

THE **INGERSOLL** **MESSAGE**

INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER -- SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
DECEMBER, 1995 □ VOL. ONE □ NO 10 □ PRICE \$1.00/EA □ \$15.00/YR SUBSCRIPTION

EVENING OF "Elegance" INGERSOLL'S LARGEST PARTY -- EVER!

The approximately 200 people at this year's Holiday Happening: "Elegance" experienced a truly elegant evening. The grand ballroom of the Executive Inn was decorated with stunning holiday decorations and the many small tables held wreaths and candles. A beautifully decorated christmas tree lit up one corner of the room, and many party goers chose to have their pictures taken in front of the tree. Suzanne Adams donated her tune and talents to take pictures at one dollar apiece. All proceeds from the pictures will be used for Ingersoll programs.

Once again, the Chef of the Inn provided a wonderful and varied menu for the party. An added attraction this year, was a lighted fountain at the center of the delicious buffet! The entire staff of the Executive Inn was friendly and very helpful.

The Silent Auction tables were a big hit again, this year. There were four large tables this year compared to last year's two, and the number of items more than doubled. There were many wonderful donations to the silent auction. Among these were an autographed copy of Kate Bomstein's book "Gender Outlaw", Men's Chorus tickets, stereo dual-cassette tape player, and many compact disks. Bidding was brisk on all items and many hundreds of dollars were raised for Ingersoll.

The number and quality of gifts in the raffle topped any in previous years. There was a 21" Toshiba stereo television, a portable CD player, A large

printing order, a wrought iron Christmas tree stand, a Waxing, \$50.00 gift certificates from Victoria's Secret and Nordstrom and a Krups espresso machine

The high point of the evening was an appearance by Kate Bomstein, author, actress, activist and friend of Ingersoll. Kate presented two monologues from her one-woman show. The first was a hysterical account of her efforts to change the pitch of her voice. The second was a very touching monologue in which Kate played her own mother discussing her reactions to Kates gender change. There were many teary eyes in the room at the end of the presentation.

At this year's award ceremony, the 1995 Executive Director's Award was given to Marian Beddill, Board Secretary for her tireless efforts on behalf of Ingersoll and the Gender Community at large. The 1995 Founder's Award was presented to Pat Butler, Executive Director.

Two additional awards were instituted this year. The first is a new service award. It will be presented to volunteers and others who have made a difference at Ingersoll during the past year. This year's recipients were Lauren Keeney, Aleena Moon, David Schrierer, Lee Harris, Maxi Villafan, Lee Hefner, and Kate Bomstein.

The second new award is the Judith Botzer Memorial Award. It will be presented in memory of Marsha's mother who died this fall. Recipients of this award will be the person who has done the most to encourage an atmosphere of care and understanding in the community at large. This award, which carries a cash prize with it was presented to Jan Bianchi, President of Washington Citizens for Fairness/Hands Off Washington for all she has done to fight bigotry and hatred.

A special thank you must be given to Kimberly, Dee, Aleena, Jaymie, Marsha, Bryant, Suzarue, Angela, Pat and all others who in any way contributed to the success of the evening.

All in all, this year's Holiday Happening was filled with many "firsts" and "mosts": First live theatre offering (thanks, Kate); most people attending (200+/-), first awarding of the Judith Botzer Memorial; Most auction items (more than 50); Most raffle items ever (nine--valued at more than \$1,800). Most money raised, ever; First Volunteer award, and finally, according to what was said by those attending -- Most Fun Ever!!

SEASON'S

GREETINGS

HAPPY

NEW YEAR



*From the Board and Volunteer Staff of
Ingersoll Gender Center:*

Suzanne Adams

Kristen Langely

Marian Beddill

Howard Leonard

Marsha C. Botzer

Allison Marsh

Pat Butler

Aleena Moon

Jason Cromwell

Sara Phillips

Sonya Delasol

David Schreier

Sandra Fosshage

Rochelle Shaffer

Lee Harris

Lindsay Stein

Kimberly Holmes

Louisa Turner

Sandra Johnson

Bryant Vebrs

Denise Kolb

Jaye's Journal

By Jaye Jane Albright, Board President

My final report on the Transgender March on Washington is a report from another participant, Dee McKellar:

"Exhausting. And Exhilarating.

