

# IFGE NEWSLETTER

International Foundation for Gender Education

Fall, 1995, Volume 1, Number 3

## First Ever F2M Convention Flies Assisted by IFGE

Over 360 female-to-male (F2M) transgendered people, along with their families, friends, medical practitioners, and psychologists, convened in San Francisco August 18-20 for the first international all-F2M gender conference held in North America. The conference, made possible by grants from a number of organizations, including IFGE, was dubbed an overwhelming success by participants. A truly international gathering, it drew members from all over the U.S., Canada, Japan, Australia, and Germany. The conference theme, "A Vision of Community," was chosen to focus participants' awareness on the fact that they are not alone in dealing with their gender issues and that unity is necessary to make improvements in the lives of F2Ms.

The gathering represented an important milestone in the transgender movement, as F2M issues are often overlooked at other gender conferences, whereas in the larger society, the commonly-held view of transgender people is that they are predominantly male-to-female (M2F). "It signals the rising awareness that people who identify as F2M will not be confined to prescribed behavior roles." In fact, according to the Harry Benjamin Gender Dysphoria Association, most clinics where sex reassignment is performed report that the applicants for the procedure are 50% F2M. According to director James Green, director of F2M International, the organization behind the conference, it is the world's largest and longest-running (since 1986) network-

## Just what does IFGE Do Anyway?

IFGE is an information clearing house - a resource for the transgendered community and for the professionals who assists them whether it be for medical, legal, or a host of other services. In each and every day that passes, there is a tremendous transfer of information about clubs and their locations throughout the world. In each and every day, advice, direction, and education is extended to the transgendered, their spouses and family members. The names and locations of physicians, psychologists, therapists are given on request. Reference to attorneys when legal services are needed are offered as well. Information is given to employers and to various governmental agencies. Requests for information from faculty members of various universities and colleges, as well as information given to the media, is a daily occurrence. The phone rings incessantly. The front door is always open. The lamps burn on into the night with staff composing articles and letters, and mailing them.

Most individuals don't know all of what is done here at IFGE headquarters, or how well it is done. Perhaps we haven't given the message that clearly. Perhaps many don't bother to learn what we do. Sometimes we overextend ourselves in the act of helping and it's perceived as inefficient or not caring. Sometimes the agendas of a few are not the agendas of the staff of IFGE and can never be, because we haven't the finances or ability to implement all the tasks. It's regrettable when we are perceived as being ineffective, inefficient and out of the mainstream. For the hundreds that benefit by our ability to help them reach their goals, that is not the perception, and that

gratifies us immeasurably. Quite often they tell us that and we appreciate it.

We appreciate also every form of help and encouragement possible whether it be a Tapestry subscription, contribution to one of our different funds. One area of contribution that is truly of benefit to IFGE is the giving to us in wills and charitable trusts. Remembering this organization in that way is of tremendous assistance and for anyone to place us in their estate planning is a phenomenal indication of confidence in what we do and what we will continue to do in our pledge to outreach and give support to our community.

I ask that all reading this consider strongly remembering IFGE in this way. I ask that any individual who is willing to make IFGE a part of their will or trust please contact me. I can establish the pathway for doing this and assist in following the guidelines we have established for such a gift. This most generous gesture will help to keep our work for our transgendered brothers and sisters always exemplary and productive.

Shelia Kirk, M.D.

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# First IFGE Area Coordinators Named

## IFGE Newsletter

**Executive Director:** Alison Laing  
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### IFGE Membership

**Basic Membership: \$25.00 per year.** Membership Newsletter, IFGE ID, voting privileges, and 10% discount on IFGE products.

**Supporting Membership: \$100.00 per year.** Basic membership, 15% discount on IFGE products, and 10% discount on IFGE-sponsored events.

**Benefactor Membership: \$500.00 per year.** Supporting membership, 15% discount on IFGE-sponsored events. \$400.00 will be treated as a contribution, and will be applied towards a life membership.

