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- ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK PAYABLE TO IFGE
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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

IFGE is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are fully tax-deductible under applicable federal and state tax law.

**My name and address are:**

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Name:	Memb. #:
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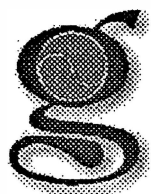
<b>Confidentiality:</b> We know how important this can be. All mailings are plain paper wrapped with discreet return address.
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**International Foundation for Gender Education**

PO Box 229 14 Felton Street

Waltham, Massachusetts 02254-0229

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# IFGE

The International  
Foundation for  
Gender Education

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P.O. Box 229, Waltham, MA 02454-0229 Tel: 781-899-2212 Email: office@ifge.org

- *Roberto is a crossdresser who had never met anyone else who crossdressed.*
- *Paul's wife of 18 years, just found out he crossdresses and wants a divorce.*
- *Sarah is the Aunt of a six-year-old whose parents will not accept their child's gender expression.*
- *Kelly is a transsexual at the point of suicide because she can not find acceptance in her community.*

Dear Friend:

Does this sound familiar to you? Perhaps you have encountered similar situations or know someone who has. Imagine reaching out and there being no one to turn to. Why? Because the world often slams its doors closed on Transgender people.

IFGE was able to help Roberto, Paul, Sarah and Kelly. Each person had the attention of someone that understood and cared, either on the phone or in our office. The staff was able to give them the resources they needed in their home community to assist them.

IFGE is open to Roberto, Paul, Sarah and Kelly – and dozens of other people each week. *We provide a shoulder to lean on. We offer hope. We celebrate community.*

A couple of months ago you received a letter from Rose Ryan asking you to help. If you have already responded, **THANK YOU!** If you have not sent your donation, I encourage you to send as much as you can afford so that we can continue to assist the members of our community. If you are not a member, I invite you to join for \$35, \$100, \$500 or more.

Every day people like Roberto, Paul, Sarah and Kelly empower themselves and have hope because of IFGE and the people like you who help us do the work. Whether you have ever called IFGE or just know it is here if you need help, this is your chance to give back to the community.

Every day IFGE serves people who have been beaten down and are discouraged. We help to empower individuals to celebrate who they are and find a safe place in a world that is very hostile. *That's why we count on and need people like you.*

**Please give the gift of IFGE to yourself and to our entire community by making a donation today.**



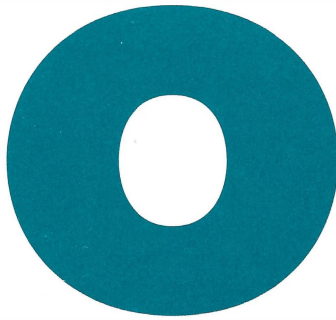
Thanks for your gift. We wouldn't be here without you!!

Sincerely,

Nancy Cain  
Director of Operations

## A FOND FAREWELL AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

NANCY NANGERONI IS RETIRING AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IFGE. THESE ARE HER PARTING WORDS:



One year ago, IFGE was in trouble, and I stepped forward. I volunteered my services not so much because I wanted the job of executive director, but because I thought I could help, and I could not refuse that help to an organization which was in some measure responsible for the salvation of myself and many others.

I knew when I took the job that I was grabbing a tiger by the tail, a tiger that would likely shake me loose and feast on my sorry carcass. I also knew that my approach to the job would not be looked upon favorably by all. I knew that my politics are too radical and my sensibilities too feminist for some. But I took the job anyway, because the other alternative I heard being discussed was to close the doors.

Over the past year, we at IFGE, and I mean we, because it has been a team effort of the entire staff, have made some significant progress.

We've revitalized the magazine, which is the single most important product of IFGE. It now carries work by the very best writers in our community, and the information content has nearly doubled, making it a much better value for our readers. We now address an audience that includes much more of the diversity of the trans community, with more meaningful stories and articles. We made it through the difficult transition to a new distributor, reducing our office workload while improving our potential circulation to respectable outlets accessible to more people. We brought on exciting new editorial talent and put to rest the persistent complaints about editorial communication problems. And yes, we took some chances, and made some mistakes.

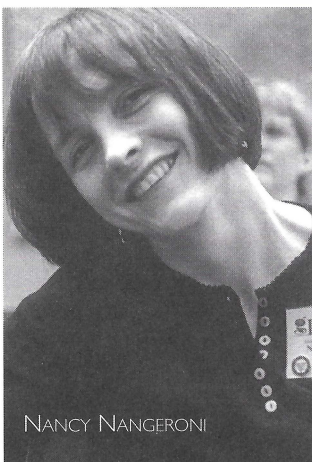
We wired the IFGE office with a network connecting computers to each other and to the

Internet, bringing the entire staff closer to the on-line community that we serve, making us more accessible -- and responsible -- to our peers. We created an exciting new web site that provides useful resources, news, information, and contact with IFGE. We provided a mechanism for subscribing and making donations on-line that provides a new level of convenience for our members and subscribers while paying for the entire web site many times over. Our on-line bookstore is the most complete and informative on the subject of transgenderism anywhere.

We also reorganized the bookstore somewhat, giving it responsibility for its own accounting and inventory management. Thanks to a generous donor, the bookstore is the most well-stocked and titled on the subject, and continues to enjoy the services of a dedicated and well-liked manager.

We also increased magazine advertising revenue by about 50%, thanks to a new advertising. We brought in our first-ever grant, \$11,000 from the Gill Foundation in Colorado Springs, an organization primarily chartered to give to Gay and Lesbian oriented organizations. This was their first grant to a trans cause, and the first grant made to any national trans education organization. Thanks to assistance from the Windslow Street fund we've been able to responsibly manage our debt load. And for the first time ever, we made medical insurance directly available for our staff.

