

ETVC

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME FOURTEEN, NUMBER 6,

MAY – JUNE, 1996

THE CHANGING WORLD

San Francisco Coronation Celebrates Noble Tradition of Service

by Erin Souza

Great friends to ETVC, Emperor XIII Brian Benamati and Empress XXX Donna Sachet stepped down in grand style at the Imperial Court of San Francisco's Coronation on March 2nd at the Gift Center. More than twenty ETVC members saw Steve Valone and Cockatielia crowned SF's newest monarchs at the end of a glamorous, fun-filled evening featuring gowns, crowns and sequins galore. Visiting courts from California and all across the United States and Canada, as well as in town organizations such as ETVC, paid tribute to the outgoing monarchs and awaited the results of the previous weekend's public voting for candidates Steve, Jacques Michaels, Robb Esmonde, Cockatielia, Collette LeGrande and Vera Rose. All six candidates spent the previous month campaigning and hosting charity fund raisers all over town.



Photo: Bay Area Reporter, Mr. Marcus

Emperor Steve Valone and Empress Cockatielia were crowned the reigning monarchs at the San Francisco Coronation

High points of the evening included Seattle Empress Coco Vaughn's sizzling production number of Gloria Estefan hits, Senator Milton Marks receiving the "Champion of Civil Rights" title from Empress I Jose, and the announcement of a \$10,000 contribution to the San Francisco Aids Foundation, one of many charities for whom the Imperial Court raises funds.

Of special interest to us, one of the newly elected Board of Directors to the Imperial Council for the 1996-97 year is our

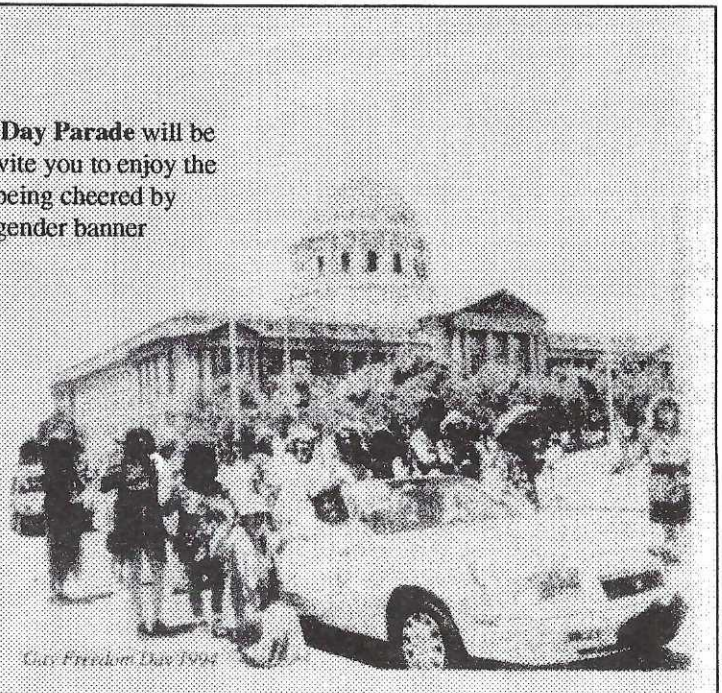
long time member, Ginny Knuth, who will act as Secretary for the Council. Ginny has held the permanent title of "Princess of Imperial Harmony" on the Empress Council since 1992. Good luck, Ginny, and many congratulations to the reigning monarchs. It should be another fun year for the Imperial Court system, and we are all invited to party with them at their many fund raising events throughout the year. For weekly up-to-date listings of Court activities you may call their Court hot-line at (415) 284-6339.

Come Join The Parade!

This year's **Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Day Parade** will be celebrated on Sunday, June 30, 1996. Once again we invite you to enjoy the fun and high spirits gained by the special experience of being cheered by thousands as we walk proudly together behind our transgender banner down Market Street.

We will be operating our ETVC Information Booth as usual, plus a beer booth and possibly a merchandise booth, so you can see we will need many of you to staff all booths. These jobs are fun, involve handing out cookies and brochures, selling T-Shirts or slinging beer at a mass of thirsty people.

See and be seen, make yourself count! The more of you who take part, the more we can make our transgender presence in San Francisco known. Say yes, volunteer to have some real fun and call Lisa at (415) 493-8099. See you there!



Gay Freedom Day 1994

It's time to renew your membership!

THE CHANNEL

ETVC Inc., a non-profit corporation, is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-challenged people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services. For details about ETVC programs, membership, article submission guidelines and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Minutes of all ETVC committee meetings are available to members on request.

OFFICERS

President	J. K. Bentley
Vice-President	Lisa Maxwell
Secretary	Jamie Faye Fenton
Treasurer	Jano Bogg
Education	Trina Bloom
Outreach	Erin Souza
Social	Lulu Blau & Tedra Thomsen

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 3/31/96)	397
Total 1994 Membership	438
New Memberships this year	79

TREASURER'S REPORT

An updated report will appear in the next issue.

ETVC is a non-profit corporation.

Donations to ETVC are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both federal and California income tax returns.

Channel, the ETVC Newsletter, is published the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 25th day of the previous month. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC. Other organizations may reprint or reproduce uncopyrighted portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission of ETVC.

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AD RATES

	Per issue	Per year
Business Card	\$25	\$125
4" X 5"	\$60	\$300

Personal ads from ETVC members: \$3 for up to 40 words. We will *not* accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 25th of May, July, September, November, January and March. Send ad copy and check or money order to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

HOTLINE &

VOICE MAIL

415-564-3246

B.B.S.

415-564-4903

Letter from Elizabeth

By Elizabeth Walters

Careful newspaper readers may have noticed recent stories about hate crimes against Gay and Lesbian victims in recent weeks. Depending on who is keeping the records, the number of incidents of violence has either remained the same since last year (according to statistics from Community United Against Violence,) or has skyrocketed (according to data from the San Francisco Police Department's Hate Crimes Unit).

Regardless of which figures you go by, it is clear that violence against people with different sexual orientations is at an unacceptably high level. This is a matter of concern to all of us.

What was not reported in the local newspapers was the alarming number of incidents last year involving violence against "transgendered persons," a new category of victim that organizations such as CUAV only started analyzing in 1995.

According to the 56-page national report issued by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, there were 69 incidents involving violence against transgendered persons in 1995.

This is of direct significance to ETVC members, because these victims were people from our own segment of the community.

The report notes that, although transgendered victims accounted for only 2 percent of the total, they represented a startling 16 percent of the murder victims — 4 of the 25 individuals who died in 1995 as a result of hate violence fit in the "transgendered" category.

Two of those killed were genetically male victims in Massachusetts who were transitioning to lives as women — a disturbing fact, given that Massachusetts is the headquarters state for the IFGE.

Needless to say, these numbers provide food for thought. Regardless of how gender-friendly a city or neighborhood may be, as long as gender bigotry exists, there will always be an element of danger for members of our community.

In that light, it is reassuring to know that San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan is beefing up his department's Hate Crimes Unit in response to the continuing danger to people in the Lesbian-Gay-Transgendered Community.