**Life Membership: \$2,500.00.** A supporting membership for life, and is based on accumulated contributions.

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As part of our program to build closer relationships with the hundreds of transgender organizations across the nation, and around the world, a call has gone out for volunteers to become local coordinators for the IFGE. These coordinators will act as liaisons and provide personal communications between IFGE and organizations in their area.

As of this writing, three individuals have volunteered to assume this important role in their areas.

**Nancy Cain**, of TCNE and Investments, will represent the Southern New England region: Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. In addition to these duties, and her other local activities, Nancy is chairing TCNE's First Event convention to be held in Woburn, Massachusetts, the last weekend of January, 1996.

The Delaware Valley will be represented by **Evelyn Kirkland**, spouse of IFGE Director MaryAnn Kirkland. Evelyn's activities reach across several organizations including Renaissance, Tri-Ess, and S.P.I.C.E. Her area of outreach for the IFGE will include Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern and Central New Jersey, and Delaware.

**Susan Sullivan**, a relative newcomer on the TG scene, has volunteered to become regional coordinator for Greater New York, perhaps the largest area, in terms of the numbers of TG people and organizations involved. This area will encompass Manhattan, Long Island, Northern New Jersey, and stretches "up river" to include all local groups that care to participate. Susan is an attorney and legal counsel for Long Island Femme Expression and the Greater New York Gender Alliance.

Besides keeping an ear out for news and opinions that are of concern to IFGE, the area coordinators will kick off 1996 with a special effort to

determine the extent of outreach activities in their communities. IFGE feels it would be beneficial to know which colleges, universities, hospitals, municipalities, and other institutions, are being briefed on the TG phenomena. This will help identify locations where outreach efforts need to be intensified, local groups that need help from neighboring groups, and any major institutions that are being left out. It will also help determine the extent of the combined efforts of the community in this critical task, which might be very impressive.

TG organizations in other regions are already discussing who they would like to see as their coordinator. A call or a short note is all it takes to recommend someone or to volunteer. The IFGE's current goal is to have at least fifteen coordinators covering the key areas of the U.S. and Canada before the end of 1995.

## About the Winslow St. Fund

Winslow Street is a fund set up solely for the benefit of the Transgender Community. Its job is to provide financial assistance for worthwhile projects. It is the only endowment of its kind, anywhere, to the best of our knowledge.

The best way to demonstrate what we do is by quoting Linda Peacock, Director of S.P.I.C.E. (Spouses and Partners International Conference for Education).

"His wife had no support group, no one to talk to and virtually no money to attend (the conference). Somehow she heard about S.P.I.C.E. and was



# SPOTLIGHT

## Educating Congress, Too

Alison Laing

Given that the primary purpose of the IFGE is to "educate", it should come as no surprise that we consider this mission in its broadest sense. We have undertaken the challenge of providing information to the members of our community through many approaches; Tapestry, book sales, and our annual convention. The IFGE is active in educating professional care givers through participation in professional mental health societies exhibitions and by direct personal communications. Local outreach is done best by local transgender groups, and IFGE will do what we can to aid and abet these organizations in their efforts to reach University students, law enforcement, and local health care givers.

There is one area of education in which we have not been particularly active until recently and that is in the

determined to come. She worked extra shifts for the money to attend. When she arrived she had \$95 and nothing more. She had no money for a room, but she was going to attend — even if she slept on the street."

With the support of Winslow Street, S.P.I.C.E. was able to give this wife a scholarship to attend the conference.

Along with S.P.I.C.E., the Winslow Street Fund has rendered assistance to the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment, the New Women's Conference, the International Congress for Gender, Crossdressing and Sex Issues, and the first FTM Conference of the Americas.

Please help Winslow Street continue to help this community.

political and government arena. While IFGE is a non-profit organization, and it is not intent on being an active lobbying force, even to the extent that the law would allow, it falls well within the scope of our primary mission to assist in the education of elected officials.

Some members of this community have already spoken up, denouncing



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Now we have  
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Now we have the  
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Now we can truly  
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the recent political activities that are much in evidence in the community's newsletters and on the Internet. (My E-mail file over runneth!) "Let's not get so involved in all this fuss," they say, claiming that all they want to do is "dress, go out and have fun."

