

Back To School BBQ A Hit!

TGSF is *The Channel*
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly E-FVC)



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

The Channel

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

ExCom 2002 - 2003 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President Rachael Janelle
 Vice President Rachael Hill
 Secretary Susan Laird
 Treasurer Stephanie Ann Blythe
 Education Ally Grillo and Kara Flynn
 Outreach Kalani Makanani
 Social Aiyana Eveningstar and Gia Luisa

Membership Report

Final 2001-2002 Membership as of:

May 24, 2002 230

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

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

Newsletter Staff

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Ad Rates

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

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

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FROM THE EDITOR...

I've started singing again!

"Well, so what?" you may ask. Ah, but you just don't know (unless you've been there) what's it's like to have a gift, and to have intentionally stifled it for over a decade. Purposely denied it's use in the expression of your talents. Locked away those creative impulses, stuffed them in the dark recesses of your deepest treasure chest and kept the key safe all these years, just in case.

My father started me singing when I was 7 years old. During his lengthy tenure as Church Organist/Choir Director at St. Augustine's By-The-Sea in Santa Monica, CA, in 1963 he took a one year's Sabbatical in London, England (dragging his fledgling family with him) at the Royal School of Church Music. After a year of intensive study, he returned to the West Coast all fired up about having a boy's choir in the Anglican style, patterned of course after the Vienna Boy's ensemble, and he didn't have to look far for his first recruit.

Drafted as I was at that tender age, it soon became apparent that I had a knack for it, and for the next 28 years or so (give or take a few), just about every bleepin' Sunday of my life - forever doomed to miss the early football game on TV - I sang in every sort of high Episcopal/Catholic mass there is, from one end of Los Angeles to the other. I eventually became one of the most sought-after Tenors For Hire throughout the sacred circuits of Southern California, with several quality recordings under my belt. You name it, I was doing it: Gregorian chants, Elizabethan madrigals, Quartets, Section Leader and Soloist; I sang in large (and some huge) choral groups like the Roger Wagner Chorale, the elite Papal Choir for Pope John Paul II (when he visited LA in 1988), and the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA).

At times throughout my career, particularly during the rebellious teen years, I learned to distrust organized religion, but I also learned to perfect my craft, honing my skills, and came to love raising my voice in song with praises to God the Almighty, etc., loud and proud, in full confidence. The message I was singing didn't matter that much to me - it was all about the music. It truly was a natural high. Even now, after so many years of disuse, I always knew in the back of my mind that it'd be like riding a bicycle - you never forget how to do it once you learn the first time. And it was with GMCLA that I discovered a second family and learned what it was like to bring a message of hope and solidarity and diversity and love - all through the medium that suited me best, and I loved doing the most. It was incredibly satisfying.

But it came to a sudden and screeching stop in the autumn months of 1991. I had just begun my transition at the beginning of the year, and that summer I went on an intensive two-week tour with the Chorus to Eastern Europe (the Berlin Wall had recently been torn down), and upon our triumphant return to Los Angeles we recorded the very first CD issued by the group. I was honored to have a credited solo on the disc, with my femme name in quotes (a favor I specifically asked for since I knew it would be my last work with them). You see, when we were in Budapest that summer, I sat down to lunch in the old hotel with the Director, Jon Bailey - and during our meal came to the mutual conclusion, quite amiably mind you, that there was no place for a woman in a men's chorus.

I had been coming to rehearsals as Ayme, but performing as Michael. While on tour in Europe, I basically had two identities, as evidenced by my old (but valid) passport photo upon which I was traveling versus the femme way in which I was, at the time, newly presenting. As you may imagine, this caused much consternation among the authorities and was particularly disconcerting at border crossings in what were recently communist bloc countries. And, facing facts, my presence in the Chorus was viewed as a bit disruptive - even among this creative, wonderful and tolerant (albeit close knit) choral community. I guess my talent and gift stood me in good stead among those that counted, but I didn't want to put the

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER

By Rachael Janelle

Wow! There have been so many events and things going on since last month's report. The San Francisco LGBT Center Transgender Reception was interesting, and I got to see lots of TGSF girls and other friends. There is another event at the Center on Sept 17, 2002 to discuss Transgender community needs. I will try to attend to promote the new TGSF San Francisco Transgender support meeting, which will be at the center for 6 months. It is unfortunate that TGSF has to pay for the meeting room and that the Center could not provide a free room for this meeting (like the rest of the community centers in the Bay Area). Tekla (Kat) West will be facilitating this awesome meeting.

We had the first Cotillion planning meeting. It was great to see some of the people who worked on it last year and some new faces. We have a lot of work to do. We do want to make this the best because it's the 20th Cotillion. The theme will be "An Enchanted Evening in the Islands". If you want to get involved or be a contestant please contact me. But before the Cotillion we have a Great Halloween party planned. The three-hour excursion of the San Francisco Bay will be on Blue and Gold's finest Ship. Please, try not to miss this spectacular event.

We will have events for TGSF at the October, November, and December End of the Month Socials, so please check the dates. November and December will be on the third Thursday of the month instead of the fourth because of the holidays. I'm thinking about having a Thanksgiving dinner at my house. If any one is interested in coming or helping give me a call or e-mail because I'm still undecided about it at this time.

We also participated in the Hooker Ball with the San Jose court. It was fun and lots of T-girls showed up. We also just did the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) Annual Dinner. There were about seven hundred people in attendance. I got to see some of my T-girl sisters. There were about 50 elected officials. It was very interesting and it showed me how much more work needs to be done in regards to transgender issues. The next day we had the back-to-school B.B.Q at Eddie and Adam's house. There was a good amount of girls who showed up, and we all had a great time with tons of food and drinks.

This week is another busy week with more transgender events lined up. The San Francisco Grand Duke and Duchesses Coronation is on Saturday night and Leatherwalk 2002 on Sunday in the Castro. I believe that there is going to be an event every weekend until the Cotillion.

If you read the Ex-Com meeting minutes from the September 8, 2002 section under new business, it was stated that my involvement as a member of the Ex-Com would be for only one term. I have stated this before, and I'm not leaving because I'm burnt out on the responsibilities of being president, but because I just want to do other things. I would like to maybe run for Empress San Jose or get involved with other LGBT organizations down in the San Jose area where I live. I believe this Ex-Com has done a great job working on the things TGSF has needed and it will continue. I don't plan to disappear and I still plan to attend and participate in events. I want to thank every one of you for all your support and love.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

From the Editor...

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chorus through confronting their own bigotry and risk distracting their attention from the music and their mission. So I bowed out, gracefully tendering my resignation, it being received as graciously.

I haven't sung a note professionally ever since. I've been harboring this fear of not finding a home, a place where I could be comfortable - as Ayme - singing and offering my gift. Going back to the Anglicans or the Catholics to sing didn't seem to be an option. Too stuffy, too conservative. How would they react to a tenor in a dress? My own paranoia and self-consciousness forced me to hide that part of me away, and I didn't really know if I'd ever sing again. It was sad, in a way. But it was realistic too. Sure there were other gay and lesbian choruses who would've been happy to have me, but their agendas weren't mine and I never felt any affinity for them. And frankly, I didn't want to set myself up for rejection and abuse. I was afraid.

When I was in Oklahoma (remember that?), I did join a fledgling woman's (lesbian) chorus and felt fairly good about it. But none of the music was in my register. I was forever singing falsetto, and it was weak and forced, unnatural sounding. While we gave a couple performances, I wasn't emotionally invested enough to regret leaving to return home to California, and I chalked it up as a learning experience. Now the gay boys didn't want me 'cause I was a girl, and I didn't feel quite right singing with the girls 'cause I sounded like a boy. So it was easiest (that 'ol familiar path of least resistance) to not sing at all.

And that's the way it would've stayed had I not attended a concert given by a group called Transcendence - the "world's first transgendered Gospel choir." When I first read that, I did the classic Tex Avery double-take, eyes going "boing!" and my mouth dropping open going "Huh?" Say that again? The World's First Transgendered Gospel Choir. Oh I gotta check these people out!

Mind you, I have never given much credence to Gospel music as an art form - all that hollerin' and clappin' and foot stompin' and shoutin' - doesn't even compare to the refined majesty of Bach or Beethoven, Mozart or Handel. Hmph! But you know what? The beauty of it is, it doesn't have to - nor should it. Here was a group of MTF's and FTM's gathering together, singing their hearts out in the register and voice that suits them, belting out some good 'ol revival meetin' style testimony and love and it was like fire in my veins! Here was a group I could identify with! Here was a message I was familiar with! Here was a family I could be a part of again, unlock my treasure chest, dust off my vocal chords and crank up the bubble machine! I felt honest to goodness caring, and love, and acceptance, and tolerance, and the peace that comes with understanding that a door has opened for me that I had thought long closed.