At the same time, it is prudent for all members of our community to pay particular attention to the potential dangers that surround us. For that reason, ETVC was proud to host a seminar in March on dealing with unexpected situations.

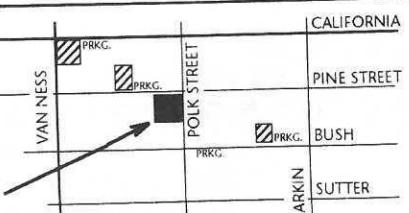
I urge all members to read Sandra Brewer's article on that seminar in this issue of The Channel. And, as the sergeant on Hill Street Blues used to say: Be very careful out there.

The New

KIMO'S

1351 Polk Street — S.F.

(415) 885-4535



SHOWROOM and SPORTS ARENA

SAN FRANCISCO'S LARGEST GAY SHOWROOM

President's Message: Looking Forward...

My term of office ends soon, so this is my last President's Message. I want to thank the members of our outgoing executive committee—and our volunteers—for their hard work over the past year. Our new executive committee takes office July 1. When they do, they will face a number of challenges. Here are just a few:

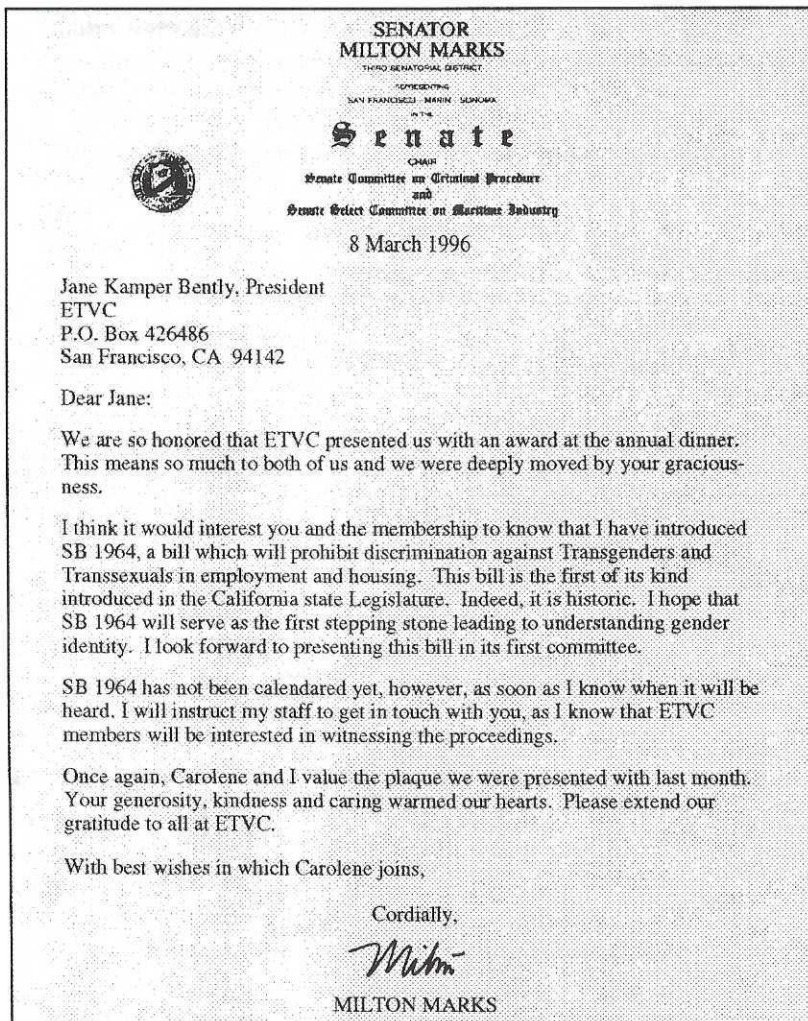
Venue – Assuming that San Francisco voters approve the ballpark initiative on March 26 (the day after the newsletter deadline), real estate in the vicinity of the new stadium is likely to skyrocket, sending smaller businesses scurrying as rents rise. Jelly's, our new end-of-month social venue on Pier 50, lies just a long home run away from the right field wall. My guess is that it will either be swept away or swept up in the inevitable gentrification of the area. For ETVC, that likely means another search for a new venue for end-of-month socials before the new president's term is expired. To me, it is another reason for us seriously to concentrate our efforts to acquire a home of our own. The most likely means is through the Community Center Project, which seeks to build a site for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender people. Much of the funding is already available, but we need increased involvement both from officers and members of ETVC. Let's not miss out on a golden opportunity.

Rethinking the ETVC Cotillion – Over the years, the Cotillion has become so big that the job of producing it tends to suck up organizational energies; because fewer volunteers are available, other important work suffers. The vice-president, whose primary job is supposed to be helping the president coordinate the work of the executive committee—and for whom producing the cotillion is supposed to be a secondary concern—instead spends August to January preoccupied with nothing but the cotillion; February and March she recuperates. By April, she is working on ETVC's Freedom Day participation. Instead of the vice-presidency being a training ground for the presidency, it has become a dead end burn-out job. It doesn't have to be IF we make some changes in the cotillion...such as: 1) Stage it in a less costly venue than the Russian Center. 2) Do not serve food. 3) Simplify the production and shorten the program by eliminating the talent competition 4) Let the winner be chosen by audience ballots. 5) A real cotillion is



ETVC President
Jane Kamper Bentley

A Letter To Our President From State Senator Milton Marks



a dance, so hire a small musical combo and, between competitions, have dancing and the introduction of the debutantes. 6) Eliminate special awards (Friend of the Community; Community Leader), which could be given at another time and place—perhaps at the May social. With these savings of time and money, ticket prices could be made more affordable, well under \$20.00 I estimate. Best of all, it will return the cotillion to what it was originally intended to be: fun for everyone...including the vice-president.

Declining membership – It looks like this membership year will end right around the 400 mark, about three dozen fewer than the year before. Is this part of a larger phenomenon? Bay Area organizations of all sorts report difficulty recruiting and keeping members. (Not only in the Bay Area. Some social observers say that Americans, traditionally a nation of joiners, are becoming loners.) Or could it just be that we haven't been meeting the needs of our members. Not for lack of effort. I've held office on the executive committee continuously since December, 1991. Of all the challenges our ExCom faced in that time, none is more frustrating than the lack of volunteers. Too often, dedicated, talented officers have quit in frustration because there was too much work for too few hands. We are about to elect a new crop of officers, all of them fired up to do the best job they can. You can help keep them enthusiastic by volunteering just an hour or two a month to attend a committee meeting; to help set up for an educational or TS seminar; or to help decorate for a social. A lot of little contributions will add up to a substantial benefit both to your hard-working ExCom, to the club as a whole and to the wider community we seek to serve.

Special Events

Mid Month Socials

Wednesday, May 15th and Wednesday, June 12th

Do big girls do big talk? Come and find out at our mid-month get-togethers. This is a great opportunity to hang out with femme friends and maybe meet some new ones. In March, a couple from England just dropped in to check out the scene! It's the place to find out what's going on and what's coming up in and around gender town. Not as crowded as our main socials, so there's a chance to hang out, schmooze, get to know The food's pretty good if you're hungry. Admission is FREE — that beats a poke in the eye with a mascara brush. So get dolled up and come on out to The Galleon, 718-14th St. (at Church and Market Streets), SF, at 8:00 PM (more or less).