And that's just the point! As we are all aware, crossdressing and transsexualism, in all their many splended manifestations, are receiving an incredible amount of attention in the various media. In fact, they seem to be more socially acceptable now than at any other time in modern history. It is, indeed, a great time to go out and party. But how about those who want to go to work? Or those who want to be legally united with a life-mate of his or her own choosing? And what happens if the inevitable backlash begins to crack down on the "fun" through their passing and enforcing of

laws on "toilet use" or so-called "fraudulent disguise"? How much fun are we going to have then?

NOW is the time. Now we have the challenge. Now we have the opportunity. Now we can truly make a difference in shaping the laws of the land. Whether to picket, leaflet, and or boycott — is something each individual will have to decide about on their own. But educating the people who can influence the laws that allow, control or take away our freedom is essential. Doing so must be part of the mission of the IFGE.

Join us in educating the U.S. Federal Congress. If you cannot be at Transgender Lobby and Education Days (Oct. 2 - 3, 1995), write your congressman. Ask him or her to meet with one of the TG visitors. Ask him or her, or one of their staffers, to contact IFGE if they want more information about who and what the transgender community is.

But most of all, remember it will ultimately be public acceptance that will make the difference. This is done best by direct and personal interrelations: One on one; one by one; and someday we can say, "We won!"

- Alison Laing, Executive Director

## Exciting New IFGE Member Benefits Coming!

IFGE's Abby Saypen is hard at work expanding your current membership benefits. We appreciate your support, and are looking for unique way to show our thanks. A plan is in effect to secure IFGE members discounts from the many people who offer wares to the TG community. Soon members will be able to get special discounts on publications, perhaps even clothing, video tapes, convention fees, and other products. Complete information on the first vendors to join us in this very exciting project will appear in the next issue of this newsletter.



## Notes from the Chair

Linda Buten

Most IFGE members have never visited our headquarters in Waltham Massachusetts, and we felt you might like to know a bit about its history and functions.

IFGE's first "headquarters" was a couple of small rooms above "Vernon's", a TV boutique in Waltham. It was crowded but the rent was reasonable. At the time, the staff consisted only of Merissa Sherrill Lynn and Yvonne Cook-Riley — with the assistance of volunteers.

In the mid-1980s through the early 1990's, new transgender organizations and clubs were being born every month, as a result, IFGE's outreach and work load was growing at a rapid pace.

Our Board of Directors realized there was a need for a larger and improved headquarters. *Tapestry* was being published on the average of about two to three times a year, with no real consistency in its scheduling. The board felt that the magazine should be issued quarterly — and on time. To do so would require the presence of a full-time editor and a graphic artist. In addition, part time and volunteer workers like Holly Cross, Joan Hoff, Blanche Richards, and others would all need places to work. Storage for books and *Tapestry* also became necessities, along with an area for distribution and bulk mailings. At the same time, Sheila Kirk, announced that she wanted to come to work as IFGE's medical liaison.

A subcommittee appointed by the Chair located a building for rent a few blocks down the street from the old headquarters. It was three floors and had everything we needed. Better yet, the board negotiated an unheard of rate of \$6/sq.ft., well below half the average rate in the area. However, bottom line costs would still

be much higher than our previous location. At that time, however, the picture seemed rosy. Growth in the transgendered community was on a strong up-curve. The organization also had backers who promised to help us out, in case we got in too deep. With this in mind, the BoD decided the signs were favorable.

Then the unexpected happened. Growth in the transgender community leveled off, and many older established groups reported a decline in membership. IFGE suddenly found itself facing some tough decision-making. Should we mail out 1000 free *Tapestry*s to the helping professionals — or pay the rent? One answer was to limit our expenses in outreach. Though we still wanted to teach the world, we now had to aim at realistic goals.

Immediately a cry went out from our more vocal critics to move out of the office some place cheaper. But this was easier said than done, with the

original five year lease only half-complete. Until then, our best approach to financial security would be controlled costs and spending, along with a good donor base and increased sales of *Tapestry* and our other publications. All these ideas were implemented successfully, the picture is improving, and nothing important has been sacrificed.