I know that there are some things that we've done that have come under criticism. We dared to put Leslie Feinberg, the founder of the modern transgender liberation movement, on the cover of our magazine instead of another pretty face. We dared, in hopes of increasing our reach onto more mainstream newsstands, to remove the personals from the body of the magazine. We dared to



NANCY NANGERONI

## IFGE NEWSLETTER

### Editors:

Mykael Hawley  
Mykael@ifge.org  
and  
Matthew Carlos  
mcarlos@ifge.org

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Mykael Hawley

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### About IFGE Membership

Basic Membership: \$35.00 per year  
Membership Newsletter, IFGE ID, BoD voting  
privileges, and 10% discount on products.

Student/Low Income: \$20.00 per year.  
Includes same benefits as above

Supporting Membership: \$100.00 per year  
Basic Membership, 10% discount on IFGE products,  
and 5% discount on IFGE Sponsored Events.

Benefactor membership  
\$500.00 per year.

Life Membership  
\$2,500.00

Based on accumulated contributions

bring gay, lesbian and bisexual presence to the magazine, and to increase our commitment to the community of trans men.

But I believe that it is a better IFGE today, than when I took the reins a year ago. And it can become even better, with your help.

I know that people will wonder why I am leaving IFGE, and that speculation will run rampant if there is nothing to take its place, so I must make some statement about my reasons.

I care about the future of IFGE, and I firmly believe that it will and should continue to exist, and hopefully to grow. But to do so, it needs an executive director who is experienced at managing a service, advocacy, and education organization. As a trained engineer, I found myself well suited to tackling some of our organizational and technical problems. But I found myself completely unprepared for the challenges unique to an established non-profit organization serving a widespread population with diverse expectations and needs. I believe that there are others in this community who have the needed skills to improve the functioning of IFGE in areas where I fell short, and I look forward to seeing their success in the role which I now vacate.

As for myself, I will continue to serve community to the best of my ability, and towards the greatest good for all. I intend to continue and expand my efforts to write and speak out against injustice and in favor of diversity and inclusion, and to build on my experience to date. I believe that I can be a more effective force for our community in an independent role than I could be at the helm of IFGE.

It has been my pleasure to serve our community. I share the disappointment of those who wish I could have done more, or better, or differently. But I know that together, we stood, and continue to stand, for the principles upon which IFGE was founded: respect for and inclusion of all diversity, and commitment to making this world a better place for all.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Nangeroni

## **T.O.P.S. HAS A NEW E-MAIL LISTING**

For all interested in a dialogue with Transgender Officers Protect/Serve (T.O.P.S.) please send comments or post anything you like. To ask for help with any issue which might be of concern to TOPS please write :

**TG-TOPS@onelist.com.**

Tony Barreto-Neto

# CONSUMER FEEDBACK ON ISSUE #84 TRANSGENDER TAPESTRY

**H**ere is a random sampling of many letters we've received since the change to our new format. Most of the response has been very positive. We would like to hear more from you, give us a call or drop us a line at P.O. Box 229, Waltham, MA 02454-0229, 781-899-2212.

"I just wanted to THANK YOU for the best issue of transgender Tapestry I have seen yet" Fall 1998. Please keep up the excellent work!"  
Lynn Lefevre (Ottawa).

"I just recently picked up a copy of your new edition (Fall 98). I was totally impressed. This is simply the best cover to date. I wasn't the happiest reader upon your last change of design and departure from the older Tapestry. This issue really brings back those good ole days. I enjoy most the pieces in it. I hope you can continue blazing a path in this new wonderful direction. I look forward to seeing issues of this calibre. As I previously lost interest in TG mag, as your focus

seemed to be lost. Once again my KUDOS to the staff"

Renee Elizabeth White (St. Louis)

"Just received the latest Trans/Tap and I wanted to extend to the both of you a hearty congratulations for a job well done. The magazine's content and layout has improved by leaps and bounds from previous issues. 'It is obvious that you are striving for the highest standards of journalism and I applaud you for it.'"  
(long-time MtF subscriber).

I think the new look of your magazine stinks. Where are the pretty girls. I want more t\*ts and \*ss. Those frilly panties and crotch shots is what I like to see. Get those lezzies out of the magazine. F\*ck You!

(anonymous)

As you can see from the last letter there are also a few unhappy customers. At Transgender Tapestry we feel that there

are other magazines that do a better job of servicing T\*ts and \*ss than we can.

IFGE's mission is outreach and education. Transgender Tapestry is a reflection of IFGE. We strive to give hope to those out there that have little hope left. We value individuality and dignity. We respect human diversity. We believe in gender related human and civil rights for ALL. We wish to portray the Transgender community in a positive, intellectual and creative light.. As a community we have much to offer and we need to show that very thing to society at large. We are a diverse community of dynamic individuals. By being diverse, we don't mean red heads, blondes or brunettes. We mean MTFs, FTMs, people of color, intersex, straight, bi, lesbian, gay, spiritual beliefs, differently abled, youth, families. The list and definitions becomes larger every day. As our community expands let's learn from one another. We only have everything to gain.

Thank You to those who took the time to write us, we appreciate the feedback.

## SEA LIFE CHANGING SEX

'GENDER BENDER' CHEMICALS ARE IMPAIRING OTTERS' FERTILITY

**E**nvironmental campaigners say chemicals that interfere with the hormone system are causing increasing damage in the rivers and coastal waters of Britain.

The chemicals are known as endocrine disrupters (EDCs), or "gender benders". They include some pesticides, dioxins (which can be given off by incinerators), and many other synthetic substances. These EDCs mimic natural hormones, the body's chemical messengers, or block the cells that act as hormone receptors.