Education Seminar

Couples Who Make it Work

Wednesday, May 22nd

Some couples can share the TG lifestyle with no problem. Some need to negotiate well-defined rules of conduct. Others, though they may care deeply for each other, cannot agree on anything and are abysmally unhappy. If you and your significant other just can't seem to strike the right balance with each other, come meet couples who have found a variety of answers—or at least, compromises—that work. Call Ginny at 415-664-1499 for directions to her home in San Francisco. 8 p.m. FREE.

The Birthday Girl's Party

Thursday, May 30th

ETVC reaches puberty!! We're 14! Late-developers? Well, a lot of us know plenty about that. Anyway, come celebrate with us — birthday food, birthday games (cool ones ... like, we are 14), even presents. Yes, if you bring one for the "present pool" you'll be eligible to receive one. Dress is "party" — from pyjamas to pinafores, anything goes. We'll also be electing new officers, announcing awards and congratulating ourselves generally. Oh, yeah, by purest coincidence this is Her Majesty, President Jane's Birthday. She'll probably want us to sing to her. Happy B-Day, dear ... how many is that? Jelly's, 295 China Basin Way (Pier 50), SF, 8 PM, \$3 members, \$5 guests.

Education Seminar

Who Am I? Where Am I Going?

Wednesday, June 19th

"Who Am I?" is a question many transgender people ask throughout their lives. As a therapist with over 20 years of experience, Dr. Lin Fraser knows that the answers we give ourselves can, and often do, change. One who now is an occasional crossdresser may, in time, need to live full time and require reassignment surgery. Conversely, more than one self-identified transsexual has completely reversed course. How do we harmonize our inner changes with our parents, spouses, children, job, community? Dr. Lin cautions that "I don't have the answers," but, as her many clients will testify, she's wonderful at helping you find your own answers. Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk and Pine Streets, San Francisco. 8 p.m. Donation: \$3.

Transsexual Seminar

Transition: Putting Your Outside Life in Order Sunday, June 23rd

In the Navy there's a saying: "The Navy floats on paper." So does everything else, including transition for the TS. Getting what you need for your inner self involves a good deal of paperwork in the outside world of employment, medical insurance, financial planning, documentation, etc. Our experts, Kim Stuart, author of *The Uninvited Dilemma* and *Guide to the Transsexual Beginning Transition* and Lisa Middleton, nationally recognized insurance authority, pilot you through the sometimes stormy legal and bureaucratic seas that every TS needs to negotiate successfully before reaching his/her objective. A potluck will follow the Seminar — bring a dish!

Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk and Pine, SF. 2 p.m. FREE

Really Big Shew V

Friday, June 28th

It's showtime again, Cinderella — a prime time "madcap" variety program of music, dance and comedy featuring outstanding talent from every corner of our community. This year we're helping to kick off Parade Weekend with "The Shew" — entertainment that's as live as it gets. If you saw it last year, you won't want to miss this brand new shew ... if you missed it last year, well, shoot, don't be a schlep. Upstairs at Kimo's, 1351 Polk (at Pine), SF, 8:00 PM Door, Showtime is 9:00 PM. Members \$7/Guests \$10 (worth every penny, loafer).

Interested in performing? Come and audition — time and place will be announced soon. Concerned that maybe you're not quite outstanding enough? Our fairy godmother director can pump you up! Try it on ... contact Jane or Lulu through the ETVC Voice Mailbox (415) 564-3246, Code JANE.

Jelly's A DANCE CAFE
(formerly Olive Oil's)
295 China Basin Way
at Pier 50
San Francisco

Free Parking!
(415) 495-3099

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

OTHER GROUPS



Month	Group Name	Meeting Time	Location	Contact Info
2	DVG Pacific Center Rap Group	Meets at 7 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 939-7711
3	RGA Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
3	Pac Ctr TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
4	Bimbo's Closet Ball	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
5	ETVC Newsletter Committee	Starts at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
6	DVG Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
9	ETVC Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Palo Alto	(415) 664-1499
10	ETVC Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
10	S.Bay Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
10	ETVC Lending Library Open	Hours 7-11 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
10	Pac Ctr TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
11	SGA Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
11	ETVC Outreach Committee	Meets at 11 AM	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
12	FTM Informational Meeting	Meets at 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
13	ETVC TS Committee	Meets at 7 PM	Kim's-Upstairs	(415) 750-1850
13	ETVC Education Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Kim's-Upstairs	(408) 984-5619
15	ETVC Mid-Month Gabfest	Starts at 8 PM	The Galleon	(415) 821-6509
16	ETVC Library Committee	Meets at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
17	RGA Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
17	Pac Ctr TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
18	ETVC Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
20	DVG Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
21	ETVC Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	The Galleon	(415) 821-6509
22	ETVC Couples Make It Work	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
24	Pac Ctr TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
25	SGA Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
26	ETVC Executive Committee	Meets at 4 PM	Berkeley	(415) 750-1850
30	ETVC Birthday Girls Party	Starts at 8 PM	Jelly's, SF	(415) 821-6509

Month	Group Name	Meeting Time	Location	Contact Info
2	ETVC Outreach Committee	Meets at 11 AM	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
3	DVG Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
6	DVG Pacific Center Rap Group	Meets at 7 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 939-7711
7	RGA Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
7	Pac Ctr TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
8	ETVC Surprise Luncheon	Starts at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
8	SGA Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
9	FTM Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
10	ETVC Education Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Kim's-Upstairs	(408) 984-5619
12	ETVC Mid-Month Gabfest	Starts at 8 PM	The Galleon	(415) 821-6509
13	ETVC Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Pleasant Hill	(415) 664-1499
14	ETVC Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
14	Pac Ctr TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
14	ETVC Lending Library Open	Hours 7-11 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
14	S.Bay Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
15	ETVC Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
17	DVG Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
18	ETVC Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	The Galleon	(415) 821-6509
19	ETVC Dr. Lin Seminar	Starts at 8 PM	Kim's-Upstairs	(408) 984-5619
20	ETVC Library Committee	Meets at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
21	RGA Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
21	Pac Ctr TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
22	ETVC Executive Committee	Meets at 6 PM	Montara	(415) 750-1850
22	SGA Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
23	ETVC TS Seminar	Starts at 2 PM	Kim's-Upstairs	(415) 750-1850
23	ETVC TS Committee	Meets at 5 PM	Kim's-Upstairs	(415) 750-1850
28	ETVC The Really Big Shew V	Doors Open 8 PM	Kim's-Upstairs	(415) 821-6509
30	Gay Freedom Day	All Day	San Francisco	(415) 493-8099

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday except the last one of the month at 8:00 PM, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call: (510) 841-6224.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Write: RGA, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170. Call: (408) 984-4044

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets 8 PM the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write: PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) 482-7SGA for meeting locations.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) Meets first and third Monday of every month, 8 PM at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) 937-8432.