Since we plan to remain here at 123 Moody St. for the foreseeable future, the IFGE Board of Directors, and staff, invite you to visit us here and see our headquarters. The Board will be meeting at the office the last weekend in January, and plans to have a special open house for all IFGE members that Saturday. Drop in and see for your self just how we operate. That weekend is also the Tiffany Club's annual "First Event", with our own Alison Laing as featured speaker and *Tapestry Journal* editress-in-chief, Jean Marie Stine, serving as toastmistress — which gives you another good reason to join us then. Set the time aside now, and join us the last weekend of January 1996.

Linda Buten, Chair, IFGE Board of Directors

### SPICE in Memphis

Evelyn Kirkland

Memphis, Tennessee, the home of Elvis and Graceland, hosted the 3rd annual SPICE, from July 26th - July 30. Attended by approximately seventy registrants and several presenters, this SPICE was as successful as the previous two. SPICE is a spouses and partners gathering aimed at helping genetic females involved with transgendered men. It offers a program for the men but is focused on allowing their spouses and partners the space they need to deal with their relationship. Professional presenters facilitate the spouse/partners as they develop their own sense of self-worth and well-being.

This year's presenters included B. J.

Seymour, M.S.W., who talked about the many inner selves in each of us; Sandra Cole, Ph.D., who encouraged us to stay healthy and sexy; and Peggy Rudd, Ph.D., who spoke so eloquently and lovingly about how to build love and intimacy and how to heal the pain in our relationships. Phil VanMaris, M.D., delivered a presentation on the pros and the cons of hormone therapy in the female and the male body to a joint session of attendees. Gil Fairfax, M.D., and Joe Roberts, Ph.D., presented a program on the pros and cons of should you tell your children and, if so, how and when.

Also on a new tack this year, we experimented with exchanging problems and issues. The women listed their three biggest problems with transgenderism and the men

## SPICE (continued)

listed their three biggest complaints with their spouses/partners. A joint session, facilitated by Joe Roberts, Phil VanMaris, and Sandra Cole, strove to find solutions and common ground. Interestingly enough, all issues seemed to boil down to some type of communication issue. Even though no resolutions resulted from this often heated session, new ideas and feelings surfaced and had to be faced by many in the room.

Two members of the SPICE board, Linda Peacock and Diana Sexton, completed the presentations to the women. B.J. Seymour, Sandra Cole, Joe Roberts, Phil VanMaris, and Jim Kirkland facilitated programs for the men. Sunday morning closed with a beautiful session on "Religious Issues," led by Rev. Gary Helms.

SPICE is much more than just a conference. It is a gathering of women involved in transgendered relationships to share their common joys and sorrows, victories and pains. Spouses/partners, learn that they need never be alone. Bonding and strong friendships have emerged from SPICE. There is always a shoulder to cry on and an ear to listen to your successes - no matter where in the country you live.

The site of the 4th SPICE will to be determined in the very near future. For further information on SPICE contact Linda Peacock, PO Box 24031, Little Rock, AR 72221 or  
- Evelyn Kirkland, Chair, SPICE

## IFGE Reception at

### Fall Harvest

There's a real treat planned for all IFGE members who attend, or join, at this year's Fall Harvest convocation in St. Louis (Oct. 26-29). We'll be hosting a special reception for members only as a "thank you" to show our appreciation for your support during this, our first year as a membership based organization. Be sure to join us there!

# The Virginia Prince & Trinity Awards

**Winnie Brant**

The beginning of the transgender community can be traced back to Virginia Prince. She was soon followed by others brave enough to stick their necks out of the closet. Soon after the inception of the Coming Together Convention, it seemed a suitable forum for recognizing pioneers of the TG community. To this end, the Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award was instituted in 1987 and first given to Virginia herself. The VPLCA honors a member of the transgender community who has been instrumental in its development and has served actively for at least ten years.