So I joined last week. Had one rehearsal so far. My voice is 11 years rusty and thank God I gave up smoking those damn cigarettes! It must've been a premonition, as if doing one has led to the other in some sort of natural Karmic progressive surge. And I'll state for the record, right here and now, that Transcendence is a natural for the Cotillion in 2003. Not only is a TG Gospel Choir unique in and of itself, with a message that speaks to anyone (but meant from the heart for our brothers and sisters in the T-community): a message of empowerment, acceptance, trust, shelter, and strength. We may not all believe in God, but we believe in Love. It's a beautiful thing to see, a precious moment to experience, and a joyous feeling to be savored. Do yourself a favor and go see them...er...us! For the whole scoop Betty Boop, visit their website at <http://tgchoir.home.attbi.com/>

But above all - these guys are good! Damn good! I am gonna have a ball! I'm gonna take a big deep breath and open my mouth and support with my diaphragm (hey, keep it clean) and just let it all out! Just let my hair down, and step into the rhythm, feel that inner energy a-whirlin' and a-stirrin' and cry me a river! Jesus build a fence all around me every day so I can raise my hands in the air and sing Sing SING me a Hallelujah! Can I have an AMEN!

September 2002

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

From the ExCom meeting of September 8, 2002; time 4:25. Present: Rachael Janelle, Susan Laird, Kalani, Stephanie Anne, Kara Kimmel, Aiyana Eveningstar. Absent: Rachel Hill and Allison Grillo. Minutes from August 14, 2002 meeting no changes or addendums. Adopted, seconded and voted accepted.

Introduction of the Agenda.

Cotillion - 10,000 postcards/handbills are to be printed and used as major form of advertising. Limited number of posters will be printed and used, unlike last year. This should reduce costs accordingly. Budget request of approximately \$465 for printing. Seconded & Approved.

Letterhead envelopes and paper is distributed. Discussion of digital format and uses of letterhead.

\$200 gift to transgender bereavement fund was made by Rachel Janelle out of pocket to expedite the gift. Deeply appreciated by the recipients. Proposal that Rachael Janelle be reimbursed is made and approved.

Day of Remembrances event (Gwen Smith) has requested funds for room rental at The Center. As this event is considered educational in nature, a \$500 request is made that TGSF fund the facilities from its educational fund. It is also posited that future events make a conscious effort to control costs and noted that the Women's health building rents for much cheaper than The LGBT Center. It is proposed that \$500 be appropriated for the Day of Remembrance event from the educational fund. Motion is seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

RGA-TGSV-Carla's will hold event at Tarragon restaurant, Sunnyvale on December 15th, for Christmas celebration. End of month events will be held at the Blue Muse for each of the months October 24, November 21 and December 19. Thanksgiving Dinner to be held at 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Rachael Janelle's home. TGSF Will hosted a Trans-community social meeting on November 12 to be held at the Billy De Frank Center of San Jose.

TGSF Transgender Support meeting in San Francisco is announced. The LGBT Center has been unable to providing a free space to hold this monthly event, which would be scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month and would be essentially a transgender "coming out" meeting. It is suggested that donated funds at each meeting may be used to further finance the San Francisco Support meeting Proposed that \$500 be allocated for the TGSF San Francisco Support meeting, regardless of the chosen venue and such funds be drawn from the education fund. Seconded and approved by unanimous vote

Vice President's issues are discussed, although Rachel Hill is absent. Halloween preparations are proceeding as planned. United Way - It has been found that it is possible to specify TGSF as a recipient of United Way contributions if we are able to supply an employee Identification Number (EIN) as part of the application process. This is being investigated further

Secretary's Report.

Work still in progress on the website and request for photography of past events is made for the purposes of layout for each specific event. This way, the allocation of space on the site can be facilitated for future photography to be used at the time of each new event of the year. Text is also being generated for the site. Discussion of proposed text input for the website.



Membership database - Everything is working fine and additional labels will be made for the month of October. Updates will be made and copy of database given to the President for archive.

Pride Parade - Theme for parade will be announced in Nov/Dec and theme for the float will be determined after that. Space to store and construct parts of the float will be made available in Gilroy by Rachael Hill. Cotillion contestants have been invited to ride on the float. There will no one except contestants and winners on the float. Discussion of standards of behavior of membership following a number of complaints about last year.

Treasurer's Report.

Balance of \$5592.02 in the treasury. Tax return filing will be prepared this week. Insurance. Need to find insurance provider for event liability is stressed. New membership. 5 new members added.

Education

Voice therapist for September is not available. Will be moved to November. LGBT Historical Society event of Nov 19th is discussed and support is recommended. Scheduling of events and the interaction with events proposed by other groups is discussed.

Discussion of the Center meeting of August 27th with the trans community. Further discussion of how Transgender events will be funded when held at the Center. Discussion about Sept 17, 2002 TG meeting at the center

Kara Flynn is thanked for her involvement with The Center interface with TGSF.

Proposal for thank you letter, which also allows for tax deductions for services rendered by individuals to TGSF.

Need for online speaker forum on the new website is stressed.

Social Report

Blue Muse will be utilized for the rest of the year for the end of month social events. Proposed that speakers from other trans groups be allowed to address TGSF on nights when no major events are planned.

T-shirts. Aiyana will donate time and effort for 72 shirts leaving only the cost of the shirt for TGSF. They will be screen printed for sale at the Halloween event and the Cotillion. Presentation of shirt design. Discussion of layout of print and locations follows. Design is approved and order placed for shirts to be resold at profit for TGSF.

Old Business

Renaissance item of involvement with TGSF has resurfaced. Discussion of Benefits vs. cost of involvement with Renaissance is held. Noted that this item was turned down by previous vote. Will not sign up as a chapter with Renaissance

New Business

Sponsorship letters are discussed and the dispersion of funds to be mentioned in the letters to possible sponsors is also discussed. Letters of solicitation will be sent to possible sponsors for the Cotillion

Rachael Janelle announces that her involvement as a member of ex-com will cease as of the next election. It is her intention to become the next Empress of San Jose. TGSF is advised to make a smooth transition to ensure that proper leadership and the ExCom must assume that responsibility. Aiyana Eveningstar will also not run for the next ExCom.

Next meeting will be on October 13th, 2002 and will be held at the home of Susan Laird. 2222 Pruneridge Ave. Santa Clara, California. Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

TG'S AND THE LAW

By Merrisa Coleman, Attorney at Law

"I'm a crossdresser. What should I do if I am pulled over by a policeman while I am dressed?" In thinking about the answer to this question we have to ask ourselves "What would I do if put myself in their shoes."

The traffic stop or other detention by a Law Enforcement Officer is for many a transgendered person's worst nightmare. We feel that we cannot tell the truth about our situation, for fear of harassment or embarrassment.

We must remember that the nature of law enforcement dictates that not all contacts with the Police will be positive or in a beneficial setting. There is no such thing as a routine traffic stop. We as transgendered individuals must also remember: 1) that there has not been a lot of training on transgender issues in the Police Academy; and 2) that Police Officers are human, some of them are going to respond properly, while some will not. This necessitates our having a greater sensitivity to the difficult job police face in their day-to-day jobs and goes a long way towards disarming a potentially tense situation.

The police are the wrong people to lie to. The Police are trained to look for "Red Flags" when they stop an individual. For example, multiple ID cards are one. The police officer does not know you and must ask themselves: "What activity would you be involved in that would necessitate changing your identity?"

Moreover, the officers questioned about this stressed that the majority of transgendered people they come into contact with are transvestite prostitutes. In their minds many of them have drug habits and carry concealed weapons. While this generalization is untrue and unfair to you, remember that the police by instinct will assume any crossdressed person is one of these and their assumption can only be eliminated by how you respond to the officer.

What should one do if stopped, for a traffic violation? Definitely do not get out of your car first; this is very big red flag. Have your identification already in hand and remember, police are trained to assume that everyone they come into contact with has a weapon. You must also keep your hands on the steering wheel and in plain sight. Do not make furtive movements. Listen carefully to what the police ask you, and before answering the officer's questions THINK about your answer and do not let an agitated state of mind wander or respond in a confrontational manner. You will be nervous; being inattentive will lead police to suspect you're under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

You must stay focused. Do everything the officer tells you to do, to the letter, above all, do not lie! Be soft-spoken, and dignified. Unless you've broken a law the police have no legal right to detain you. In California there are no longer laws against

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**Family Law, Domestic Violence, Estate &
Financial Planning And Transgender Issues**

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This Month's ExCom Profile

TREASURER - STEPHANIE ANN BLYTHE



"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself" and "Slow down and smell the roses." These are words that have guided me since I came out of the closet and began the journey that now has me seven months away from gender confirmation surgery. Once I was able to put my fears aside I was able to begin to live my life as I could only dream of previously. It does not mean that I was not nervous all along the way. You bet I was, but I was no longer afraid. By taking a deliberate pace, it will be nearly five years between my coming out of the closet and when I will have had my surgery. When it seems like everyone around me who has just come to a social or support group for the first time is now jumping on a plane to Thailand, I just plod along at my steady pace. I will reach my goal soon enough.

