if they miss their children growing up, maybe they'd better understand what they've taken from us."

Guerrero lauded Nabors, who was not in court, and Merel for doing "what real men do" and telling police about some of what happened the night Araujo was killed. Merel, who had admitted hitting Araujo with a can and frying pan, cried and dabbed his eyes with a tissue.

The Araujo family's attorney, Gloria Allred, also read statements on behalf of the victim's siblings, Brandon Guerrero, 17, and Michael West, 13, who called the three men "murderers, cowards and losers." Araujo's aunt, Imelda Guerrero, cried as she described how "we have to hold our Gwen in a box" while the convicted killers will be able to receive visits or make phone calls from prison. "I have no shame in saying that I hate all of them," she said. Merel and Cazares looked at some of Araujo's relatives as they spoke, but Magidson did not.

In September, the jury in the second trial in Araujo's slaying concluded that Magidson and Merel had beaten and strangled Araujo after learning that the person they had had oral and anal sex with was biologically male. The same panel deadlocked in favor of a second-degree murder conviction on Cazares, who in December agreed to plead no contest to voluntary manslaughter.

Araujo was born Edward Araujo but lived and identified as a girl. The four men had known Araujo as Lida and expressed doubts about her gender after Merel and Magidson had sex with her in the weeks before the killing, according to trial testimony.

They discovered her gender after cornering her in the bathroom during a party at Merel's house in October 2002, prosecutors said. Araujo's killers beat her savagely and strangled her before burying her in a shallow grave in the Sierra foothills east of Placerville in El Dorado County. Araujo's last words were, "Please don't. I have a family," Lamiero said, citing witnesses.

Nabors, who led police to Araujo's body, agreed to testify against the other defendants and pleaded guilty in 2003 to voluntary manslaughter. Defense attorneys argued that their clients were at most guilty of manslaughter committed in the heat of passion caused by Araujo's sexual deception.

The first trial ended in June 2004 with the jury deadlocked on charges against Merel, Magidson and Cazares. The jury in the second trial rejected allegations that the slaying was a hate crime stemming from Araujo's gender orientation.

In his statement to the court on Friday, Magidson said he had not received a fair trial because witnesses and his co-defendants lied on the stand with help from prosecutor Chris Lamiero. "The truth hurts," Magidson said. "It seems nobody can handle the truth or is willing to accept the truth."

That brought a sharp rebuke from Sheppard, who accused Magidson of showing no remorse and blaming everyone but himself. "You haven't explained to me at all that you're sorry," the judge said.

Magidson's attorney, Michael Thorman, and Merel's attorney, Bill Du Bois, argued for probation for their clients, saying the slaying resulted from "unusual circumstances that are unlikely to recur."

Sheppard agreed, noting that neither Merel nor Magidson had a previous criminal history, but said the circumstances of the crime outweighed any consideration of probation. "This crime was a brutal beating of a vulnerable victim," the judge said.

Cazares did not address the court, and the judge gave him until March 30 to begin serving his sentence so as to allow him to witness the birth of his third child.

Merel expressed regret for his actions. "I am truly and sincerely sorry," he said. "I wish I could go back to that horrible day and erase it. If I could, none of us would be here. I realize you may never forgive me, but I ask that all of you at least try."

Make Your Money Count!

To support transgender education work: **Gwen Araujo Transgender Education Fund** c/o Horizons Foundation, 870 Market St. Suite, 728, San Francisco, CA 94102 • (415) 398 - 2333 / www.horizonsfoundation.org



LIFE AFTER GWEN

Sylvia Guerrero
SF Chronicle

I am not sure how I expected to feel at this point. When my daughter Gwen, a transgender teenager, was brutally murdered on Oct. 4, 2002, I was sure that I would never feel whole again. Looking back, I didn't yet know exactly what "transgender" meant or how to fully embrace my child's identity. But I knew one thing: I wanted justice for my child.

I thought that maybe I'd feel better on the day when the four suspects in her murder were brought to justice. More than three years and three months since Gwen's murder that day is finally here. On Friday, these men are being sentenced to prison terms for their actions, two of them convicted of second-degree murder and two taking plea bargains for voluntary manslaughter. I guess I hoped that once we got to the sentencing date, the pain would end and I could get back to my life. But it hasn't and I can't.

No amount of justice can return the part of me that these men took when they killed Gwen. The closure that people keep talking about hasn't come. It would be so much easier to write that it had. After all, that is what most people want to read: The system worked; my family is whole; the story is over. It would be comforting and allow us to get on with our lives. Of the many things I'm feeling, closure isn't one of them.

I'm angry. Angry that Gwen's brothers and her nieces and nephews won't get to grow up knowing her the way her aunts, uncles, older sister and I did. Angry that instead of celebrating her birthday, we get together each year to commemorate her death. Angry that, in both trials, the defendants tried to blame Gwen for her own murder. Angry that other young lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender kids continue to face the discrimination she did in our public schools and our workforce.

I'm also grateful. Grateful that my family and our friends rose to the challenge and sat through two gruesome and explicit criminal trials to make sure that everyone knew that Gwen was loved for who she was. I'm grateful for the support we've all received from perfect strangers who have told us in person and through e-mail that we are in their thoughts and prayers. I'm grateful for the remorse that two of the defendants and some of their family members have expressed to me and my family.

And I'm sad. Sad that I'll never get to see Gwen grow into the beautiful woman she would have become. Sad that four men chose to end my daughter's life, and throw away their own simply because they thought they were acting like "real men." And sad that other transgender women have been killed since Gwen's murder and that we don't have a realistic end in sight to that violence.

Within this mix of emotions, though, the one that I hold onto most dearly is hope. Since that tragic night, my own family has grown by two beautiful grandchildren. More and more parents are supporting their transgender children. California has become the country's most protective state for transgender people. And just this month, a new law has been proposed in Sacramento, the Gwen Araujo Justice for Victims Act, authored by Assemblywoman Sally Lieber, D-Mountain View, and sponsored by Equality California, an LGBT civil-rights lobbying group, to protect people from being blamed for their own murder.

Maybe the reason I don't have closure around Gwen's death is that there is still work to do. If I've learned anything since Gwen's murder, it is that hope alone is not enough. Each of us who hopes to live in a state where our families are protected needs to work toward making California that place. For instance, boys and girls in schools throughout the Bay Area need to hear, firsthand, how important it is to be themselves and to respect each other's differences.

None of us can change the way the world was on Oct. 4, 2002. But each of us now has an important role to play in creating a state where we can celebrate more birthdays and commemorate fewer murders.

Sylvia Guerrero is the mother of Gwen Araujo and an activist for LGBT civil rights. She speaks at schools around the Bay Area through the Gwen Araujo Transgender Education Fund administered by the Horizons Foundation.