The campaigners say the effects of EDCs are now known to be damaging the endocrine systems of fish in the estuaries of the Mersey, the Tees and the Tyne. In the Thames estuary and other major British rivers, they say they have found flounders which

have become feminized. Other species affected include female dog-whelms in North Sea shipping lanes and close to main ports, which are developing penises. Both common and gray seals have been found with suppressed immune systems. And otters are suffering from lower fertility and reduced penis size.

The campaign groups which have sounded the alarm are Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, the Marine Conservation Society, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Most chemicals' effects are unclear. They say that little is known on the toxicity of about 100,000 chemicals currently available for use. And they say this means "a global-scale experiment is being conducted where humans and the environment are being exposed to unpredictable cocktails of chemicals".

EDCs are among the chemicals which concentrate in body fat, and their effect becomes more marked as they move up the food chain. So someone who eats a lot of fish could expect to be absorbing EDCs in their diet. Like many other chemicals, their effects tend to be more severe in children. And one EDC may work with another chemical to produce an effect that neither could achieve in isolation. Although scientists have identified only about 100 chemicals as EDCs, the groups say these are believed to be just the tip of the iceberg.

They want industry to take responsibility for eliminating the threat of EDCs in the marine environment, and to make the transition to clean production of safer chemicals. And they say the government should act on the precautionary principle, refusing to allow chemicals to be discharged unless they have been proven to be safe beyond reasonable doubt.

# GET IN SYNC @ SYNCHRONICITY

VANESSA MURRAY

# H

ello everyone and happy holidays. I want to send a sincere apology to all of our customers that experienced an extended delay in the handling of their orders during October and November. In addition to it being our busy season for conventions, I landed up sick for quite some time, both of which caused a severe backlog. I am much better now and nearly caught up (except for videos). I expect to be completely back on track by January.



The bookstore proves successful when properly stocked and funded. With a few more Bookstore Friends willing to make donations to the bookstore I expect to really be able to make this operation start humming. You see, when we all work TOGETHER things really do start to happen.

This year we reduced our shipping charges and once again expanded our product line. In 1999, I look forward to carrying the latest issues of Sandy Thomas novels, Dr. Randi Ettner's new book Gender Loving Care, and Lynn Habschman's Transsexuals: Life from Both Sides. Dr. Peggy Rudd's Who's Really from Venus is starting to really take off. New pins, videos, and audiocassettes such as Davetta Magness' album (our first offering from a member of the intersex portion of our community), exemplify our commitment to diversity.

Also in the coming year, I want to SIGNIFICANTLY expand our selection of FtM resources, so please submit requests and information to me as soon as possible. Please remember that I am alone in this phase of the

operation and NEED YOUR HELP, especially tracking down new titles.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your orders and support and your continuing expressions of thanks and belief in me. I promise to continue to do my very best in helping you when you reach out in need, or in simply handling your orders.

Please consider assisting us in helping others by sending a contribution or increasing your membership level - such contributions may certainly be earmarked for the bookstore.

In this holiday season I wish you all safe and joyous celebrations, and a new year filled with Peace & Love, Health & Prosperity.

Your Friend, Vanessa.

## AMERICAN AIRLINES IS BEING BOMBARDED BY HOMOPHOBIC AND HATEFUL CALLERS

# A

merican Airlines is a major sponsor to and supporter of groups like GLAAD, the Human Rights Campaign, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, the AIDS Action Foundation, DIFFA, AmFAR, and scores of community-based groups representing gays and lesbians. It is also the first airline to adopt a written non-discrimination policy covering sexual and gender orientation in its employment practices.

In an unusual joint letter released to the media on Oct. 14th from the Family Research Council, Concerned Women of America, American Family Association and Coral Ridge Ministries, American Airlines was openly criticized about their policy. Radical right leader Beverly LaHaye also went on a Christian "talk radio" to blast American Airlines because "American's sponsorship of homosexual 'pride' events constitutes 'an open endorsement of promiscuous homosexuality.'" She and the other groups have written Bob Crandall at American to complain that the airline

has "gone beyond mere tolerance" of gays and lesbians.

It has come to the attention of the our community that American Airline's switchboard and e-mails are being bombarded now by homophobic and hateful callers who have been urged by LaHaye and others to DEMAND the company terminate its gay/trans-friendly policies.

American Airlines won the 1996 Diversity Award from IFGE because of their policy. Drop them a line and let them know that you applaud their efforts and support them.

### **American Airlines Diversity Policy**

**Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Bisexual Employees: To advocate gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual employee concerns; to serve as a liaison between employees, management and community groups; to serve as the employee resource committee representative on the AMR Diversity Council for gay, les-**

**bian, transgender and bisexual employees; to partner with AMR in identifying and maximizing revenue opportunities in the marketplace; to promote a sense of community among our members; and to sponsor educational and cultural programs on issues of interest to our constituents.**

Media Calls:  
817-967-1577

Media Fax:  
817-967-3816

Media E-mail to  
CorpComm:  
amrwebmaster@amrcorp.com

Media Mailing Address:  
American Airlines Corporate  
Communications Department  
MD 5575  
P.O. Box 619616  
D/FW International Airport, TX,  
75261-9616

# HELP US TO HELP YOU

PENNI ASHE

**R**ecently, I have had some conversations with the president of the GLBT employee resource group (ERG) to which I belong and am active. At his request, I gave him contact information for a well-known transgender organization that is a 501(c)3 corporation. The ERG president mentioned the desire to have someone from the ERG "on site" at beneficiaries of our corporate giving, to be sure that the funds were well-spent. The remark prompted me to mention to him that trans organizations today are where GLB organizations were in the sixties and seventies: fighting for survival. The remark was well-received, and may lead to some additional fundraising activities.

But I don't want to leave that remark there. It doesn't have to be this way; these organizations need not be fighting for their survival. I'm often amazed at how many transgenders I meet who "happen" to work with computers or in some other high-tech field. This is a field that does not pay poorly! There is a lot of money

in the transgender community, and our social service organizations can do a much better job of serving us if they're moved beyond mere "fighting for survival."