When I went to my first Cotillion in 1999 I thought that I was barely worthy to even be in the audience. I felt that I could never be one of the fantastic women on stage competing for the title of Miss TGFSF. Three years later there I was, putting my heart into my portrayal of Susan B. Anthony and actually getting selected as second runner-up. How did I do that? Of course it meant believing in myself but it was also a prime example of following the tenets I stated in the first paragraph. When the time was right I was ready to have the time of my life as a contestant, something I will never forget.

I spent my first year out of the closet just enjoying myself as I attended socials and support groups, making a lot of new friends, and, in a bit of throwing caution to the wind, getting myself on the executive committee of TGFSF. Once the year was up it would be time to get serious about my gender issues although I was not sure of where I would go with this. I made an appointment with a therapist, hoping that eventually I would be diagnosed as transsexual but equally afraid that I would be dismissed as just a crazy mixed up person. As it turns out I had nothing to be afraid of. All I had to do was express myself as the person I am.

When I first considered the idea that I might transition to live full time as a woman it seemed like an impossible task. I had no idea how I could get there. But the time came when I felt confident enough to take a vacation where I would be en femme for an entire week. When I survived that week, including the dubious looks from a motel clerk in Yakima Washington, I realized I could actually do this forever. But keeping my patterns the same, it would take nine months before I did go full time.

My transition at work has to be one of the most successful that I know of. By taking my time and thoroughly planning every step with my supervisor and with the human resources manager, I walked into work that first day confident that I was doing the right thing and knowing that everything felt right. How successful was it? How about the fact that the bathroom policy we agreed upon was in fact no bathroom policy at all? I just go down the hall and do what I have to do. It was all in the details of taking time to do things right and not rushing into things without thoroughly planning it all out.

Along the way I have served as outreach and education co-chairs on the TGFSF ExCom. Now I am in my second term as treasurer. Next April I will be stepping down. I will be off to Portland for my surgery (if Dr. Meltzer is still there next year) and then just taking time to enjoy my life as the person I have always wanted to be. That will be so delightful, just as it has been so delightful to get to know so many of you in these past few years. All it has taken is to pay heed to, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself" and "Slow down and smell the roses."

Sunday / October 6

CASTRO STREET FAIR

Tuesday / October 8th / 7:30pm

TGSF COTILLION 2003 PLANNING MEETING

The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street, San Francisco. For more information contact Rachael Janelle at 408 219 1250 or Rachael_Janelle@hotmail.

Sunday / October 13th / 4:00pm

TGSF ExCOM MEETING

Next meeting will be held at Susan Laird's house in Santa Clara, 2222 Pruneridge Avenue. Call 408-430-2196 x1230 - all TGSF members in good standing are invited to attend.

Tuesday / October 15th / 7:30-9:30pm

SF TRANSGENDER SUPPORT MEETING

Location- San Francisco LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St San Francisco - Room Q-33 Third Floor. TGSF plans to continue this meeting for the next 6 months, and will meet on the third Tuesday of every month. Cost free. Any Questions Contact Rachael Janelle 408-219-1250, or Rachael_Janelle@Hotmail.Com

Saturday / October 19th / 6:00pm

WINE, CHEESE AND TRANNY HISTORY

Learn about the proud history of transgendered people! We'll be getting together with Susan Stryker for wine, cheese and historicism at the GLBT Historical Society of Northern CA. See announcement in this issue for further details.

Saturday / October 19th / 6:00pm

MR. AND MISS GAY SAN FRANCISCO PAGEANT

Doors Open At 6:00 and show starts at 7:00pm; Cost is \$20. Located at Most Holy Redeemer Recreation Hall, 100 Diamond Street in San Francisco.

Sunday / October 20th / 3:00pm

EVENING GOWNS & COSTUME AUCTION/SALE

Auction Will Start At 4:00pm. Club Tango Tango 1550 California St @ Polk St San Francisco. For More Information Contact - Chablis at (415) 863 7662.

Thursday / October 24th / 8-10pm

TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT

The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street, San Francisco. For more information contact Rachael Janelle at 408 219 1250 or Rachael_Janelle@hotmail.

Saturday / October 26th / 7:30pm

TGSF'S ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY!

See ad in this issue for further details!

October's Birthdays

10/00	Chrys Salt	10/09	Carolayn Hughes
10/00	Jessica Connor	10/09	Val Shoaps
10/00	Michelle Amber	10/12	Jaime Mcconnell
10/00	Star	10/13	Scott Smith
10/00	Constance	10/16	Jean Darien
10/03	Rachel Hill	10/18	Ronald Gray
10/03	Erin Brush	10/20	Cassi Anderson
10/04	Bobbi Marotz	10/21	Tricia Paskell
10/05	Anne Giles	10/22	Marilyn Thurau
10/06	Joan Thurau	10/26	Rachael Janelle
10/07	Katrina Bugher	10/26	Janet Bowman
10/08	Shamrock P Hall	10/28	Janet Smiley

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Upcoming Events

Thursday / November 21st / 8-10 pm

TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT (WEEK BEFORE THANKSGIVING)

The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street, San Francisco. For more information contact Rachael Janelle at 408 219 1250 or Rachael_Janelle@hotmail.

Thursday / December 19th / 8-10pm

TGSF CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

End of Month Event Xmas Party

The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street, San Francisco. For more information contact Rachael Janelle at 408 219 1250 or Rachael_Janelle@hotmail.

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.



You Want It? We'll Find It!

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- Leather, Spandex & Vinyl
- Costumes & Theatrical
- Personalized Service
- Evening Appointments / Minor Alterations Available
- Wardrobe Coordination

510-661-9464

Fremont, California

Let us help you be all the things you dream!

Calendar of Events - October 2002

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Pacific Center 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 8:00pm at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Mail: PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170 or call 408-984-4044.

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

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

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

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

FTM

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

TGIF

A social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707-544-1540.

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

Far West Women (FWW)

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

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

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

The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

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

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

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

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2 7:30 PM MPTG	3 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	4 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	5
6 10:00 AM Castro Street Fair	7 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	8 7:30 PM TGSF Cotillion Plan Meeting	9 7:00 PM TransBay	10	11 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	12 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
13 4:00 PM TGSF ExCom Meeting	14 5:00 PM CCHH	15 7:30 PM SF TG Support Meeting	16	17 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	18 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	19 6:00 PM TGSF: Tranny History
20	21 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	22	23	24 7:30 PM TGSF: End Of Month Event	25 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	26 7:30 PM TGSF Halloween Party! 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
27	28 5:00 PM CCHH	29	30	31 Happy Halloween!		

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year is May 1 to April 30 / \$30 Single Membership; \$40 Family.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

Your Email address: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Our Readers Respond

DEAR EDITOR:

I have had a few questions come up about the **LGBT Community Center**. With the TG Community meetings and occasional outings at the LGBT Center, and since there is not really a place in the city to dress, I have had a number of crossdressers and pre-transition TS ask if there are places in the LGBT Center to change clothes. I got a decent response back from Anne Tamar-Mattis, and I was hoping you would print something on their current available options and policy. Her response to my inquiry follows:

====

Dear Kara,

There are a few options. One is to use one of the two unisex bathrooms on the first floor. I have suggested that to people in the past. I can understand why a person who is changing their presentation might not want to use either the men's or women's restroom, but if someone chose to, The Center's policy is that visitors can use the bathroom that seems to them to be the most appropriate for their identity. In other words, it's up to the individual to decide what is appropriate, regardless of their presentation at the moment. We have plans in place to post signs to this effect near the bathrooms, in order to help relieve any discomfort by transgender people who might fear bathroom harassment.

Another option for a large event is to book one of our small rooms to use as a changing room.

This is where it stands right now, and I would welcome any input you have on the policy.

Anne Tamar-Mattis

Save The Date!

HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 15

Save the date of December 15 for the fourth (!) annual Holiday Party! This year RGA is taking the lead, and the event is co-sponsored by TGSV, the Mid-Peninsula Gender Group, TGSF, and Carla, and represents the first coming together of the Bay Area groups in one event. This should be a wonderful party.

More details will be coming later, but here's what we know so far:

Sponsors: RGA, MPPGG, TGSF, TGSV, and Carla's.

Date: Sunday December 15.

Time: Evening.

Cost: TBD, but about the same as last year.

Place: Tarragon in Sunnyvale—same place as last year.