FTM, a support group for Female-to-Male crossdressers & transsexuals, holds both open, Informational Meetings, and closed, Support Meetings. Write: FTM, 5337 College Avenue #142, Oakland, CA 94618. Call Voice Mail: (510) 827-2646.

TGIF (TransGenderism Is Fun), formerly the **Redwood Empire Social Club** meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4 PM until early evening. For dates, location and reservations, call Diane or Anne at (707) 544-1540.

San Joaquin Gender Association, meets once a month Friday night at the First Wave Bar & Grill, 321 W. Weber Street in Stockton, California. For more information, write to 1141 Catalina Drive, Box 163, Livermore CA 94550 or call Winifred at (510) 447-9920.

ETVC Membership Application

Please Print

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Family Member's Name: _____

Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____ New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is \$25.00 (Family - \$35.00).

Part year membership from January 1 - May 31 is \$10.00 (Family - \$15.00) (New members only).

Please remit by check or money order to:

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

Secretary's Report

by Jamie Faye Fenton

As I write this, I am getting ready to travel to Minneapolis for the annual IFGE Convention. Nobody ever "travels light" to a cross-dressers' convention! (I am at three bags plus a carry-on already). This will be an especially happy one, as one of our



Founders, Joan Sheldon, will be honored with a Trinity Award, long overdue. If the old modem and laptop hold out, perhaps a story about Joanie will appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

The ETVC Executive Committee approved a dues increase at our last meeting. An individual membership will now be \$25/year. Family memberships will be \$35, and the half-year memberships will go up to \$13/individual and \$18/family. This was necessary for two reasons: our costs are up and our membership is down.

Why the decline? Many theories have been advanced: Perhaps having to leave the Chez Mollet has left some of us feeling homeless. New venues such as the Internet offer other ways to help newcomers come out. We could even be a victim of our own success with the Transgender Rights Law and the ambient state of enlightenment reducing the need for our help.

How should we turn this around? Moving to Jelly's has given us a new home. We can change the form of our organization, for example our volunteer jobs can be subdivided into smaller chunks. New projects, like the Community Center, can give us more ways to reach out. All of us on the Executive Committee are interested in ways of improving things and welcome your suggestions.

Ultimately, we need to have fun and to help our newcomers do the same.

Work Continues on the Community Center Project

By Jane K. Bentley and Francis Vavra

On March 14, the Community Center Project Board of Directors held its first public forum at San Francisco Community College, 33 Gough Street. About 150 people showed up, including San Francisco Supervisors Carole Migden, Barbara Kaufman and Michael Yaki, all of whom, along with Mayor Willie Brown, support a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center.

The purpose of the center is to bring all of these communities together in one building. As the center project's mission statement declares, "The Center will provide a safe, affordable and supportive space to link individuals with services and programs across racial, gender, age and economic lines. It will incubate emerging organizations, facilitate community events and meetings and coordinate the activities of these diverse communities." It will also be a place for already existing organizations to hold meetings, and maintain offices.

For ETVC, this facility may be a place to convene educational and executive committee meetings, and serve as a formal office for

Barbara F. Anderson

M.S.W., Ph.D

Clinical Sexologist
Certified Sex Therapist

1537 Franklin St., Suite 104
San Francisco, CA 94109

Ph (415) 776-0139
Fax (415) 441-0936

the organization's computers, BBS, hotlines, and libraries, all currently housed in private homes.

The site chosen for the proposed center, 1800 Market (at Octavia) meets a number of important criteria, including: accessibility, a designation as a "blighted" property (eligible for a \$1 million grant from the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency) and a seller who is willing to hold back from making a quick sale to a competing bidder.

The projected budget to acquire 1800 Market and erect a community center is \$7.2 million. Of that, \$4.1 million would come from the city, \$2 million from "pre-paid" rentals to major tenants and the remaining \$1.1 million from within our communities and corporate donors.

When completed the center will contain 43,000 square feet of offices, meeting halls, rented stores and restaurants. The CCP has a Board of Directors actively engaged in making this a reality. They have been already quietly working to raise funds and get local and state grants.

No strong objections to the project were expressed at the March 14 meeting. A few people questioned the need for a community center since "San Francisco is a community center." One man thought the 1800 Market site was not prominent enough. A woman speaker was concerned that renovation of the nearby Central Freeway would create a three to seven year nuisance that might turn off prospective commercial renters. Another man lamented the lack of adequate parking, conceding however, that any site will have drawbacks.

Members of CCP's board emphasized that the project needed endorsers at this point, not money, to demonstrate to governmental and larger philanthropic sources that many and diverse parts of the LGBT community want and need the center. On March 24, the ETVC Executive Committee directed the president to write a letter of endorsement to the Community Center Project.

Earlier this year, a small but interested group of people met on January 17 at Kimo's for ETVC's monthly educational program to hear Brett Thomas talk about what the project is, and what possibilities it may hold for ETVC.

There were many questions, regarding opening dates, actual rents and types of spaces, none of which could be specifically answered at that time. Interested persons can attend the monthly Board meetings which are held on the second Wednesdays at the New City Hall building (War Memorial) in the Supervisors Committee Room, 3rd floor, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Anyone interested in participating in the project can call (415) 241-1526 or FAX (415) 252-7124. The CCP's email address is sfgaycom@hooked.net. Or write to Community Center Project, 584 Castro Street # 450, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Cemetery - The Bishop's View

by Bishop PMR

Does the word "cemetery" conjure up visions of fun for you? As a Catholic Bishop of the American Catholic Church, I have been to many cemeteries and not had fun. On Sunday, March 3rd, I went to Woodlawn Cemetery to consecrate a gravesite .. a solemn occasion ... wanna bet? The gravesite in question belonged to the Widow Norton.

We had a marching band (The SF Lesbian/Gay Marching Band), male pom-pom girls (The Bay Area Rah-Rah's), nuns with beards (The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence), a singing group (The San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Chorus), the S&M folks had people there and, of course, the Vestal Virgins from ETVC were there. I don't know where they got so many virgins, but I thought they were the best act. I was happy to see someone finally found a use for virgins — they can sing and dance — and did so very well!

By the time I performed the consecration I am sure everyone thought I was part of the campy act, so I only did the necessary things and made no speeches. Besides it was cold and we were being rained on. I want to give special thanks to Nancy Ann, Chris and Jane who tried valiantly to protect my Bishop's hat from the rain. Jane stuck with me through it all with her umbrella, and even helped carry my crosier back down the hill ... after an hour and a half I was getting cramps in my arm.

I wanted the community to see that the Church does love them, and they can have any of the sacraments, including a Catholic ceremony for a loving partnership. I met many nice people there and was treated well by everyone ... and how often does one meet an Empress? I met Francis there but did not have time to tell him how much I had enjoyed reading his (Night Man) column.

The only problem I have with the whole thing is (and I don't want to appear critical or cynical) but Nancy Ann and Jane as VIRGINS (??) .. the mind boggles ...