I give to my favorite organization through my United Way contributions --which my company matches. My company also provides financial contributions which "match" employees' volunteer activities at registered 501(c)3 corporations, and I've availed myself of that means of helping out, as well. Many corporations have matching gift programs for employees who make contributions to 501(c)3 educational organizations. Restrictions vary from employer to employer, but these restrictions are always on the nature of the educational services provided, never on the nature of the community served.

I know that the company I work for isn't the only company that has such programs. Really, such programs have nothing to do with ideology or "doing the right thing." Simply put, it's good

business. Corporate giving is a form of marketing.

Making a move like this takes a fair amount of courage. But it doesn't demand that you "out" yourself. If you're closeted, you need not leave that closet in order to get your employer to help out financially. Most of the time, the employers don't notice the nature of the organization. And should they recognize that you're donating to a transgender social service organization, that doesn't mean that 'you' are transgender. It means only that you recognize that rightfully this is a worthy cause.

I encourage all GAIN readers who work for companies that have employee-directed giving programs to avail themselves of those programs in order to help out our struggling transgender education organizations. And in the meantime, pass this little missive along to your friends. Together, we can help our transgender education organizations help us!

## CALIFORNIA CHURCH INSTALLS TG WOMAN AS PASTOR

From Victoria S. Kolakowski, vickykol@ix.net-com.com. Via Gender Advocacy Internet News(GAIN), gain@gender.org

**M**etropolitan Community Church (M.C.C.) of the New Vision in Walnut Creek, California will celebrate the installation of Reverend Vicky Kolakowski as the new pastor during a special Sunday service on November 15. The outgoing pastor, Reverend Jack Isbell, will preside over the ceremony.

The church, formerly named Diablo Valley M.C.C., is a congregation of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The denomination was founded in 1968 by the Reverend Troy Perry as a ministry welcoming all people, but with a special outreach to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. The U.F.M.C.C. has over 300 churches in sixteen countries, including several in the Bay area.

Kolakowski is the first lesbian to pastor the central Contra Costa County church, and will become one of only two openly transgender senior pastors in the denomination. "I am very excited by the opportunities we have at M.C.C. of the New Vision." Kolakowski said. "There are so many people who haven't heard that God loves them unconditionally, and of the power of that love to transform lives."

Kolakowski received her Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley in 1997. She holds also graduate degrees in law, public administration and engineering. She practices law and is a frequent contributing writer for the Bay Area Reporter, a weekly gay newspaper in San Francisco.

Named an Outstanding Woman of Berkeley in 1995, Kolakowski co-authored Berkeley's domestic partner public registry and chaired Berkeley's

city commission that both oversees civil rights efforts and recommends outside social services contracts to benefit the poor.

The author of several scholarly essays on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender religious issues, Kolakowski has a passion for developing positive images and stories for these communities, especially from biblical sources.

"The Bible has been used for too long to long as a weapon to inflict pain, rather than a balm to support wholeness and healing," Kolakowski noted. "The Gospel, the good news, is that God loves us, and not the lie that God finds us unworthy and unacceptable."

M.C.C. of the New Vision meets in the chapel of Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue in Walnut Creek. Sunday services weekly at noon. The church phone number is (925) 283-2238.

# THE MEDIA'S TROUBLE WITH TRANS

FRED KUHR

Forwarded with permission from IN Newsweekly.

In Newsweekly, Dec. 18, 1998, vol. 8 no. 16.

Editorial  
by Fred Kuhr  
Fkuhr@aol.com  
in newsweekly news editor

Journalists have a hard time dealing with the issue of transsexuality. But that is no excuse for demeaning the memory of the victim of a brutal and senseless murder:

Rita Hester, a 34-year-old transsexual who resided in Boston's Allston neighborhood and whose legal name was William, was stabbed more than 20 times during the Nov. attack.

That was the first crime. The second crime was the way the local media handled coverage of this heinous act.

The Boston Globe was the worst offender in the mainstream press. With the headline "Stabbing victim a mystery to many," writer Daniel Vasquez seemed more concerned with the victim's gender identity - and the neighbors reaction to it - than the murder itself.

The Globe story also paints a picture of someone who led an "apparent double life," someone who angered neighbors with "late-night loud music," a "nightclub singer and a

party-thrower." Hester is shown as someone who is not worthy of sympathy, someone whose life, perhaps, was not worth more than a curious peek - as a freak to be easily dismissed.

How sickening that the Globe would sink to such a journalistic low. While the Boston Herald did better, much better in fact, its two stories should not go unchallenged.

In fact, the Herald seemed to show its struggle with language. In its Nov. 28 story, the headline refers to Hester as a "transvestite." The following day's headline calls Hester a "transgender" murder victim.

To its credit, the Herald quotes Matthew Carlos, editor of the magazine Transgender Tapestry, explaining the difference between transsexual, transgender, cross-dresser and transvestite. A lesson we in the media direly need.

The Herald also talks to friends and acquaintances in order to paint Hester as a real person, not the freak show that the Globe portrayed. Concentrating on the fact that Hester was a "call girl," however, makes us question some of the Herald's sincerity.

And although we as a community haven't reconciled the inclusion of transgendered people in our civil rights movement, we at least expect more understanding and better coverage from the gay and lesbian press.

In the case of the Hester murder, however, that hasn't necessarily been the case. We were particularly stunned by the decision of Bay Windows, a gay and lesbian weekly serving the Boston area, to constantly refer to Hester as "Rita," quotes and all. In most news accounts, crime victims are referred to simply by their last names.

To see a gay newspaper playing petty word games with someone's name and, therefore, denying that person's identity, even in the aftermath of their death, is startling.