Stay tuned for more details on how to sign up, but mark your calendars now!

And a special thank you to Jackie and the team at RGA for organizing us this year!

Jennifer Wolcott
jwolcott@eldil.com
408-323-5366

ICON 2002

DEAR FRIENDS AT TGSF:

Here's your invitation to **ICON 2002**, the GLBT Historical Society's annual fund raising, art auction and award ceremony. We hope that we'll see you there. Susan Stryker, our ED, and several board members had a wonderful time at the TGSF Cotillion earlier this year. We chipped in and bought half a table, split with SF Pride.

I look forward to seeing you at the GLBT Historical Society for the Saturday night tour on October 19 and maybe **ICON 2002**, too.

**Best,
Ms Bob**

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society cordially invites you to our 4th annual art auction and gala fund-raiser celebrating the icons of contemporary and historic queer culture.

Friday, October 4, 2002. 7-10pm in the Forum Room at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St., San Francisco

Featured Performer: **Holly Hughes** - Acclaimed by audiences nationwide, Holly Hughes is the performer and author of *Clit Notes* and *Preaching to the Perverted*. Her tales veer from the unsettling to the uproarious. Hughes is the winner of the 2002 GLBT Historical Society Arts Award.

Mistress of Ceremonies: **Connie Champagne**

Live & Silent Auctions: Art & Historic Memorabilia Guests at **Icon 2002** will be able to bid on a dazzling array of works of art and historic memorabilia. For a complete catalogue and selected reproductions, visit www.glbthistory.org/Icon2002.

Order Your Tickets

Tickets to **Icon 2002** start at \$55 each. Admission includes a live performance; party music; delectable hors d'oeuvres; and wine, cocktails and soft beverages. To buy your tickets, contact the GLBT Historical Society (Tickets will be held under your name for pick up at the door.):

Web: www.glbthistory.org/Icon2002 / Phone: (415) 777-5455 / E-mail: Icon2002@getcreatis.com

Make a Donation

Even if you can't attend the San Francisco event, now is the ideal time to support the Historical Society. Your generous donation will help us continue promoting public knowledge of queer history.

Founded in 1985, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society is devoted to collecting, preserving and promoting an active knowledge of the history, arts and culture of sexually diverse communities. Recently merged with the International Museum of Gay and Lesbian History, the organization is laying the groundwork to open a world-class museum of GLBT history in San Francisco. The Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit; donations to the organization are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Special Events This Month!

Saturday / October 19 / 6:00pm

WINE, CHEESE AND TRANNY HISTORY

Learn about the proud history of transgendered people! We'll be getting together for wine, cheese and historicism at the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of Northern California, 973 Market Street, Suite 400, San Francisco.

Susan Stryker, executive director of the Society and a widely published scholar on gender-variant culture, will present a slide show. Susan will also guide us through some of the Society's extensive archives. She is a fount of knowledge! A suggested donation of \$3 for TGSF members and \$5 for non-members will be accepted.

The GLBT Historical Society is located on the south side of Market near Fifth Street, a half block from the Powell Muni/BART station. Parking is limited. There is a garage at the intersection of Fifth and Mission. Call Allison Grillo (415) 682-9272 for more information.

Sunday / October 20 / 7:00-10:00pm

GENDER ART

A Performance by Transgendered Artists. Come witness and enjoy transgendered artists in our communities express their art in an event that celebrates another color of the rainbow we know as diversity. Come hear voices, view visions, and honor art that challenges what is normally known as gender, and much, much more.

The Black Box, 1928 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland; (510) 451-1932. Cover Charge: \$10 regular charge \$5 low income No one will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information contact Patricia Kevena Fili at (510) 663-7958 Patriciakevena@apeb.org

Food and refreshments will be served. This event is sponsored by AIDS Project East Bay and the Butterfly Project.

SAN FRANCISCO TRANSGENDER SUPPORT MEETING

October 15, 2002
7:30pm To 9:30pm

— Cost Free —

San Francisco LGBT Community Center
1800 Market St San Francisco - Third Floor Room Q-33

TGSF Plans To Continue This Meeting For 6 Months
Will Meet On The Third Tuesday Of The Month
Any Questions Contact Rachael Janelle
408 219 1250 Or Rachael_Janelle@Hotmail.Com

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!

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(650) 343-4554

TGSF

Halloween on the Bay!

Saturday, October 26th 2002

7:30pm to 10:30pm

An evening on the bay with costumes...

A three hour excursion on San Francisco Bay on

Blue & Gold's Finest Ship.

Hors d'oeuvres and no host bar

Blue and Gold Fleet is located at Pier 41 adjacent to Pier 39.

Parking is available at the Pier 39 garage located directly across the Embarcadero from Pier 39 and Blue & Gold Fleet.

Reserve now for this premier event!

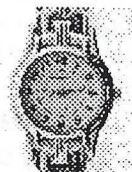
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Announcements!

**Call For Interviews -
Videos Due by October 15th!**

"BATHROOM STORIES"

ATTENTION gender variant, transgender, and transsexual people: Dean Spade of Sylvia Rivera Legal Resource Program and videomaker, Tara Mateik, are currently teaming up to produce a tape that explores the problems that gender segregated bathrooms present.

The video includes stories of people who don't fit easily into the categories "men" and "women" or whose gender identity is often misunderstood by other people in bathrooms. Many have encountered harassment, violence and embarrassment because others perceive them to be in the "wrong" bathroom. The consequences of being attacked and harassed in bathrooms, and of having no safe bathroom options in most public places are examined in this video. The video also looks at the question of why some people feel safer in single-gender bathrooms, and explores the underlying justifications for a "men1s-women1s" bathroom system. Finally, the Video looks at innovative solutions to these problems (being experimented with) in the U.S. and Canada and offers resources for working to change bathroom policies.

The video will be aimed at non-profits, service providers, and schools. It will act as a teaching tool to help these institutions understand the seriousness of the violence and humiliation that gender variant people regularly experience in gender segregated bathrooms. The goal of this project is to encourage organizations to change their bathroom policies to create safe environments for gender variant clients, students, patients, employees, and guests.

We need your help to gather interviews with people outside of NY. Interviews with transgender people, non-trans-identified gender variant people, allies, friends, family, and other community members who have something to say about bathroom access for gender variant people are welcomed.

We are very interested in getting perspectives from people in different age groups, gender identities, socio-economic classes, racial and ethnic identities, sizes, abilities, and backgrounds.

We request your interviews:

- Use the questions provided below
- Are no more than 30 minutes maximum.
- Are shot on DV (digital video)
- Use an external microphone

Please have interviewees sign the release form (call Dean for a copy) before the interview to insure that they are giving permission to appear in this video. Please remember to use headphones to make sure that you are recording sound. Send the videotape, release form (please include your mailing address) to: Dean Spade, Sylvia Rivera Legal Resource Program, 666 Broadway, 5th floor, NY, NY 10012; (646) 602 5638. Send it FedEx or registered mail.

Send questions (listed at right) to LetUsPee@yahoo.com. All interviews must be received by October 15, 2002. The Sylvia Rivera Legal Resource Program will use this video in trainings and distribute this video free of charge and we will send you a copy for sending us footage. (Also, we welcome title suggestions for this video.)

Thank you in advance for your support. In solidarity,

**Tara Mateik
Dean Spade**

NEW BOOK OUT: TRANS LAW

"Respect and Equality: Transsexual and Transgender Rights", written by Stephen Whittle, Vice-President of Press For Change, the UK's lobby group campaigning for respect and equality for transgender people.

This 300-page book argues that current law does not adequately provide for transgender people and calls for respect and equality before the law. Theoretical discussions of sex, sexuality, gender and law, are combined to provide an insightful analysis into the inadequacies of current law. The book will be essential reading for legislators and legal practitioners working to enhance the rights and social acceptance of transgender people, also transgender campaigners, as well as those researching and studying within the field.

This book will make a substantial contribution to current discussion of transsexual and transgender rights within the trans community, and can also be ordered through Amazon.co.uk - but why not go through the Press For Change website, www.pfc.org.uk and support PFC whilst buying this book!

If you are able to promote this book to trans people, and those who work with them please do not hesitate to contact Cathy Thornhill of Cavendish Publishing (details below) to discuss this further, or for any more information about the book.

Cathy Thornhill, Brand and Product Manager, Cavendish Publishing Limited, The Glass House, Wharton Street, London WC1X 9PX, United Kingdom, Tel: +44(0) 20 7278 8000 Fax: +44(0) 20 7278 8080 / www.cavendishpublishing.com

The Interview Questions:

1. What is your name?
2. What is your occupation?
3. How old are you?
4. Where do you live?
5. What words do you use to describe your gender identity?
6. Do you feel safe using gender-labeled bathrooms?
7. Have you had one or more memorable negative experiences using or trying to use a men's or women's bathroom? Please explain.
8. Do you think that bathrooms should be gender segregated? Why?
9. Is there another way that bathrooms could be that you would prefer?
10. Do you have other thoughts on bathroom accessibility that you would like to share?