"Tears. Standing on the Capitol lawn with about a hundred other transgendered people, facing the television cameras for the kickoff news conference. Looking over my shoulder at that great white dome against a picture-perfect sky, and thinking about what we were about to do. I've come a long way -- no, WE'VE come a long way in the last couple of years. Today we would actually claim our citizenship.

"Surprise and reassurance. The Texas team's first appointment was with a Senator who is actively wooing the Fascist wing of the GOP in his quest for the presidency. Yet the aide who met with us was cordial, and his questions indicated both familiarity with and interest in our issues. We were to meet similar acceptance many times, in offices where we least expected it.

"Frustration. Congress was in recess for budget negotiations, so it was all too easy to claim the boss was out of town. Our real mission was to talk to the staffers, anyway. We did hear some fascinating excuses why some of them weren't available, though. 'I'd love to talk to you, but I have a meeting at 2:10.' (It was 2:04 at the time). 'I'm sorry, the person who handles those matters had to go get his car fixed. He won't be back this afternoon.' But these excuses were few in number. Only one office actually refused to accept our handout, and we weren't surprised there.

"All in all, we were received far better than we had expected. Courtesy was the rule, even in hostile office. Many Congressmen we thought of as troglodytes had aides who were positively friendly. And the friendly offices were terrific.

"The thrill of victory. We were there, we were visible, and we destroyed stereotypes. We were everywhere. The halls are mostly empty, and if you saw another group of two or more, they were probably more of us. It was wonderful.

"The agony of 'de feet'. The Congressional office buildings are big. Those marbled halls are long. And the only place to sit down is in somebody's reception area. After two days, even in sensible shoes, the 'dogs start to bark'.

"When we finished up Tuesday afternoon, four of us went sightseeing. The impressions will last forever: Being greeted by a very gay maitre de, who had been a friend of Tyra Hunter; The Lincoln Memorial, and reading his second Inaugural address. Finding a classmate's name on The Wall.

"I am overcome again."

It truly was great, and the Washington State quartet, Karen Williams, Judy Osborne, Dr. M.A. Lawrence and myself, saw more than two dozen Congresspersons and aides from Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Oregon and Colorado.

Overall, the acceptance, interest and hospitality were truly gratifying. There were less than a handful of legislators who simply stonewalled all attempts to meet with them and the positives FAR out-weighed the negatives.

My advice: Next year, go to Washington and join us! It is so wonderfully empowering!



Important Ingersoll Doings in
D E C E M B E R

All Wednesdays in December: TS Group (Referral Only) 7:30-9:30 PM
Thursdays in December : Drop-In Group (Open) 7-9 PM
All Fridays in December: TV/TS Support Group (Open) 8-10 PM
Phones answered Mondays & Fridays 6-8 pm and Saturdays 10-12 noon
There Will be no Board Meeting in the month of December
December 12: FTM Support Group 7:30-9:30 PM. First Timers must call Jason at 723-8805, or David at 859-1053 before attending. Topic for this meeting: Family Issues, Future In-Laws, Alternative Conception, Children
There Will Be No Sunday Afternoon At Ingersoll in the Month of December -- Next Sunday At Ingersoll in January, 1996
December 19: Full time, Post-Op group meeting; 7:30-9:30 PM.
December 25: INGERSOLL CLOSED



INGERSOLL ON THE THE INTERNET

e-mail: ingersol@halcyon.com

Graphics WEBBrowser:

<URL:<http://www.halcyon.com/ingersol/iihome.html>>

TEXTonly WEBBrowser:

<URL:<http://www.halcyon.com/ingersol/iihometext.html>>



From the Founder:

By Marsha Bolzer, MA



The Ingersoll fundraiser Party, this year called "Elegance" was a wonderful success. We were honored with an appearance by Kate Bornstein who presented two of her monologues. The dramatic intensity brought us a powerful experience we will not forget. Two new awards were presented during the evening., Both awards honor individuals who have contributed to Ingersoll's well being and to the success of our larger community.