Not that IN Newsweekly is above criticism. We avoided the pronoun issue - whether to refer to Hester as "he" or "she" - by attempting to avoid pronouns altogether in last week's story. We also used a clunky construction in the first paragraph identifying the victim as William/Rita Hester.

We here at IN Newsweekly, as well as other news outlets, are still in the process of being educated on these issues. Over time, these issues will be resolved. After all, it's not that long ago that newspapers referred to gay people as "avowed homosexuals."

But journalists need to be willing to be educated. In the meantime, ignorance is no excuse for insulting a community and the memory of one of its members.

Provided by GenderTalk.  
www.GenderTalk.com

## WORDS OF WISDOM

Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special.

Don't set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you.

Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them, life is meaningless.

Don't let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future. By living your life one day at a time, you live ALL the days of your life.

Don't give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.

Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect. It is this fragile thread that binds us to each other.

Don't be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.

Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love is to give; the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly; and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.

Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been, but also where you are going.

Don't forget, a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.

Don't be afraid to learn. Knowledge is weightless, a treasure you can always carry easily.

Don't use time or words carelessly. Neither can be retrieved. Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each step of the way.

Yesterday is History, Tomorrow is a Mystery and Today is a gift: that's why we call it The Present.



# CHRISTIAN RETREAT PLANNED

DIANE ZAHN

# A

n informal retreat for transgendered Christians will be held on January 24, 1999 from noon until 7 PM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Woburn, Massachusetts. This retreat is being coordinated by Ms. Diane Zahn and Ms. Jennifer Jones of the Tiffany Club of New England, a Boston area support group for the transgender community. Meeting space at the hotel for approximately 20 persons is being made available courtesy of the Tiffany Club, which is holding its annual First Event conference from January 21 until noon January 24 at the Crowne Plaza.

The coordinators have also planned to present a seminar as part of the First Event Saturday program entitled "Transgendered and Christian - Hearing the Good News", drawing upon their own Christian faith experiences. We cordially invite all persons, both Christian and non-Christian, with an interest in this perspective to attend the Saturday seminar, as part of the conference program. We want this ses-

sion to be an uplifting experience, helping people to actively enrich their lives through faith. Our seminar is intended to offer resources for support and an opportunity for testimony, sharing, and discussion.

For the Sunday session, we welcome all persons interested in a spending a time of sharing, reflection, and fellowship focused on expanding and renewing their Christian faith. We have currently reserved meeting space for approximately 20 people. We would like to and could potentially accommodate more, and make plans for a simple midday meal via individual donations, if we have an advance headcount and can provide the hotel sufficient notice. An advance headcount of attendees will also help justify the added meeting room expense for Tiffany Club, which is expanding its Sunday program to help us. If you would like to confirm attendance at the retreat or would like additional information, you can contact us at:

Surface Mail:  
D. A. Zahn  
P.O. Box 2176  
Monroe, MI 48161  
e-mail: damz@sprynet.com  
or  
Jennifer Jones  
e-mail: jennyj@concentric.net

For general information about the First Event conference, schedule, registration fees, hotel accommodations, or other local information, you may contact the Tiffany Club of New England at:

Tiffany Club of New England  
P.O. Box 71  
Waltham, MA 02454-0071  
Telephone: 781 891 9325 (answered live Tuesdays 7-10 PM) e-mail: firstevent99@tcne.org or consult the TCNE web site at www.tcne.org.

We hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,  
Diane A. Zahn

## CALENDAR UPDATES

### CALL FOR PAPERS:

#### QUEER STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDENT CONFERENCE

**February 26 - 28, 1999**

McMaster University  
Hamilton, ON Canada

This will be the second annual Queer Studies Symposium to be held at McMaster University. Depending on the response we receive, the Symposium may take place the entire weekend of February 26-28, or simply Saturday the 27th.

We invite presentations that reflect a diversity of disciplines, positions, methodologies, and styles. Because of the interdisciplinary focus of the sym-

posium, we encourage work that combines scholarly sophistication with general accessibility.

Everyone is welcome to attend the event. However, only undergraduate and graduate students as well as recent graduates are invited to give presentations, as this is a group of people who often have few opportunities to present their work.

#### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: JANUARY 8, 1999

When you send your abstract, please let us know if you are an undergraduate, graduate, or recent graduate. For more information or to submit an abstract, please write to: queerstu@mcmaster.cis.mcmaster.ca

You may also send an abstract to:

Adrienne Wasik

32 Strathcona Ave. South,  
Hamilton ON, Canada L8P 4H9

Best regards,  
Adrienne Wasik and Beth Finnis  
(symposium coordinators) on behalf of The McMaster Queer Studies Collective

#### NYAC CONFERENCE

**22-24 JANUARY, 1999**

Reaching out in the South

National Youth Advocacy Coalition  
NYAC:  
Southern Conference Registration

1711 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Ste. 206, Washington, DC 20009  
202-319-7596  
202-319-7365 (FAX)

# CALENDAR UPDATES

## OUT WRITE 99

The Bromfield Street Education Foundation presents:

### OutWrite '99,

our culture, our writing, our lives.

Thursday - Sunday, February 26-29, 1999, Boston Park Plaza, Boston, MA.

Visit <http://www.bsef.org/outwrite>

Contact Karen Bullock-Jordan, OutWrite Conference Director

[outwrite@bsef.terranel.com](mailto:outwrite@bsef.terranel.com) or Pallavi

Nuka, OutWrite Assistant

[pallavi@bsef.terranel.com](mailto:pallavi@bsef.terranel.com)

for more info.

## THE AMERICAN BOYZ

are pleased to announce the Third Annual True Spirit Conference to be held at the Best Western Maryland Inn in Laurel, Maryland from February 26 - 28, 1999.