KIM HRACA, M.A. MFCC
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Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF BALANCE SHEET

(August 17, 2002 through September 15, 2002)

Assets

Cash	\$4,786.25
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Total Assets	\$6,036.25

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Educational Fund	\$0.00
Taxes	\$0.00
Insurance	\$0.00
Utilities	\$0.00
Operations	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity	\$6,036.25
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$6,036.25

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

Membership	\$253.00
Advertising	\$250.00
Cotillion	\$0.00
Donations Received	\$0.00
Social	\$0.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Halloween Party	\$490.00
.....	\$993.00

Expenses

Cotillion	\$0.00
Halloween Party	\$0.00
Big Shew	\$0.00
Pride Parade	\$0.00
Social	\$0.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$342.47
Operations	\$244.14
Donations Paid	\$0.00
.....	\$586.61
Net Income	\$406.39

TGSF DONATIONS

**Our Friends Who Give
as of September 14, 2002**

Jane Bolig	\$10.00
Steele	\$10.00

May God Bless and Thank You for Caring!

CONTACT TGSF!

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*Comments and suggestions concerning the
TGSF web site www.tgsf.org*

Information

Rachael Janelle rachael_janelle@hotmail.com

..... or 408-219-1250

*Requests for information concerning TGSF and
upcoming events*

Calendar www.tgsf.org

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

79's In The News!

NTAC Press Release

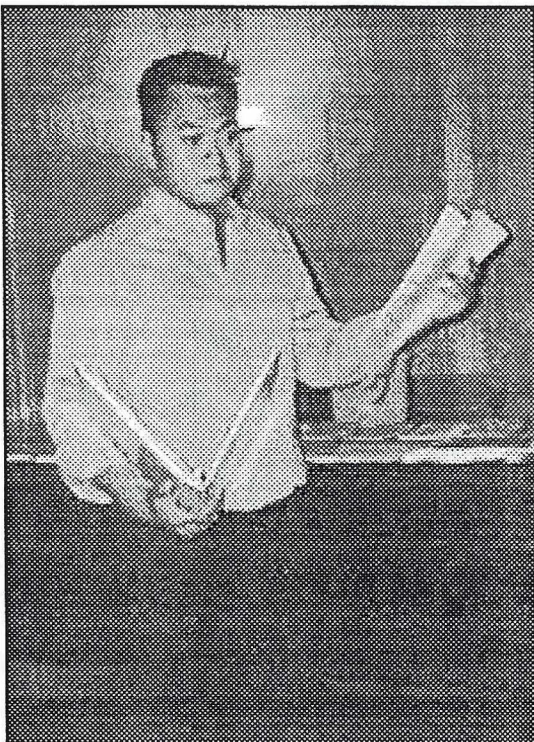
FEDERAL COURT RULES NO PROTECTION FOR TRANSGENDERED EMPLOYEES

According to a Louisiana Federal District Judge's ruling, companies may discriminate against some employees for legal activities pursued while not on the job.

Peter Oiler, a truck driver and Winn-Dixie employee for more than 20 years, was fired by that company after managers learned that he occasionally cross-dressed during his off-duty hours. Winn-Dixie found no fault with Oiler's work performance, stating that he was fired because of concern that customers might avoid the store if they heard that a cross-dresser worked for Winn-Dixie. Oiler, with the help of the ACLU, filed a civil lawsuit alleging discrimination in employment on the basis of sex under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Judge Lance Africk ruled on September 16, 2002, that his then-employer, Winn-Dixie, had the legal right to fire him merely for being transgendered. In his decision, Judge Africk noted that Congress has never attempted to provide protection from employment discrimination for transgendered citizens of the United States. "From 1981 through 2001, thirty-one proposed bills have been introduced in the United States Senate and the House of Representatives which have attempted to amend Title VII and prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of affectional or sexual orientation. None have passed. ... In contrast to the numerous failed attempts by Congress to include affectional or sexual orientation within Title VII's ambit, neither plaintiff nor defendant can point to any attempts by Congress to amend Title VII in order to clarify that discrimination on the basis of gender or sexual identity disorders is prohibited."

The judge ruled that Oiler's case "is not a situation where [an employee] failed to conform to gender stereotypes. [Oiler] was not discharged because he did not act sufficiently masculine or be-



Chris Chin, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Dept of Elections, addressing TGSF at the EOM event August 30.

cause he exhibited traits normally valued in a female employee, but disparaged in a male employee. Rather [he] disguised himself as a person of a different sex and presented himself as a female for stress relief and to express his gender identity. ... This is not just a matter of an employee of one sex exhibiting characteristics associated with the opposite sex. This is a matter of a person of one sex assuming the role of a person of the opposite sex."

Despite the judge's unfavorable ruling, he did note that, "[Winn-Dixie's] rationale for [Mr. Oiler's] discharge may strike many as morally wrong. However, the function of this court is not to raise the social conscience of [Winn-Dixie's] upper-level management, but to construe the law in accordance with proper statutory construction and judicial precedent," adding that he "cannot, therefore, afford the luxury of making a moral judgment."

Contacted at the Southern Comfort transgender convention, Peter Oiler's first comment was, "I'm disappointed. But if it had to come, I'm glad it came while I was here, surrounded by friends, well-wishers, and activists." Oiler's wife, Shirley, agreed with his comments.

Oiler said that he is pleased to have found employment with a more tolerant company but is angered that so many transgendered people — cross-dressers, transsexuals, and other gender variant people - can be subjected to such blatant discrimination as he had been. "This discrimination applies to all gender variant people, including gays and lesbians," he said. "If a company is that upset about a part time cross-dresser, you can bet that they don't want gays and lesbians on the job, either."

Courtney Sharp, a transgender activist who helped Oiler develop his case, observed, "The Judge does not seem to recognize that Representative Barney Frank [D MA], a chief drafter of the current Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA), left gender identity out of the bill because he maintains that we already have protections under Title VII. Obviously Representative Frank and Judge Africk have differing views. Hopefully, Representative Frank will be willing to publicly comment on this ruling to ensure that all federal judges understand that transgender persons are protected by Title VII."

Peter Oiler may be disappointed, but he is not ready to give up the fighting for the civil rights of transgendered people. "It doesn't pay to stop now," he said. "Too many people are unemployed because of these issues. We won't stop fighting."

When Robyn Walters, Secretary of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition expressed NTAC's appreciation of and support for his legal struggle, Oiler replied, "The transgender community must get its act together and take one issue at a time. So many problems go back to employment. Solve that and then go for other issues."

Although no formal decision has been announced on appealing the District Court ruling, Oiler stated that he and ACLU attorney, Ken Choe, would review the decision in detail and decide how best to contest it point by point.

Barbara F. Anderson

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

Certified Sex Therapist

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

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

TRANSSEXUAL'S BID TO MARRY DELAYED

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WARREN - A Howland couple's application to be married is being delayed by Trumbull Probate Judge Thomas A. Swift after he discovered that the male is a transsexual.

Swift's interpretation of Ohio law is that a person's gender is determined by chromosomes and not body parts; therefore, he wants a second opinion on whether he can issue the couple a marriage license. Jacob Benjamin Nash, 37, and Erin Angelina Barr, 30, of Dawson Drive S.E., paid the \$44 fee for the marriage application on Aug. 2.

Deborah Smith of Akron, who represents the couple and identified Nash as a transsexual, said that Ohio does not require chromosome testing. She said that in order for a marriage to be legal in Ohio, the union must be between a male and female. Nash has an amended birth certificate from the state of Massachusetts, where he was born. Nash was born a female and began taking hormones and went through a series of operations in the late 1990s. He said he has been living as a male for five years.

Barr was born in Virginia and lived in Warren for most of her life. She met Nash in 1999 in a Christian chat room on the Internet. Nash moved to Warren, and the couple now live in Howland. Swift is seeking a second opinion from Trumbull County Prosecutor Dennis Watkins as to whether the couple can be married. Swift's interpretation of the law is that even though Nash had a sex change operation, his chromosomes determine his sex.

After a magistrate in Probate Court questioned the amended birth certificate, Swift asked for the opinion before making an actual decision to approve or disapprove the application. "He (Nash) has a valid birth certificate as a male and she has a valid birth certificate as a female. The marriage should be approved," said Smith.

The couple applied for a marriage license Aug. 2. The only reason the application was questioned is because the same magistrate who handled Nash's name change recognized him and informed the judge, Smith said. Had that magistrate not noticed, Smith said the application probably never would have been questioned.