I am proud of everyone who attended and everyone who helped -- we gathered to celebrate our personal successes as well as to support Ingersoll. This event becomes a focus for recalling the struggles we have each faced and the personal and professional advances we have made.

My very best wishes to each of you in the coming year.

FACILITATOR'S FORUM

By Suzanne Adams

It is the holiday season once again - for many within the "T" community this can be a depressing time of the year. Traditionally, our families; parents, siblings, spouses and friends are having their own problems dealing with or accepting us, and this is magnified during the holiday season. For those of us fortunate enough to be lovingly accepted by any of the above persons in our lives, we can count that as our best blessing. For those of us who are on the "outs" with families it is OK to be depressed, but it is more important to concentrate upon the positive things in our lives.

One of the best things to remember is the friendships formed within our community : Ingersoll associates, politically active friends, and the many helpful persons such as our therapists, doctors (and electrologists for some). Many times, these new friendships are the foundations of our new lives - lives that are full of our new awareness of ourselves and sometimes new directions in our lives. It is this chosen gender role that we so desperately need in our lives, and the enlightened people who understand (or are even part of it themselves) that make life worth living now. This is what we need to concentrate on during the holidays. And don't be afraid to pick up the phone and call some of these people in your lives - or send a Christmas/New Years/Hannakkah/solstice/Kwanzaa card - they are probably just as anxious to hear from you.



206-284-1071

For Crossdressers. Providing safe and comfortable social and educational activities, including monthly meetings and social gatherings. Safe, discreet, and confidential. A place to be all you want to be!

Instead of "New Year's Resolutions", we invite you to "Boldly Wish Where No Wish Has Gone Before"

My Wish List for 1995

I know that one way to make things happen, is to dream them -- to wish them, and to write them down. With that in mind, below are the things I wish for myself and my world for the year 1995.

Wish #1. _____

Wish #2. _____

Wish #3. _____

Wish #4. _____

Wish #5. _____

Wish #6. _____

Wish #7. _____

Wish #8. _____

Wish #9. _____

Wish #10. _____

After writing down these wishes and dreams, remove this page and put it away until December 31, 1996. Then take it out and see how many wishes and dreams you have made come true. Happy Dreams and Wishes!!

The Butler Did it!

By Pat Butler, Executive Director



Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Solstice, Kwanzaa or do not observe any holiday, this time of the year is almost electric with the spirit of caring. And why not? It doesn't matter whether one formally acknowledges this as a sacred time, it is a good opportunity for us to pause and think about those we love and care about. It is also a time to when we are given a chance to think about others who have less than we do.

In the two years I have worked with Ingersoll, I have met some very remarkable people -- people who have no place to live, no job, no personal support system such as friends and family. I have met people who are literally on the street. Often, these are people who appear to be hanging on by a thread. And yet, I have seen nearly miraculous changes occur in the lives of these people. The person who was homeless finds shelter through their own determination. The person who has had to walk everywhere for lack of bus money finds a way to get a bus pass. The person who was afraid to go outside of her/his apartment, somehow gathers the energy and courage to attend an Ingersoll function. A crossdresser makes his/her fifth call to Ingersoll and finally manages to stay on the line long enough to talk for at least a few minutes before panicking and hanging up. The T-person who has purged every three months for the last 3 years manages to go for almost a full year without throwing everything out and starting over.

These seemingly small acts of courage are everyday occurrences at Ingersoll Center. Over the door to the meeting room there is a sign which says: "Through this hallway pass some of the bravest, most strong-willed people in the world". I believe that whatever some Gender folk may lack in the materialistic sense, they certainly don't lack for the courage to keep on trying.