This three day conference focuses on the social, physical, emotional, spiritual and relational health of all gender variant people on the FTM spectrum and their significant others, friends, families, and allies.

Workshops and panel presentations to be held during this 3rd annual event address such topics as: health and transition issues, relationships, special needs populations, law, politics, employment, and spirituality. True Spirit 1999 is committed to offering inclusive programming for young people, people of color and elders. Special workshops and caucus opportunities will be available for service providers. Featured speakers include Jude Patton, long term ftm and health advocate, Kitten Gross, family and transyouth advocate, and Dr. Michael L. Brownstein, M.D., FACS, ftm surgeon, and many others.

"True Spirit offers many unique opportunities for participants that address a variety of the real life needs and concerns of people of transgender experience," says Trey Maurer, True Spirit 1999 media coordinator. One of those unique opportunities is making health screening available on site including breast exams, blood pressure checks and other health maintenance services. "Getting routine health checks can be an exceptional challenge for some trans people," continued Maurer, "so we try to remove one of the barriers to access by bringing the health care provider to the conference rather than sending people out to find a provider on their own."

Other events of note scheduled for True Spirit 1999 are: authors readings and chat sessions, exhibit hall with information and merchandise, film festival, and the American Boys Award Ceremony.

Conference registration fee ranges from \$60 - \$80 with work scholarship and housing assistance available on a first come first serve basis.

However, those registering before January 1, 1999 will enjoy a \$20 discount on their registration fee. There are two options for registration: one, download and complete registration form from the internet at [www.netgsi.com/~listwrangler](http://www.netgsi.com/~listwrangler) or two, request a conference flyer from The American Boyz/True Spirit 1999 at P. O. Box 1118, Elkton, MD, 21922-1118.

Representatives from the press are invited to True Spirit 1999 but MUST register as a press person, and sign and comply with all True Spirit press and camera regulations. All registered press will receive a True Spirit 1999 press packet upon their arrival at the conference.

The American Boyz is an organization for female to male gender variant people (FTMs) of any orientation, including but not limited to tomboys, butches, f2ms, transmen, drag kings, masculine females, crossdressers, intersexuals, and those who support us, including our Significant Others, Friends, Families and Allies (SOFFAs). American Boyz, Inc, P. O. Box 1118, Elkton, MD, 21922-1118, URL: [www.netgsi.com/~listwrangler](http://www.netgsi.com/~listwrangler); [transman@netgsi.com](mailto:transman@netgsi.com).

## PRIDE and PREJUDICE SYMPOSIUM:

The 5th Annual Symposium on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues

The University of Rhode Island  
April 8-10, 1999.

Please e-mail [Silvadel@aol.com](mailto:Silvadel@aol.com) for more info.

## SHOUTOUT!

A MULTICULTURAL LITERARY MAGAZINE BY LGBT COLLEGE STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE NEW YORK CITY REGION.

## Creative Writing Contest!

Are you a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender college student who likes creative writing? Then ShoutOut! is for you! We're a multicultural literary magazine by LGBT college students throughout the New York City region--and we're looking for poetry, fiction, literary reviews, cultural criticism and artwork. ShoutOut!, P.O. Box 579, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113, [shout\\_out@hotmail.com](mailto:shout_out@hotmail.com), (212) 665-9679.

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 14, 1999.**

## TRANSpective:

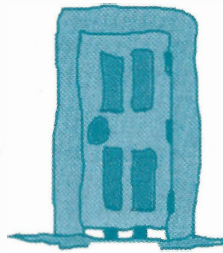
THE FIRST NEW ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL & SYMPOSIUM.

May 18, 19 & 20, 1999 at The Coolidge Corner Theatre in Brookline, MA

Mission Statement:

In efforts to foster community building, education, and support for transgender people, the Transgender Education Network of JRI Health is producing The First New England International Transgender Film and Video Festival & Symposium. Together, with other community providers, trans organizations, activist and advocates of human rights, we jointly undertake this endeavor to provide a forum in which films that articulate and illustrate the multiple faces of the transgender experience can be presented and featured. The directors and the films themselves impart the courage, the struggles, the vision, and the socio-political subversiveness of the trans subject position. In addition, several films depict the struggle of transgender youth. Others will address issues of HIV/AIDS and the risk for commercial sex workers. Beyond this, we strive to promote positive and empowering portraits of individuals who have survived the crippling effects of marginalization and hegemony. In spite of this, the transgender community is emerging into its own place in history as a new movement and expanding the language of gender and sex, while giving voice beyond the borders of the binary modalities of gender. Through the medium of film we can provide community awareness, support, and education.

**Without  
your support  
crossdressing  
may always  
be limited  
to a small  
area.**



Won't you help us. Please recommend membership in IFGE to a friend, give a membership as a gift or sponsor someone in need. Membership helps with outreach and education to the general public (like media) who do not have to live in closets. Isn't it about time the mockery, shame and lies be stopped.

**Call 781-899-2212 for more information  
Web Site: [www.ifge.org](http://www.ifge.org)**

# MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND THE 1999 IFGE STANDING UNITED

IFGE selected Louisville, Kentucky for their 1999 Annual Conference, to be held **March 17 - 21**, 1999, and to be hosted by BGB, Kentuckiana's TG Support and Social Group, with Dawn J. Wilson as Convention Chair. IFGE also selected Board members S. Kristine James and Alison Laing, both experienced convention planners, to be the convention management team for IFGE.

We can now announce that the IFGE STANDING UNITED Convention and TG Health and Wellness Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Louisville-Downtown, 120 W. Broadway, Louisville, Ky. This hotel is located in downtown Louisville, close to I-65 and the entertainment district, and features a free airport shuttle, ample free parking, an indoor pool, health club, and newly renovated luxury rooms. The Holiday Inn is also fully ADA-compliant, and will make special arrangements for those with special needs who make reservations by February 15. Reservations can be made now at a special IFGE room rate of \$85 per night that will be good until February 15. Call 800-626-1558 to make your reservation.