Smith said there is a similar case in Kansas involving an amended birth certificate and marriage, and that case has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The court has not decided whether it will hear the case. Smith said this case is similar but different in that if the prosecutor decides that Swift cannot grant the license, she will not appeal that decision but file a federal lawsuit. Smith said if the couple needs to file a federal lawsuit, she will receive assistance from attorney Randi Barnabee, who has handled other legal cases involving transsexuals.

The suit will claim the couple's constitutional rights are being violated and that Ohio is not granting full faith and credit to the decision in Massachusetts that legally amended Nash's birth certificate, according to Barnabee. One of the problems is that Ohio is one of only four states that does not amend birth certificates, according to Smith. But Barnabee said Ohio should recognize the Massachusetts birth certificate as being legal.

Smith said prosecutors asked her if this is a test case. "I told them no, they just want to be married," Smith said. Barnabee said she questions why Swift would defer his power to the prosecutor's office, especially without holding a hearing on the matter.

ONLINE SO LIST!

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

NTAC Press Release

TRANSGENDER VETERANS ASKED TO SHARE THEIR STORIES

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) recently unveiled a new area on their website dedicated to LGBT veterans. In collaboration with the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) and the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), HRC is collecting stories of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender veterans, some of which will be posted on their web site at www.hrc.org in honor of Veterans Day, November 11, 2002.

The project, "**Documenting Courage: Veterans Speak Out**," is part of a continuing effort to better inform the public, Congress and the administration about the many contributions made by LGBT service members.

"It is time to recognize the contributions of LGBT men and women who have given their time, talent and, in some cases, their lives in service to their country," said HRC Senior Policy Advocate John Vezina, who specializes in military issues. "The 'Documenting Courage' project is a way for us to preserve the stories of LGBT American vets for future generations and to demonstrate the undeniable contribution the LGBT community has made in service to the country."

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition supports this project and urges transgender veterans all over the country to submit their stories to ensure that the transgender community is well represented in this project. Stories can be submitted via the form located at <https://www.hrc.org/documentingcourage/sharestory.asp>.

NTAC asks participating veterans to also paste a copy of the completed form in an E-mail sent to NTAC's Veterans Affairs Committee at veterans.affairs@ntac.org. Stories that cover all aspects of military service, regardless of whether they are good stories or tragic, are encouraged.

In addition to military stories, NTAC would also like to hear from transgender veterans — particularly pre- and post-operative transsexuals — regarding treatment by the Department of Veteran Affairs health system. Of specific interest are responses to quality of health care afforded veterans once out of the military and living in the new gender role, such as:

- Have local facilities, offices, and VA personnel treated the veteran with respect?
- Has the veteran been denied any medical services because of transgender status?
- If denied services, has this impacted the veteran's health, financial situation, or ability to transition?

These are as important as the stories of how one fared while serving in the military, knowing that one was "gender different."

Monica Helms, Chair of NTAC's Veterans Affairs Committee states, "The American people and Congress need to see that LGBT people have served with honor and have been there for their country in every war this great nation has fought. Many have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country, even though their country did not want them to serve."

"Always remember this one important phrase," Helms says to America's transgendered veterans, "We served proudly, too. And, we will again."

Cotillion 2003

"An Enchanted Evening in the Islands"

Applications for contestants are now available and must be submitted by **November 30, 2002!**

For applications and information contact Rachael Janelle at 408-219-1250 or rachael_janelle@hotmail.com

Visible Man:

STONEWALL SUNDAY, NYC

Jamison Green offers a man's POV on life in the trans lane. Opinion, advice, and information from an internationally respected leader of the FTM community.



I never have been much for organized religion, though I do consider myself solidly connected to the spiritual aspect of life. I also respect the religious beliefs and practices of others, and so I was honored when Reverend Kristen of the Metropolitan Community Church of New York invited me to speak to the congregation on the occasion of Stonewall Sunday, June 23, 2002.

MCCNY was the church where Sylvia Rivera worshipped in the final years of her life. Sylvia was a transwoman who was one of the young revolutionary street queens that fought back on that night in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, kick-starting the modern GLBT freedom and pride movement.

Sylvia died just a few months ago, a victim of liver cancer, and she left all her worldly goods to this church. She found solace and support at MCCNY, and she gave of herself through this church, working in its food pantry to help feed 3,000 hungry people every month, encouraging the staff to set up a shelter for homeless queer youth and emptying her pocket change in the large bottle at the back of the sanctuary each week to help support their capital campaign to increase capacity and programming at MCCNY.

Stonewall Sunday this year held special significance for the members of MCCNY's congregation. Sylvia Rivera's ashes were to be placed in a niche at the front of the sanctuary, the food pantry was renamed in honor of Sylvia, and Sylvia's friend Christina Hayworth, who was also present at the Stonewall Riots, flew in from Puerto Rico to give witness and help remember Sylvia. A young transman, Michaelangelo Galloza, was also there to remember her.

The morning service was packed, and the evening service less so, but the turnout overall was good. The Reverend Pat Bumgardner, pastor, preached a fine sermon that honored all the gender benders and crossers among us. "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul ..." Rev. Pat quoted from Matthew 10:28, as she encouraged us to follow Sylvia's example and refuse to give up fighting for what is right. I drew on the same passage to focus my own remarks.

Revolutions like ours are born in all our souls, and it is in our souls that we find the courage to persevere. So many revolutions that we know from history are born out of pain, out of souls rising up against some oppression that grinds the body and the spirit down until the pain erupts in an irrepressible howl of resistance. Some revolutions are seeded with greed or the desire for power over others. Some revolutions are nourished by hate that festers in the soul and poisons it until it is steely with resolve to inflict outward the same pain that it feels within. And some revolutions are born of an unimpeachable nobility, a willingness to die for justice and dignity that others might live in peace and in grace. Ours, our revolution that we are still in the midst of, a revolution that we are still creating and shaping, is nourished by love.

Ours is a revolution that desires only peace, safety, freedom and love. Our heroes and heroines are all lovers who were and are willing to stand up and identify themselves, to say their own names, to wear the clothing they want to, to dance with the ones they love, to fight back when injustice threatens them.

Many of us have grown up in families where shame was mixed with love, or where shame overpowered love. We may have had trouble finding our voices, our names, our selves, our communities. We may have felt or seen horrible violence visited upon us or others simply because we have a difference from those who cannot understand or even tolerate our difference. We may have been damaged on the journey to this place, this place where we can be affirmed for who we are.

"Do not fear those who kill the body but who cannot kill the soul." Our difference is what amplifies our souls. For each and

every one of us, it is difference that characterizes our humanity, that causes us to feel alone, that compels us to seek community with others like ourselves, but from whom we will always have some elemental difference.

Difference amplifies the soul, and it is through our ability to perceive and honor difference, to love in spite of difference, or perhaps even because of difference, that we locate and express the richness of our souls. The soul is the breath of love.

We are breathing a revolution. Ours is a revolution that calls for a paradigm shift in the way we perceive the value of a human being. The transgender movement, the newest aspect of our revolution, asks that we give up our fears of other people's identities and beliefs. The transgender movement asks that we be willing to allow other people to be different from us and still be worthy of respect. The transgender movement asks us to look at people whose bodies and genders are different in ways we may never have considered, and asks us to accept those different people as ourselves.

Some of us can hide our difference beneath our clothing or beneath a demeanor that is more mainstream, and others cannot hide their difference. Those people are the ones whose rights are most at risk when ignorance and bigotry are allowed free reign.

Yet all of us are vulnerable. None of us can hide forever. If we have not been challenged yet, there will come a time when we will — each of us — be called to stand up for ourselves, for our values and principles, for each other. Our time may come in a context that is private, intimate, deeply personal. Perhaps in a confrontation with our family of origin, or with a landlord, or employer, or a bureaucrat, or in a hospital, where we must either reveal ourselves or intercede to assert or preserve the integrity of a loved one who is incapacitated.

Or our time may come in a public way when we are inspired to testify before a city council, or Congress, or to picket or protest against injustice. Or we may be called to a more violent battle, as Sylvia Rivera was called at Stonewall, as Sylvia was called over and over again to resist the tyranny of the mundane, the oppression of the unimaginative, the denial of what is queer, what is trans, what is real.

The passion in our souls responds to the courage of others. No matter how independent, how iconoclastic, how isolated, how lonely we may be, we are all ultimately connected to others, and we know this through the sense of spirit we find in ourselves when we recognize spirit in others.

Difference unites us, and fear of difference separates us. We are, ourselves, as much the victims of our own fears as we suffer from the fears of others.