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Notes on Being a Vestal Virgin

by Veronica Smith

I don't actually remember ever having the cross dressing fantasy of attending a memorial service while clothed in a white peignoir and four inch heels, but ETVC offers so many opportunities for transvestic expression that on Sunday, March 3, I found myself in a Colma boneyard with Juana, Ginny and Nancy Ann, Jane Bentley, Francis Vavra, Erin Souza, Laura Van Nuys and Chris York. All in white, with crowns of Baby's Breath upon our brows, we accompanied the Widow Norton on her annual pilgrimage to the grave site of her husband, Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico. This was a particularly important visit for The Widow because she was also having her own recently acquired plot consecrated by our Bishop PMR of the American Catholic Church. And it was a particularly important visit for ETVC as well because this was the first time ETVC had been invited to participate. As befitting first-timers, we were designated Vestal Virgins (*well, none of us had been touched by vestals*) and were asked to bless the proceedings. The ETVC celebrants were told to wear something "white and classical" and be at Woodlawn Memorial Park on Coronation Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

Juana and I arrived before anyone else. The overcast sky lent a solemnity to the graveyard that made me feel slightly self-conscious in my peignoir (the only thing I owned remotely "white and classical"), so I moseyed around the tombstones trying to look inconspicuous until the others showed up. This somber mood was broken, however, when the caterers came and noisily set long tables of coffee, tea, juice and breakfast treats. In a short time after, buses, vans and cars pulled in and disgorged black-veiled drag queens and their leather-clad escorts, a marching band, a chorus, cheerleaders, honor guards, ministers, municipal and funeral representatives, past and present royalty and other imperial notables. Her Majesty, dressed in 19th-century widow's weeds, graciously welcomed all. It was a testament to her prestige that on a Sunday morning she could draw nearly 400 (though a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence hinted it was the free cocktails). Once everyone was fortified with refreshments, we were ready to see the Emperor.

The path was uphill and pitted with pot-holes which made navigating in heels a bit tricky; plus the mist occasionally turned to sprinkles. By the time we got to Norton's monument, I was wet, chilled to the bone and my legs ached, but the grave side gaiety soon warmed me up. Amid all the fun, however, I felt a certain poignancy: on this lonely hillside, two beloved and eccentric San Franciscans, though from different centuries, would rest together for all time. But, I don't think Old Joshua got much rest that day! After the speeches, cheers, fanfares, songs, and 18-gun salute, came ETVC's blessing. Led by Ginny, we chastely circled the Empress' future realm, lowered our heads and, pausing only for dramatic effect, broke into "Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones" and danced wildly atop the plot. Judging by the crowd's laughter and applause, I think we put on a good show. I look forward to being a virgin again, next year.



Gender Skybox

By Erin Souza

Your 95-96 "Pammies"

Welcome back to the privately financed and public transit accessible skybox where another membership year has come to an end and it is time once again for awards.

Rookie of the Year: Valerie Genalo, who came to ETVC in late September and proceeded to win the miniature golf tournament and the Cotillion. Since I presented her with the prizes at those events, I might as well present her with one more to complete the hat trick. Nice going, babe.

Managers of the Year: That's right, it's plural this year gender fans, because Lulu Blau and Tedra Thomsen put together an outstanding team effort as Social chairs. Halloween at the Dunfy was one of the best times I've had in ages, our new End of the Month venue at Pier 50 shows a lot of promise, and the resurrected Rreally Big Shew made a substantial increase in the ETVC fun quotient. Unfortunately, this hot double play combination is splitting up as Lulu is retiring, but the new co-chairs will no doubt keep the magic alive.

MVP (Magnificent Vocal Performer): Julie Paris (formerly Julie Rose), who emerged last year from a fog shrouded Diamond Heights Karaoke lounge to a stunning performance at the Big Shew that earned return engagements at socials and the Cotillion. Audiences at those events best echoed my sentiments as well when they chanted, "More, more!"

Comeback of the Year: Deann Parkinson. After wowing us at the 1994 Cotillion, Deann kept a low profile until last June when she returned to the stage in the Big Shew (with band mates Lauren and Jazz) and then followed that up by getting the band Bole Bantu (for which her alter ego is drummer) to perform at the Halloween social. Deann was once again a presence in the Cotillion, albeit unseen in the wings, doing the valuable work of contestant coordinator. Charmingly enough she can still get away with calling me "Pammy". It seems right coming from you, dear.

Best Transgendered Movie: Braveheart. I admit I'm stretching it because kilts really don't qualify as cross dressing, but you have to admit Mel Gibson did look pretty damn cute. Though I think he did go a little overboard with some of the blue makeup. What he did to some of his opponents in battle scenes is what many of us would like to do to the next band of teenaged mall rats who hassle us in public.

So long for now, gender fans. I look forward to seeing you en masse on Market Street, June 30th, for the Parade.

Dealing With Unexpected Situations

by Sandra Brewer

On March 20th, ETVC member Nancy Cupps hosted about a dozen of us at Kimo's to lead a discussion on the possible consequences of different reactions to various forms of unexpected and frequently dangerous situations. Jennifer and Marcus of the San Francisco Community United Against Violence were on hand with several very helpful suggestions to improve our margin of safety. The CUAV was formed to promote safety awareness among the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities after the White Knights Riots of 1979.

Nancy started the discussion with Brenda's story about the fellow who made the mistake of pulling off her wig. The discussion continued with other stories of (usually) harmless teenagers taunting us, and others of more serious attacks resulting in injuries. Every hostile situation is potentially dangerous; the dilemma confronting us is to determine the best course of action for each situation.

Potential danger lurks almost everywhere, but certain areas known to be dangerous even when we're not dressed should be avoided especially at night and while we are alone. Some concern was expressed about how to cope with our neighbors who use a variety of forms to display their curiosity when they see us coming and going. People often fear us because they don't understand us; sometimes simply joking with them and letting them get to know us will put them at ease and clear the air for us. Unfortunately, we have to expect a certain amount of verbal abuse; but whenever possible we are wise to restrain ourselves to prevent these situations from escalating to violence.

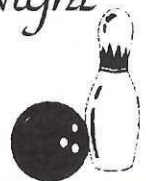
Some tips were offered to insure the greatest degree of safety

when we are out in public. The very fact we are presenting ourselves as women (the weaker sex) already makes us more vulnerable. The first tip is to be aware of our surroundings, and be alert to any potential danger before it is imminent; pay attention to the movement and disposition of others around you, especially if you have a feeling something is wrong. Women's intuition has been described as defensive watchfulness; you can't always predict what will happen, so be prepared for anything. It was also pointed out that we will be less vulnerable if we always display an air of confidence: this will dissuade attackers looking for an easy target. Carrying pepper spray is legal, but usually effective only if you have it in your hand ready to be used at the first sign of trouble. Further safety can result from carrying a loud whistle, and being prepared to scream when attacked; but be aware that immediate flight may be required after these distractions.

If you observe violence being perpetrated on others it may not be safe to intervene, but you should dial 911 to get help as quickly as possible. Taking a self-defense class is a good preventive measure; classes are offered by the CUAV. The CUAV can be reached by calling (415) 777-5500; their 24-hour crisis line is (415) 333-HELP. The stories shared at this event and others will soon be made available on the net (<http://www.tgforum.com>).