Registration for the full STANDING UNITED conference is \$180, and includes luncheons on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, a buffet and party on Friday Evening, and the Awards Banquet on Saturday Evening. People wishing to attend part of the conference may do so for lesser rates. A limited number of scholarships will be available for those in need.

Contact IFGE Convention '99, PO Box 61, Easton PA 18044-0061, 610-759-2347 for registration information. How do you get to STANDING UNITED? That's the easy part. Louisville International Airport is served by most major carriers at very reasonable

prices. Major interstate highways lead directly to Louisville from the north, south, northeast, east, and west. If you live in the East, Southeast, or Midwest, you can drive to Louisville in a day or less.

STANDING UNITED is going to feature many unique events. A TG Comedy Special will be held Wednesday Evening, featuring local and TG comedians; the cost is \$20, with proceeds going to benefit IFGE and the Louisville Pediatric AIDS Clinic. A Thursday dinner outing will be held. Friday Night will feature the "World's First TG Derby Party" - it starts with a buffet dinner, cash bar with mint juleps available, dancing, and entertainment from the Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of All Kentucky. Wear your best Derby attire! Saturday will feature a Town Hall Meeting with the Board of IFGE, where members of the audience may ask questions of the various IFGE board members. Later in the day, all regional and local TG groups are invited and encouraged to send representatives to the first meeting of the Congress of Transgendered Organizations in several years. Saturday Night will be an Awards Banquet, with music by Fourte'. Daytime tours of local attractions like the Hillerich & Bradsby Louisville Slugger Museum, the Kentucky Derby Museum at Churchill Downs, and shopping trips to local malls and boutiques are planned. BGB members regularly visit the many local clubs and restaurants, and we will be sharing our favorite places with convention goers - the night life here is vibrant and openly welcoming to transpeople, and can go on until 4am.

STANDING UNITED is not all for fun. Programs emphasizing health and wellness will make up a large part of the schedule. Health and Wellness encompasses the body, the mind, and the spirit, and seminars will be presented to

deal with each of these areas. The special health and wellness needs of F2M and M2F transsexuals, crossdressers, and supporters/significant others will be addressed. Seminars will be presented by many well-known members of the TG community, along with some new names and local resources, but all will be authorities in their fields.

We're looking forward to meeting YOU in the Derby City. In the meantime, you can practice saying the name of our city. Residents of the Derby City call it "Luavull," and the members of BGB believe that you'll call it FUN!

## **FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

IFGE Convention, P.O. Box 61, Easton, PA 18044-0061, 610-759-2347

## **FOR LOCAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

BGB: PO Box 20173, Louisville, Ky. 40250 . Digital Pager is 502-672-8613

## **BGB CONVENTION BOARD:**

Chair: D.J. Wilson  
dwils00@ukcc.uky.edu

## **OPERATIONS:**

Anne Casebeer agc@cwix.com

## **SEMINARS & PROGRAMMING:**

Marjorie Demaille  
efduhr1@pop.uky.edu

## **EVENTS:**

Cori Farrell farrellck2@aol.com

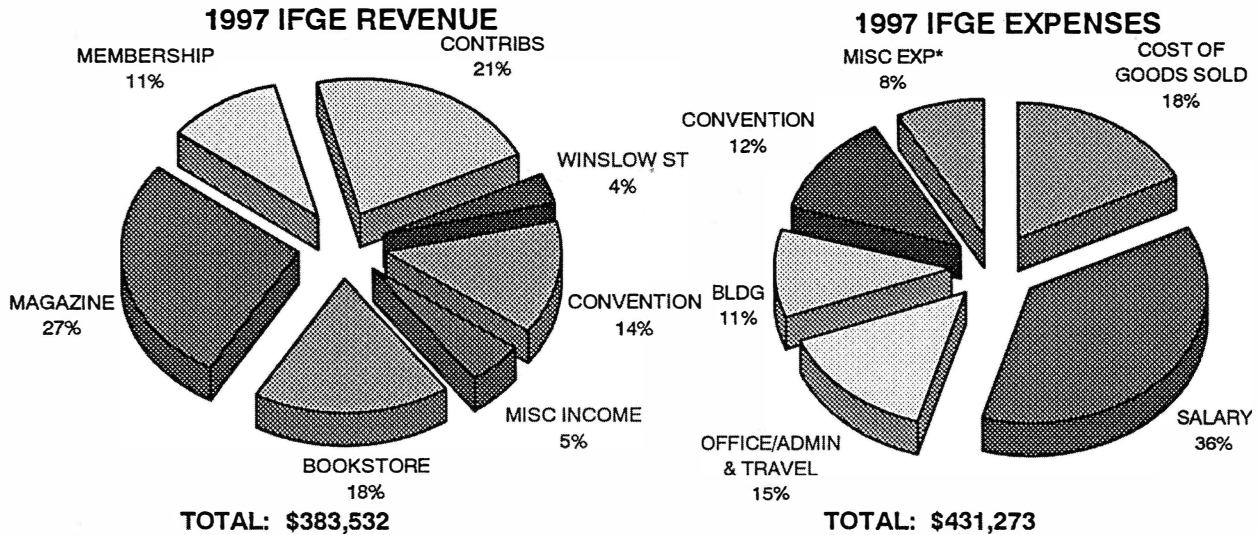
## **ENTERTAINMENT:**

Angela Bridgman  
trollopl@earthlink.net

Interested in presenting a seminar? Contact Marjorie Demaille, Secy., BGB: efduhr1@pop.uky.edu - or write her c/o BGB.