When we connect with the revolutionary spirit that is imbued with courage and love, we can be reminded of the purity of our own soul. So let righteous anger inspire your revolutionary spirit, if that's what it takes to overcome your fear. But let love be the source of your eternal flame. Love yourself and love one another. That is the finest honor we can show to our ancestors, to our heroes and heroines, and to our creator. That is the foundation of the paradigm shift that is our revolution.

Breathe it in and breathe it out. That breath is the awareness of being alive, of knowing our difference, and acknowledging our willingness to come together in spirit, to acknowledge the connectedness of our souls.

We are breathing a revolution. The great wheel of change turns slowly, but it is relentless. All the tactics and strategies of battle mean nothing without a clear vision of the goal. By being consciously alive and recognizing each other we are creating the changes we want in shaping the collective soul of love. You are a part of it. The revolution will not go on without you, but neither will it wait. So breathe, breathe and lift your spirit up to sing and dance another day. Give thanks that we have found ourselves. Give thanks to our ancestors in struggle. Give thanks for our differences. Give thanks to the creator that we have found each other. Onward to revolution, but never forget where we have come from. Never forget who brought us here, and how. And never forget the revolutionary spirit and power of love. Do not fear.

Shirley Faire

PASSING THOUGHTS

You don't pass. You'd like to think you do, but you don't, not as much as you imagine. Just because children don't point to you and sales clerks call you "ma'am" doesn't mean that people can't detect the you that you don't want to reveal.

If you are thinking of living full time, this is something you must accept, because sooner or later a child on a bus will say, "Mommy, why is that man wearing lady's clothes?"; or a drunk on a crowded street will ask you for a match, buddy.

But let's say I'm wrong, and you do pass; you pass so friggin' good that even after you tell people you're trans they don't believe you. Let's forget reality completely and say that you pass as well as my friend, Lorna, who transitioned in her teens, had surgery in her early twenties, and now, in her mid-forties, could pass for twenty-five. Movie star face, dancer's figure, she's got the whole package; all she lacks are the inevitable giveaways that betray even the best of the rest of us: wide shoulders; big hands and feet.

Her current boyfriend, Richard, is thirty years old, with dark curly hair framing a handsome, boyish face. They met a couple of months ago at the wedding of one of Lorna's co-workers and spent the afternoon and evening together dancing jitterbugs and foxtrots and singing duets. He is a marine biologist who lives in Monterey and visits Lorna at her houseboat in Sausalito on the weekends. "He always brings flowers," she says, her hands fluttering as if to arrange and shape her words, "and he's silly—oh, god, I love it when they're silly—but he knows when to be serious, too." Then her smile fades. "It's lookin' good, girlfriend," she says, her hands coming to rest on her lap, "The only question is 'do I tell him yet?'"

Telling lovers has never been a problem for me; to know me is to know that I'm trans. And if any other trans friend but Lorna had asked me that question I would think, if not say, "you've got to be joking. How could he not know unless he's a blind fool." Lorna isn't like any other trans woman I know. She's the fantasy made real.

"You care about him a lot," I say.

"Yes, I do. He's absolutely wonderful, and we're compatible in so many ways. I just don't want to scare him off before we've really even had a chance to get started."

To tell or not to tell. It isn't a new question. For years, Lorna had a boyfriend, Mick, who knew about her past. "We clicked, we clicked so good. I know he loved me. When we danced we knew each other's moves by almost a kind of telepathy. Our bodies fit like two pieces of a puzzle, but in constant motion, like swirls in water. Boiling water! We had such attraction, such passion. But he could not allow himself to get close with me off the dance floor. He would tell me, 'I'm sorry, I just can't get past knowing that you had a past as a man.' 'I never was a man,' I would tell him."

Mick eventually moved to Southern California and got married. Lorna continued dating on a regular basis. "I have my fun," she says, "but if fun is all you want out of life, you'll never find real happiness. Real happiness—I think—comes from sharing yourself with someone else, and you can't know that kind of intimacy unless you are completely honest." She sits quietly for a minute, then repeats her question, "So, what do you think, should I tell him now, or wait?"

"I have no idea," I reply. "but my instinct would be to tell him sooner rather than later. If you tell him later, he might feel that you've tried to deceive him and trap him. There's a getting to know you phase where you just want to get to know each other as you are. You don't need the biography. But then you do."

NTAC Press Release

BUFFALO EXTENDS EQUAL RIGHTS TO TRANSGENDERS, INTERSEXED

On Tuesday September 17, 2002 Buffalo NY, known as the 'City of Good Neighbors,' proved its heart. In a near unanimous vote, the Common Council of the City of Buffalo extended protection against discrimination in employment and housing to transgendered persons. Mayor Anthony Masiello has announced that he will sign the amendments into law.

The amendments adding protection for "gender identity and expression" were initiated and sponsored by Councilman Antoine Thompson, who said, "It's another step to break from Buffalo's past and encourage tolerance and diversity."

Earlier this year, Councilman Thompson gathered a group of community leaders to help draft amendments to Buffalo's anti-discrimination laws. Although "sexual orientation" was already included under existing laws, the Anti-Discrimination Advisory Group felt that the phrase "gender identity and expression" needed to be explicitly included as a protected class.

The amendments garnered widespread support, bridging across divisions of race and sexual orientation. Organizations supporting the amendments included: Men of Color Health Awareness Project (MOCHA), New York State Transgender Coalition, Stonewall Democrats, and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

"In my outreach and education efforts throughout the Buffalo area, I often encounter transgender individuals who are in constant fear of losing their job, their apartment or being the victim of a hate crime," said Camille Hopkins, a City Hall employee and male to female transsexual. Hopkins testified before City Council that she had lost her apartment simply because her landlord did not like transgendered persons. "I just want to live an ordinary life," she finished, "without fear of reprisal from those who want me to disappear."

Speakers on behalf of the amendments included Carol Speser, founder of Western New York Stonewall Democrats, and Lana Bentovich, Executive Director, National Conference of Community and Justice. Ms Bentovich, who is also a member of Buffalo's Commission on Citizens' Rights and Community Relations stated, "If we are going to be the City of Good Neighbors that we have been described as for decades, this is one way of showing what we are."

"I am thrilled over the passage of this Gender Identity and Expression Amendment," exclaimed Buffalo resident Joy Schroeder in response to the successful ordinance vote. Schroeder, a male to female transsexual, added, "I believe this is a big first step towards bringing equality and protection from the injustices that we face every day of our lives."

"And if somebody else should tell him before I do, he'd say, 'Why didn't you tell me? Don't you trust me?' Jesus," she sighs, "this is like leaping off a cliff into the dark and hoping you hit the water."

"No easy answers," I say to this gorgeous woman wearing an anxious frown, then laugh.

"What's so funny?"

"Some people think that just by living full time—and passing—all their problems would be solved and their lives would be perfection."

"Perfection!" She laughs, then shakes her head slowly and smiles. "Honey, living full time doesn't solve your problems. But it does make them more interesting."

SMALL PENNSYLVANIA TOWN ENACTS GLBT EQUALITY

In a town described as "Rockwellian," the New Hope Borough Council voted last night for passage of a measure that would protect its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens from discrimination in employment, housing and access to public accommodations. New Hope, a bedroom community of Philadelphia with approximately 1,400 residents, passed the new ordinance with a unanimous vote at the September 10 council meeting.

OutFront, a Philadelphia-based gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender advocacy group, and the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, an education, legal services and legislative police resource, were instrumental in developing the language for New Hope Ordinance 2002-4. This came on the heels of Outfront-led coalition to have gender identity added to the nondiscrimination language of Philadelphia's Fair Practices code in early May.

Randy Flagler, an attorney for Flagler & Yockey, a member on the New Hope Borough Council, worked with OutFront and the Center for Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights, to craft the final version of the ordinance. New Hope's vote reaffirms the community's "history of tolerance and acceptance for members of their LGBT community," commented Doug Shaps, executive director of OutFront. "The New Hope Borough Council should be praised for taking proactive steps toward fairness and justice," said Stacey Sobel, executive director of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.

Not content to sit on their victory, the New Hope borough council hopes to lead by example and encourage protection from discrimination in other communities and across Pennsylvania. "New Hope, the Little Town that Roared, sends a loud clear message through a resolution and an ordinance," said borough council member Geri Delevich, original sponsor of the resolution. "This ordinance is about dignity and respect."

New Hope council member Randy Flagler also proposed a companion bill according to Kathy Padilla, board member for both the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) and Outfront - whose efforts produced the successful vote. Flagler's proposal "would require immediately updating the borough's employment guidelines to reflect the new law," reported Padilla, "and would send a copy of the ordinance to all other municipalities in the state, encouraging them to pass similar legislation."

It's time for the community of New Hope to stand tall and lead the way," said the Rev. Charles Stevens of the Unitarian Universalist Church in New Hope during the council meeting. Underlining that, officials from neighboring Norristown and Doylestown were in attendance at the borough council meeting last night, getting tips for their own potential ordinances.