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Transgender Rights Celebrates First Birthday

By Sandra Brewer

On February 11th, about a dozen of us came to Kimo's Upstairs to celebrate the first year of life for the San Francisco Transgender Rights Ordinance. We were treated to a first hand report on its history and progress by a panel of four distinguished guests whose hard work has been invaluable both in giving birth to the ordinance and in making it work.

James Green, the director of FTM International, described some events that demonstrate the need for the ordinance, not only in San Francisco, but in other areas of the state as well. Especially moving was his report on Candy Walker, a transsexual who was recently jailed for more than a month in Ventura, California. She had been shot in a disagreement after she revealed her lifestyle to her trans/homophobic parents. Though never charged, she was accused of "provoking" the attack. Her only real crime was being transsexual against the wishes of the bureaucracy.

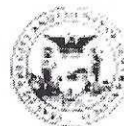
Shelley Salieri, a San Francisco Supervisor's aide, described how she re-wrote the city's earlier human rights ordinance to include transgendered people, and how she enlisted the aid of others, especially former supervisor Terence Hallinan, to get the new law enacted. An important byproduct of this effort has been new credibility for the gender community in the eyes of the leaders of the city. She also discussed the Transgender Task Force appointed by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission to enforce and maintain the ordinance.

Kiki Whitlock, a former chair of the Transgender Task Force, described her experiences as the first self-identified transgendered person on the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Advisory Committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. She commented that in recent years, at least five transgendered people have been murdered in the city of Oakland, which has no transgender rights ordinance. The cases have received little attention from the media or the police.

Larry Brinkin of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, described his experiences handling inquiries and complaints of discrimination covered by the Transgender Rights Ordinance. The ordinance has enabled him to help some people

with clear cases of discrimination; its very presence makes it possible to negotiate the resolution of some cases without going to court.

The ordinance prohibits discrimination based on gender identity in the areas of housing, employment, public accommodations, businesses and educational facilities in San Francisco. The legislation could be in jeopardy due to a state law that precludes cities from passing their own laws in areas already covered by state statutes. This, however, is a matter for the courts to decide. Meanwhile, you can make your own views known by attending the two-hour Transgender Task Force meetings at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month. The meetings are held at suite 800, 25 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco.



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, I am extremely proud to recognize the 12th Annual Educational TV Channel (ETVC) Cotillion; and

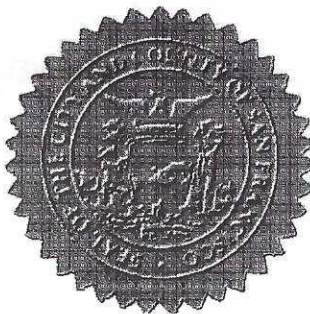
WHEREAS, ETVC has for many years promoted education and outreach regarding cross-dressers, transsexuals and the transgender community; and

WHEREAS, ETVC maintains and provides a resource list, resource library and support group to foster self-respect and dignity among members of the community; and

WHEREAS, ETVC organizes parties and events for fundraising purposes that serve the non-profits of the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, the members selected as Mister and Miss ETVC traditionally serve as spokespersons for issues related to cross-dressers, transsexuals and the entire transgender community in order to promote public education, acceptance and respect; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr., Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, do hereby recognize, honor and celebrate the organizers and participants of the 12th Annual ETVC Cotillion on this day Saturday, January 27, 1996.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed.

Willie L. Brown, Jr.

Mayor

Sandy Kasten

MBA

Attorney at Law

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In Memory of

Jennifer Richards

Jennifer Richards, a long time gender community activist, leader and friend passed away last December 22, 1995 at the age of 44 from AIDS related complications.

There just wasn't anybody like Jennifer and there probably will never be again. She was the sparkle in our community as well as the joyous spirit and determined activist we depended on for so many positive actions across the country. She moved to Portland, Oregon from Philadelphia back in the early 80's and quickly became involved in both the gay and transgender activities there. She co-produced Dream '83 (where we first met her) and did a cable television talk show in Portland as Fairy Tyler Moore, her drag-persona.

We partied together again at several Pajaro Dunes weekends and when Jennifer moved to St. Louis she became President of the St. Louis Gender Foundation, directed the International Fall Harvest Event and was the main force behind the first regional coalition of transgender support groups, MAGGIE, The Mid-America Gender Group Information Exchange. She served as Vice President of the Congress of Transgendered Organizations and won many awards, including the "Maggie" in 1992, the IFGE Trinity Award in 1992, Princess of the Poconos in 1994 and the first CTO STAR award in 1995.

What a gal! She was always fun, always ready to help, always there for everyone. Those of us who knew Jennifer were blessed to experience her presence in their lives, but this truly beautiful, courageous person will be sadly missed by us all.



1996 Aids Walk

ETVC will have a contingent for the third year walking for AIDS in Golden Gate Park on Sunday, July 21, 1996. In the past we have enjoyed the exhilarating 6.2 mile walk in the park, accompanied by good friends ...and raised a couple thousand dollars for AIDS charities. In 1995 we had twice the number of people walking with us as we had in 1994, but didn't increase the contribution by very much because the message evidently didn't get through to you.

The purpose of this AIDS walk is to raise money. The way it works is that you commit to walking with ETVC by calling Jane Kennedy at (510) 283-3780 and telling her you would like to register for the ETVC AIDS Walk. She will put you on the list of registered walkers and send you a sign up sheet. At this point, you begin to canvass your friends and neighbors, coworkers, etc., for donations. They give you the money for so much a kilometer (the Walk is a total of ten kilometers) and you write down their name and amount donated on your sign up sheet. The goal is for everyone to collect at least \$100 for their walk and the sign up sheet and money is turned in to the Aids Walk coordinators at Golden Gate Park before the walk begins.

If you're hungry after this exercise (and everybody is) there will be a buffet served at Ginny and Nancy Ann's home immediately following the event. Just follow the bread crumbs scattered by Nancy Ann to the door!

Seriously, this is an incredibly important opportunity to help fight this wretched disease, so please don't hesitate. Call Jane today and get your sign up sheets early so your donations can exceed the goals. One day, maybe someone will be there for you ... or maybe they'll be too busy ...

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Love Among the Ruined

by J.K. Bentley

Valentine's Day comes but once a year. That's four times better than Sadie Hawkins Day, which comes every February 29. What, you say, is Sadie Hawkins Day? That's when the gals git to chase the fellers. It's the invention of Al Capp, who drew the once wildly popular Li'l Abner comic strip. Li'l Abner? Ask yer maw.

Both Valentine's Day and Sadie Hawkins Day provided unique challenges to ETVC's Social Committee this year. Our Valentine's party was supposed to be held at Eichelbergers, except that just days ahead of time, Social co-chair Lulu learned the joint was already booked for a political dinner. Heart-in-throat, Lulu called bars and restaurants all over town.

Every one was booked—for Valentine's parties, natch—except for the Galleon on 14th street off Church.