# IFGE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1997

Audited  
THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Our revenue pie chart this year is broken into seven parts. Transgender Tapestry magazine and the bookstore account for 45% of our revenue stream; membership and contributions - 32%; IFGE Convention - 14%; Winslow Street - 4%; and 5% in miscellaneous income.

Our expense pie chart is broken into six parts. Salaries, the cost to produce the magazine, and purchase publications/books make up 54% of our total expenses; office administration and building expenses account for 26%; IFGE Convention - 12%; and 8% in miscellaneous expenses.

(\*Misc. expenses are mostly due to the expensing of our obsolete magazine inventory.)

A separate annual report for the Winslow Street is available upon request.

## KEY EVENTS - HIGHLIGHTS

In January, we started using the Peachtree Accounting system. The data from this system was the basis for our first annual audit, which was completed by the summer of 1998.

In March, in conjunction with California Dreamin', we had a successful convention at the Queen Mary, in Long Beach, California.

In September, we moved to our new headquarters, 14 Felton Street in Waltham Massachusetts. We reduced our overall space by approximately one third, and reduced our rent and utility expenses by almost one half.

Nancy Nangeroni came on board as the executive director of IFGE in November. She set up the website, instituted organizational changes for the better, and aggressively solicited much needed donations.

In December, the Winslow Street Fund made a loan to the IFGE general fund of \$15,000, which has since been paid off in full with interest, and ahead of schedule.

We also had a very generous donor who helped us out during a difficult time, with a donation for the bookstore, and a loan which has since been paid off.



Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Cain  
Director of Operations

# IFGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS DUE BY JAN. 30TH, 1999

**E**ach year IFGE members (you!) have the opportunity to nominate individuals for the IFGE Board of Directors. Through nominating and voting for qualified individuals who you feel best represent your constituency, perspective and desires for IFGE's present and future course, you have the ability to directly influence your organization's policy, as well as the services it provides to the TG community.

Board members are elected to three-year terms. They serve without compensation. The Board oversees and directs IFGE affairs. It establishes policy and provides for overall operation and management of the organization.

Board members may serve as chairpersons of IFGE's action committees, including Finance, Fundraising, Nominations, Awards, Publications, and Programs & Conventions committees.

IFGE holds four board meetings each year at different TG events around the country. IFGE board members must

attend a minimum of two of these board meetings each year at their own expense. When considering potential nominees, please review whether they meet the following qualifications:

- Experience and/or competency in managing the policies of a growing, charitable organization.
- Commitment to the welfare of and service to the transgender community without consideration for personal gain.
- Pro-diversity attitude and commitment to serving the community without bias.
- Willingness to learn, sufficient self awareness to recognize and avoid personal agendas.
- Ability to exercise patience and diplomacy in the forging of consensus.

The person you nominate should be someone you know well enough to endorse their ability to work constructively within IFGE. Once you have determined whom you wish to nominate:

- 1) Send a letter of nomination to the IFGE Nominations Committee at the address below.
- 2) State why you feel they are qualified.
- 3) Include information on how we can contact the nominee.

Nominations without contact information will not be eligible for inclusion on the ballot. Remember, individuals who represent your views and interests can't be elected to next year's board if you don't nominate them.

Please send your nominations to IFGE Nominations Committee, P.O. Box 229, Waltham, MA 02454-0229 or [info@ifge.org](mailto:info@ifge.org)

## TRANSGENDERS AT RISK FOR HIV

Via Gender Advocacy Internet News (GAIN), [gain@gender.org](mailto:gain@gender.org)

**I**n a report titled "HIV Prevention and Health Service Needs of the Transgender Community in San Francisco," by Kristen Clements, MPH, Kerrily Kitano, PhD, Willy Wilkinson, and Rani Marx, PhD MPH, transgender individuals are found to be at a high risk for acquiring HIV. The report includes a study conducted from June 24 to August 8, 1996, in San Francisco.

According to the report, a small study of transgender sex workers in Atlanta found that 68% tested positive for HIV, 81% had contracted syphilis, and 80% had contracted hepatitis B. The prevalence of HIV infection was much higher than among non-transgender sex workers in the same neighborhoods. Another study found that 15% of all transgender individuals seeking hormone therapy at a San Francisco public health clinic tested HIV positive. According to the report, earlier qualitative studies cited in the report "identify psychosocial factors, such as low

socioeconomic status, social isolation, and low self esteem, that are probably associated with risk taking behaviors."

The 1996 study found that "economic necessity, as a result of severe employment and housing discrimination, results in a reliance on sex work to secure food, shelter, and money for many MTF individuals." The study findings also supported previous research that identified a cyclic pattern to sex work and drug use, and that this pattern is difficult to break. Once in this pattern, the high rates of drug use and unsafe sexual practices with multiple sexual partners puts this population at increased risk for HIV infection.

In addition, the report found that transmen and transwomen who do not engage in sex work also are at increased risk for acquiring HIV. According to the report, injection and non-injection drug use is "very common," and many transpeople "engage in unprotected sex because it makes them feel sexually validated [sic] and increases their self-esteem."

Correspondence and requests for materials relative to the study and the report should be sent to: Kristen Clements, MPH Department of Public Health, AIDS Office 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite #500 San Francisco CA 94102 email: [kristen\\_clements@dph.sf.ca.us](mailto:kristen_clements@dph.sf.ca.us)

Ms. Clements notes that the paper described here "will be published in a special issue on HIV in an electronic journal called The International Journal on Transgenderism (<http://www.symposion.com/ijt>)" in the next few months, or people can contact her at the email address given above.

In addition, the researchers of the above study recently have completed a "quantitative study of HIV infection and risk behaviors with 523 transgendered persons in San Francisco (both MTF and FTM)." While a paper has not yet been published, GAIN readers may obtain copies of the results that have been released by contacting Ms. Clements at the address above.