The sentiment in the Bucks County borough with the 'Norman Rockwell' appearance was unquestioningly supportive. After the borough council meeting at the local High School, where according to Padilla of NTAC, even the Chief of Police testified in favor of the measure, the mood was celebratory. While such laws are common in larger cities, New Hope is the first "small town" to approve such a law, state officials said.

New Hope becomes the seventh municipality in Pennsylvania to have non-discrimination ordinances protecting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered its citizens. "We view the passage of this as a celebration," said an ebullient council member Delevich after the vote. "We can now proudly say 'with liberty and justice for all.'"

As a pleased Kathy Padilla succinctly put it immediately following the council vote, "a damn good night!"

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HRC UNVEILS NEW AREA OF WEBSITE DEDICATED TO LGBT VETERANS

Project is in Collaboration with Servicemembers Legal Defense Network and American Veterans For Equal Rights

WASHINGTON - The Human Rights Campaign, in collaboration with Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) and American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), is collecting the stories of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender veterans to post on www.hrc.org <<http://www.hrc.org>> in honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The project, "Documenting Courage: Veterans Speak Out," is part of a continuing effort to better inform the public, Congress and the administration about the many contributions made by GLBT service members.

"It is time to recognize the contributions of LGBT men and women who have given their time, talent and, in some cases, their lives in service to their country," said HRC Senior Policy Advocate John Vezina, who specializes in military issues. "The 'Documenting Courage' project is a way for us to preserve the stories of LGBT American vets for future generations and to demonstrate the undeniable contribution the LGBT community has made in service to the country."

Because veterans are not bound by the codes of silence that active service members are, they are in a unique position to give a voice to the LGBT community involved in the armed forces. In spite of this, many gay men and lesbians are not vocal about their service.

"We know LGBT veterans have important and inspiring stories to share," said SLDN Communications Director Steve Ralls. "While on active duty, gay and lesbian service members must remain silent about their sexual orientation, or risk discharge. However, after returning to civilian life, many veterans remain silent about their military service. We want to send a clear message with this project that LGBT service men and women are welcome and that we are proud of them and their contributions."

People who are currently serving in the armed forces - whether on active duty, in the Reserves or in the National Guard - are advised not to send their stories to HRC for the "Documenting Courage" project. Federal law requires that gay, lesbian and bisexual service members not disclose their sexual orientation.

New FTM Group!

SOUTH BAY TRANSMEN

Come and hang out with other FTM/questioning guys at our social and support group. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30-9:00pm at the Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 938 the Alameda, in San Jose.

For more info: Contact Marianne at (408) 293-3040 ext. 116 or supportedu@defrank.org, — or Lance at lance00@onebox.com.

ARE YOU A VETERAN?

Are you aware that there is a gender discussion group every Monday afternoon at the Ft. Miley Veteran's Center in San Francisco? The group is open to all TS, TV, and TG's who are qualified veterans. If you are interested and wish further information, contact Lorraine Hall at: Quiche4520@aol.com or call 510-523-9952.

TRANSGENDER LAW MAKING STRIDES

By Kelley Beaucar Vlahos, Fox News Channel

WASHINGTON - Transgender rights law - that is protecting the rights of people whose identity does not match the genitalia they were born with - has exploded in the field and in the political arena, becoming a new wave of civil rights in this country, according to experts. And experts concerned about affixing privileges to specialized groups say that the transgendered population is taking privilege too far.

It's "another step down the road towards radical individualism," said Linda Chavez, civil rights expert and president of the Center for Equal Opportunity. "I think it's going too far. We gave certain rights and protections to people so they could not be discriminated against because they were born with certain characteristics and couldn't change them. Now we are facing a situation where they can change their characteristics ... and then we confer upon them special protections. It's sowing confusion and it's very problematic," Chavez said.

But too far or not, it appears transgender rights are already bestowed on transgendered individuals. "It's totally exploding - in law, the amount of litigation, the laws passed, the law reviews written," said Paisley Currah, associate professor of political science at City University of New York and board member at the Transgender Law and Policy Institute. "Transgendered people have become more organized and [are] moving beyond merely a support system for each other to actually fighting for their rights," she added.

"Transgender" is actually an umbrella term for a diverse group of people bound together by one characteristic: they do not identify with the gender into which they were born. They include individuals who dress and behave as the opposite sex, as well as those who have undergone surgery to change their sex, also known as transsexuals. The number of transgendered people in the United States has been largely undocumented, but is still considered to be small, said Pauline Park, a transgendered woman and co-chair of the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy.

Continued on Page 18

Seahorse Medical Clinic Joy Diane Shaffer, MD



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"This is a marginalized community, the group is small compared to the total population," Park said. "This translates into political weakness. But compared to what it was 10 years ago, it's huge and more powerful and largely more effective." Its effectiveness is apparent in the changes in law, academia and social work.

So far, 46 jurisdictions-including states, counties and cities-have laws prohibiting discrimination against transgendered people. Minneapolis, Minn., wrote its first antidiscrimination law against transgendered people in 1975. New York City recently rewrote its human rights law to protect "gender identity and expression" against all forms of discrimination, including housing and employment.

There are also a number of major public and private employers who have protections for transgendered people on the books and even local union bargaining agreements that include such provisions. And that is not all. Today there are at least two court cases pending over the legal status of transgendered persons in marriage, as they relate to spousal rights and child custody. There are even more cases being hashed out over employment discrimination and hate crimes.

"There are a lot of legal issues coming out now," said Julie Greenberg, a professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law who has written extensively on transgender rights for law review journals. "For one, the transgender movement is willing to come out of the closet and push the issue and two, people are becoming more aware of it."

Opponents of gay rights who say the transgender movement is a logical outgrowth of the successes of the gay and lesbian movement are concerned that the breakdown in gender identity will result in a breakdown in family. "The common link is the desire to disestablish or to deconstruct the two-sex system which most people view as natural," said David Wagner, a law professor at Regent University, which was founded by religious conservative Pat Robertson.

Wagner said he thinks the gay rights movement, much less transgendered rights, has a long way to go in terms of acceptance. "I just don't think that antidiscrimination in this case has been as widely accepted by the American people in the same way Americans accepted civil rights in the 1960s," he said. That may be evidenced in the lackluster response of states to recognizing same-sex unions, despite a great push from the community.

But people like Park are convinced that the transgender movement-with or without the coattails of the gay rights movement-is making great strides. "When we formed three years ago, no one from New York City or New York State was talking seriously about transgender law," she said.

"Now, transgender rights are at the forefront" of gay rights issues. We have been able to transform our cause," she said.

crossdressing, (San Diego was the last community have laws against this and even those have been abrogated), do not give the police officer an excuse by being confrontational. If you are confrontational the police officer can detain you and even arrest you on the basis of interfering with the lawful duties of a police officer.

Police officers are always trained to have a **COMMAND PRESENCE**, a necessary tool in their job. We often mistake this command presence for hostility. Remember, your behavior dictates how the officer will respond. If you're low-key, professional and dignified, they will act the same way. The police officer's attention to you in the first place was directed towards you because of some driving behavior on your part. All the police officer is concerned with is dealing with the reason you were stopped for. Being confrontational, not telling the truth, and acting suspiciously put the officer on edge and raise red flags. While we are in an embarrassing situation remember there is no such thing as a routine traffic stop. Every day a police officer is either gravely injured or killed as a result of their making a traffic stop.

Merrisa Coleman is a member of TGSF and as well as being the Chairperson for Bay Area Transgender Lawyer's Association. Questions as to family law, civil rights and other transgender issues can be submitted to MerrisaSJC@Aol.com before the 7th of each month for consideration and response.

TG-FRIENDLY LANDLADY SEEKING TENANT(S)

We're renting the top level of a house built in 1942. It has 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. It also has a room that has a bit of a view of the bay bridge that could be used as a dining room or a study. The house is light, bright and sunny; it has skylights in the kitchen and in the bathroom, and is located in a sunny part of the City. We have just painted the entire interior and will be painting the exterior as well. We have new wall-to-wall carpeting in the house and new linoleum for the kitchen too. There is a fireplace in the living room that has a mantle with an art deco kind of decor. There are a washer and dryer in the basement.

We are hoping to find someone who is employed, who likes this house as much as we do and would take really good care of it! It is located near the junction of 101 and 280 (easy freeway access!) on one of San Francisco's many hills in an area called Silver Terrace. It is on a little street that is only 3 blocks long called Maddux. I lived in this house as a single woman and I liked the neighborhood a lot. I liked the quiet and the neighbors were the kind of people who talked to each other and actually helped each other from time to time! If you want more information or are interested in seeing it, please call us at 925-939-5397.

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