Amazingly, Lulu's last hope turned out to be ETVC's night of unforgettable revelry. Over one dozen celebrants were treated to roses, dispensed by Lulu's brother, Theodore, who, as well, regaled each of us with candy hearts ("Be Mine!", "Golly!", "Heart throb", "Curb Your Dog", "Forever!"), chocolate kisses and Valentine's cards. The Galleon crew were wonderful, and, SURPRISE!, there was a piano bar, where we Sang Along With Mitch. Notable moments: Laura Van Nuys once again demonstrating why she is the leading female bass west of Nashville; Erin Souza belting out her signature song, "Mac The Knife."

"Good-night, ladies," came all-too-soon.

Now Sadie Hawkins night, at the end of month social at Jelly's, that was an

entirely different affair. As noted, the gals was after the guys. The problem, as you already guessed, was where to find guys in the first place. Somehow, Lulu's Brether Jed managed to wrestle up 'bout eight of 'em, hisself included, and got 'em all hitched on the spot by Marryin' Sam, who looked awful much like Evette's brother, Everet, in priest drag. Every marriage was accompanied by an honest-to-gosh marriage certificate with what every document of its sort should include: an instant divorce clause. A mighty handy thing to have, since some of the couples hitched, Toni & Chris, Ralph & Jamie, Valerie & Jano, Francis & Mina 'n' Rae Ann & Brother Jed hisself, was already hitched to other folk. Them that was there will note that I did not name the feller who was hitched to Miss Susie M., the reason being that he looked a suspicious lot like a feller who got tarred n' feathered for performing unnatural acts with dumb animals awhile back (imagine, stagin' Hamlet with a mule as the ghost). Nuff said.

10th Annual IFGE Convention: Trinity Award Goes To Joan Sheldon



ETVC's Joan Sheldon with Trinity Award at the 10th annual IFGE convention in Minneapolis

The 10th annual IFGE convention came off well. IFGE faced several serious challenges last year: a lightly attended conference in Atlanta, financial difficulties, and changes in leadership. I went to Minneapolis with some dread that this convention could be the last.

I am so glad to be wrong. Attendance

was over 180 people. The sessions were great. All major events came off well and we all had fun. The gloom is gone. Some amazing things are coming.

Awards night was special for me. One of the founders of our organization, Joan Sheldon, was presented with the Trinity Award by Alison Laing. Joanie has been active in the gender

community for over 25 years, and has directly or indirectly touched the lives of every transgendered person in the Bay Area, and many more in other places. My pictures here are low resolution, but we can all see how happy she was to receive this recognition.

Congratulations Joanie and thanks from all of us.

Jamie Faye Fenton



Joan receives Trinity Award from Alison Laing



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OTHER VOICES

Other Voices is a newsletter within the ETVC newsletter by and for Significant Others. Send letters and articles to: Other Voices, c/o ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

The Wife and Times of a Cross dresser

by Juana Smith

Part Two: What Have I Gotten Us Into Now?

As you'll recall in my first installment of the tales of my cross-dressing husband and me, we were checking out the Chez Mollet Restaurant and Bar, former home of ETVC socials.

As my eyes adjusted to the dim light of the dining room, I thought back to how I'd gotten into this situation. It had all begun with an evening's conversation when hubby said he needed to tell me something he'd kept secret about himself, his desire to cross-dress.

As he described his feelings about cross-dressing, all I could think about was what it would mean. He'd need to learn make-up, how to wear dresses, what kind of accessories to wear, etc. And since I'd been a practicing female since my pre-teens, I knew I would have to help; no I would have to direct this fantasy. As I listened to him struggle with expressing his emotions, half of my mind was racing ahead. Taking advantage of one of his long pauses, I jumped in with, "Let's get started."

I told him that his only responsibility would be not to look at himself until I was finished. I pulled out my oodles of cosmetics and went to work. I labored non-stop for over an hour, utilizing all my accumulated knowledge from my years of girlhood. His short hair I combed into a financial district "power-do." His legs, I thought, would look best in dark hose. I chose a dress with a lot of color (shoes we would have to do without). Finally (and half expecting a crash of thunder in the distance) I knew my work was done: before me stood my creature.

I told him to keep his eyes shut as I placed a full-length mirror in front of him, and on the count of 3, I allowed him to open his eyes and see himself as the woman I envisioned him

to be. While the mirror reflected this image to him, his face reflected his thoughts to me; he was fascinated by this transformation and complimented me repeatedly on what I had done. As I thanked him, he continued to look at himself, turning his head this way, tilting his chin that way.

Having completed my project, I realized this didn't seem like enough, the fantasy didn't feel finished. So as my little Frankenstein was admiring his rear silhouette in the mirror, I asked him now what? What goal did he have in mind now that he was dressed? Shouldn't we go out or something? We didn't that night but we became committed to finding a place where we would feel safe going.

That's how we found ourselves in the present situation: dressed normally as Mr. and Mrs. Smith, reconnoitering the Chez Mollet, a restaurant where (we'd been informed by the ETVC hot line) the transgender group would meet the next Thursday night and a place we had been told by a very misinformed and melodramatic friend where they'd "just as soon kill you as serve you a drink."

As I followed the kindly, white haired gentleman to a booth, I thought he didn't look the type to want to kill anyone, but I still had a bit of trepidation as I ordered a martini. Hubby quickly seconded the order. Watching the back of the waiter disappear into the bar, I acknowledged to myself that our presence in this dangerous locale was my idea. I still couldn't bring myself to look around, so I pretended to read the menu. My nerves had a much greater influence on me than my faked coolness; I just couldn't read the menu, so, I went back to looking at hubby until the drinks came.

Grabbing our drinks as soon as the waiter walked away (I didn't want to appear over-anxious), we quickly toasted our courage. With the first sip of juniper berry's distilled essence, hubby's face reflected what I felt: relief. Just to test its effects, I glanced at the menu and could actually make out words and prices. I also realized the moment of truth had arrived, I would have to look around at my environment. For all of the tensions I had been feeling, I discovered that there were indeed no three-eyed diners or men packing obvious sidearms. In fact, the first folks I saw were a group of elderly large men with long hair, both head and facial. Their deep-throated laughter and bantering indicated that they were oblivious to Chez Mollet's dangers. Relieved to hear their cheery sounds, I began to glance around at the other tables and noticed the other customers were mostly aging gay couples. Slowly but surely it sank in that the majority of customers were the last people to fear; simultaneously hubby leaned across the table and excitedly whispered his first observation. "Mirrors!"

Significant Other Support Group invites all Significant Others to attend our meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons who are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to attend, particularly if she or he needs support from peers in dealing with feelings about the TV/TS in her or his life. All meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL to help insure that a safe, supportive

environment is created in which all attendees feel secure enough to freely share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern. Our next meetings will be Thursday, May 9, and Thursday, June 13. We are planning a "surprise luncheon" on Saturday, June 8th at 1PM in a San Francisco restaurant. You are welcome with open arms. Call (415) 664-1499 for more information.