Happy Holidays from the Ingersoll Office



SPOTLIGHT ON PUBLICATIONS

At Ingersoll Center

BRAIN SEX: The Real Difference between Men and Women by Anne Moir, PhD and David Jessel

AT LAST THERE IS AN ANSWER TO THE EXASPERATED LAMENT, "WHY CAN'T A WOMAN BE MORE LIKE A MAN?"

"The sexes are different because their brains are different. In BRAIN SEX, geneticist Anne Moir and journalist David Jessel take you on an extraordinary journey from the sexual differentiation of the prenatal brain to the gender differences inherent in kindergarted playstyles, classroom abilities and adult attitudes toward love, sex and marriage

A startling new perspective on one of the great puzzles of human nature, this provocative work is fascinating reading for anyone who lives with, works with or is just curious about the opposite sex."

Available at Ingersoll after meetings or by mail.

At meetings: \$12.95 per copy/tax included

By Mail: \$12.95 plus \$2.50 p/h + (8.2% sales tax if app.)



The Cook's Corner

Here's two Holiday Treats, good for eating or for giving.

Applesauce-Spice Cake

3 cups flour
 1 3/4 tsp baking soda
 1 tsp each cinnamon & nutmeg
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/4 tsp cloves
 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
 1 cup packed brown sugar

1 cup granulated sugar
 2 cups applesauce
 1 tsp vanilla
 1 cup golden raisins
 1 cup chopped walnuts
 Confectioners' (powdered) sugar
 (optional)



Stir together flour, soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt and cloves; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugars until fluffy. Fold in applesauce and vanilla. Use 1/4 cup flour to toss with raisins and walnuts; set aside. Gradually stir remaining flour mixture into creamed mixture until well-blended. Fold in raisin-walnut mixture. Spoon into greased 9- or 10 inch tube pan lined on bottom with waxed paper and bake in 325 degree oven 1-1/2 hours or until cake springs back when touched lightly with finger. Cool pan on rack 20 minutes, then invert on rack, peel off paper and turn cake topside up. Cool thoroughly. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar.



Decorated Shortbread Coutouts (Rolled)

3/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
 2 cups flour
 Other candied fruits

1/4 cup sugar
 Candied red and green cherries,
 Assorted sprinkles, Silver shots

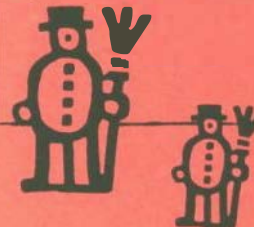
With Mixer, cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Stir in flour and mix dough with hands until smooth. Wrap airtight and chill well. Divide dough in 4 portions. On lightly floured surface roll out each about 1/4 inch thick. With cookie cutters, cut out bells, stars, candy canes, etc. place about 1 inch apart on ungreased cookie sheets and press in fruit, sprinkles and silver shots. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven 15 to 20 minutes or until bottoms are lightly brown. Remove to rack to cool. Makes about 24 cookies.

Join Us In January
 for:

**"The Holidays are
 Over, and I Don't
 Know What to Do
 With Myself...."**

**The First Sunday Afternoon
 At Ingersoll of 1996
 January 21,
 1996**

**2:00-5:00 at Ingersoll.
 Join us for Food, Prizes,
 Good Conversation, and
 more!**



INGERSOLL MESSAGE

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Suite 106

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Editorial and article contributions are welcomed

Editor Pat Butler

Contributors: Marsha Botzer,

Jason Cromwell, Suzanne Adams, Jaye Albright

Ingersoll Gender Center Board of Directors:

Jaye Albright, President Sandra Johnson PhD, Treasurer

Marian Beddill, Secretary

Marsha Botzer, MA

Suzanne Adams, MA

Christina Coiro, MA

Patrick Butler

Jason Cromwell, PhD c

Kristen Langley

Bryant Vehrs, MA

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- I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP UP WITH INGERSOLL EVENTS, PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST.
- PLEASE SEND ME AN INFORMATION PACKET (ENCLOSE \$1.00 p/h AND S A S E. [#10 BUSINESS SIZE])