Ginny's



So far, 1996 has just whizzed by with all the activities over the past few months, but one of the nicest evenings we have had was in February when Nancy Ann and I drove up to Santa Rosa for their gender group event. They call themselves TGIF (Transgenderism is Fun), and that's just what they do at their meetings — have fun! Diane and Anne Giles live just outside the actual business section of Santa Rosa in a log cabin house Diane built herself many years

ago. It is both charming and functional and sits in a wooded area among a few other houses nearby. We were delighted to meet some of the people who live up there whom we haven't seen for awhile, like Alice and, of course, Charlene was there. It was a Valentine's Party and everyone exchanged small gifts and chowed down on a wonderful buffet. We even raised \$30 for the American Heart Association with a "fishing for hearts" game we played. The fun starts at about 4 PM and we were on our way home by 9:30 PM, after a truly special evening with lovely people. TGIF meets on one Saturday night each month and everyone is welcome, so call Diane and Anne to get the current month's meeting date at (707) 544-1540 and have a good time. You'll be glad you did.

Please mark your calendars for a special luncheon date on Saturday, June 8, 1996. We will be having a surprise event that I can't write about or it won't be a surprise, right? Actually, if you call or see me I'll give you all the scoop and, of course, I'll send out a notice on all the details sometime in late May. I know you'll want to be there .. this one is very unique and I believe it's the first time we've ever done this at ETVC, so for now, just block in the date for Important Luncheon on Saturday, June 8, 1996 at 1 PM. This one will be a charming affair, I promise.

Again we advise you of the SPICE convention (see advertisement) which will be held in the Wilmington, Delaware Hilton Hotel (close to the Philadelphia airport) July 24-28, 1996. This convention is specifically for wives and partners of heterosexual cross dressers and if the cross dresser attends, he is requested to appear in drab only. If this fits your needs, it could be helpful for you to talk to some of these loving, hard working women. Dr. Peggy Rudd, author of "My Husband Wears My Clothes" and other books for significant others, is the coordinator. You may write to her for more information at POB 5304, Katy, Texas 77491, or call the SPICE Hotline at (909) 875-2687.

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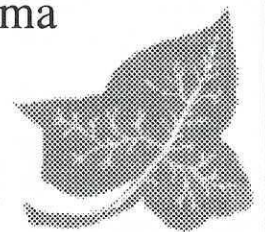
The Uninvited Dilemma

A Question of Gender

by

Kim Elizabeth Stuart

Research Supplement available separately.



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A Contestant's Perspective of the Cotillion

by Sandra Brewer

For many of us, the ETVC Cotillion is the biggest event of the year. I will always cherish the memories of the five I attended before I decided it was time for me to participate. As a contestant, I really miss not being able to visit with all my friends in the audience; but it is exciting when people tell me they enjoyed watching me on stage, sometimes weeks or even months later. The joys and rewards of participating in the Cotillion are so great I would expect everyone in the gender community to at least consider it. The rehearsal schedule for most of January is rigorous, but the opportunity to improve yourself while working toward a common goal with others that soon become your closest friends more than makes up for the sacrifices we must make to meet the schedule. The rehearsals alone would be worth the experience, but the feeling when it all comes together on the night of the event is incomparable. Regardless which of us are chosen by the judges, we all have our cherished moments to shine. I wouldn't trade my feeling 'active' in active wear or 'dreamy' in evening wear for anything. The talent offering has always been exciting to me because it gives us a chance to express something unique about ourselves. Very few of us are professional performers, but we all have talents we may not have found if we hadn't participated in the Cotillion.

For one of us there will always be the added joy, recognition, and responsibility of being crowned Miss ETVC (or Mr. ETVC). This is the golden ring we all reach for, and while each of us shares the joy of the winners, no one is a loser. In addition to the rewards described above, what we learn about ourselves by participating in the Cotillion can be a tremendous help in building and improving our poise, confidence, and ability to articulate. These skills can be invaluable in whatever we do in all walks of our lives.

The biggest letdown of the Cotillion is when it's over - after all that preparation, it's over in such a short time. After participating in two events, it occurred to me it's not over; it's only over until next year. It's not too soon to start thinking about next year. I know we are all hard-pressed by other commitments, but somehow I know I'll find a way to participate again if there is one. I hope I have helped to inspire many of you to seriously consider joining me. 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 just to be yourself, but be the best you can be.

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Special Notice: 1996 Cotillion

This notice is being written to correct a grievous error that was made during the 1996 Cotillion which was held on January 27, 1996.

As a result of a clerical error in contestant finalist score tabulation and a subsequent failure to act in a timely fashion by myself, Kindra Van Spyk, who should have been a finalist in the final five contestants, was denied this honor for all of her hard work and talent.

I am apologizing to Kindra for this error, which primarily was a result of my mistake, since I am responsible for everything which occurs before, during and after, the ETVC Cotillion.

Please join me in congratulating Kindra, as a semi-finalist, and in recognizing her as the contender that she truly is.

Sincerely, Lisa Ann Maxwell - ETVC Vice President and Cotillion Producer
March 22, 1996

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Getting in Touch With Our Femininity

by Sandra Brewer

On February 22nd, Wilhelmina Beins led a casual discussion about what it takes to look and feel "just like a woman". Wilhelmina has worked individually as a feminine image consultant to many of us, has supported us at several events and is truly an inspiration to us all.

She outlined several things we need to consider to make our best expression in a feminine presentation. Clothing can be very casual to provocative or elegant, but it should be appropriate for the occasion. Jewelry and makeup should be used in moderation. Speak in a whisper if necessary to avoid a deep male sounding voice; and crude male jokes should be replaced by soft elegant talk. Walk taking smaller steps with our elbows close to our body; our progress should be up and down with our hips swaying gently from side to side. Take up less space when sitting, usually with our legs crossed. Our movements should be slow and graceful, and a good upright posture is an asset in a feminine presentation. An excellent place to practice all this is in front of a full-length mirror.

We generally agreed society has a right to expect a certain level of dignity in our feminine presentation; but we feel this should be treated with the respect it deserves. We discussed when it is appropriate to open our lives to our friends and family, and when it is best to keep them private.

In her feminine image program, Wilhelmina helps the crossdresser find clothes and wigs that are right, offers voice and makeup training, and sometimes accompanies clients on shopping trips. Her TS program is much more intense, with more attention devoted to feminine movements, language, hair (if possible, she recommends growing our own), feelings, and sexuality. She identifies the strong points and the areas that can be improved for each individual, with an emphasis on realistic expectations. She takes great pride in getting us in touch with our femininity so we look and feel like the women we all know we are.

Lending Library Committee

by Ginny Knuth

Yes, we finally do have a Lending Library Committee and we had our first meeting on Thursday, March 21st. We reviewed over one hundred books for a brief synopsis to enter in the computer in preparing an up to date lending library list. We have a goal, and if we meet it, it won't be too long before you will have a new listing in your hands of all the books available in our lending library ... and there are over 200 books and tapes in it.

Many thanks to Chris York, Carolayn Hughes, Jane Kennedy and Donna Kambric for spending a couple of hours working on this project. We plan to meet again monthly to finish this job and keep up the maintenance work required; then we'll go on to cataloging some of the archival material also available, as well as the audio tapes and eventually, the articles and VHS tapes. Please consider joining our committee, or helping in some other way if you have any free time. Call me at (415) 664-1499 if you are interested.

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