Many other TG individuals have followed, giving of themselves to further the cause. Some have been active only in their local region; others were particularly courageous in undertaking one specific deed; still others are not transgendered themselves, but professionals, spouses or partners who lent their individual skills to support and assist the. It was to recognize all these that the Trinity Award was established in 1991. This award is recognized in the TG community as second only to the Virginia Prince Award in prestige.

The task of seeking nominations for these awards, and conducting the annual elections, was given to the IFGE Nominations Committee (renamed the Nominations & Awards Committee), originally formed to supervise the election of the IFGE Board of Directors. Nomination of candidates is open to any member or friend of the transgender community, whether or not associated with the IFGE; nomination forms are sent to those on a mailing list kept by IFGE. The duty of the N&A Committee is limited to a coarse-sieve screening of the nominees for the awards, along with preparation of the ballots and counting the returns. Voting for the candidates is passed to the Selections Academy, a group of 24-36 experienced and respected members and friends of the transgender

community, many of whom are not associated with IFGE. To minimize potential bias, current members of the IFGE Board and the N&A Committee are excluded from the Selections Academy.

Everyone in the TG community is able to nominate and vote on the Virginia Prince and Trinity awards. However, the Selections Academy picks recipients of the VPLC and Trinity Awards. As a group of active, experienced members of the transgender community, they are in an excellent position to decide who is deserving of such awards. We endeavor to maintain diversity with minimum bias, and are seeking to add some new people this year. We are open to your suggestions.

Recently, some changes have been made in the criteria for award candidates. Deceased individuals, organizations, and events are no longer considered eligible for the Trinity Award, as only a few have been nominated in the past. However, the Trinity Award is still open to couples or small groups of individuals. We are also asking each nominator to restrict themselves to only one nominee for a Trinity Award. Also, those making nominations are being asked to prepare a supporting statement suitable for placing directly on the ballot.

At the time when the Award was instituted, there was a backlog of many deserving candidates, and it became customary to award six each year. The N&A Committee feels that this backlog is now closing and that the number must be reduced to maintain the quality and prestige of the Award. We are now recommending that the number of Trinity Awards be reduced to between three and six each year.

**Winnie Brant**, Chair of the IFGE Nominations and Awards Committee

# **\$ IFGE Financial Report**

## **At 600+, Membership Drive Continues Surge**

**Laura Caldwell**

While memberships are still pouring in, we at IFGE want to share with you our excellent progress in all categories of our drive. As of August 21st, we had reached 549 members: 13 benefactors, 98 supporting, and 438 basic members. By September 11, that number had reached 600 plus!

All of us at IFGE are gratified and pleased with the response of the transgendered community to our campaign! The pie chart shown at right (*chart 1*) breaks down the revenue stemming from each category:

We are heartened by the revenue representation achieved, which was part of our original plan to have all economic groups participate.

What is even more encouraging is the source of participation, defined on the basis of new donors (no previous record of giving), renewal donors (record of giving over the past eighteen months), and reinstated donors (giving prior to the past eighteen months). The pie chart at right (*chart 2*) below shows this distribution:

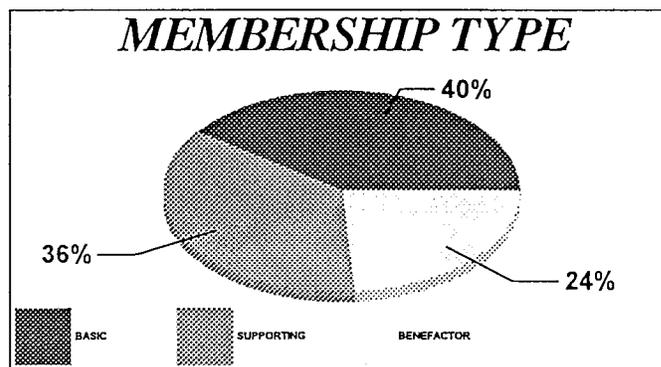
We have been successful in reaching out to many new friends, while retaining many of our old friends, as well.

The membership distribution by state is of even greater interest (*chart 3*):

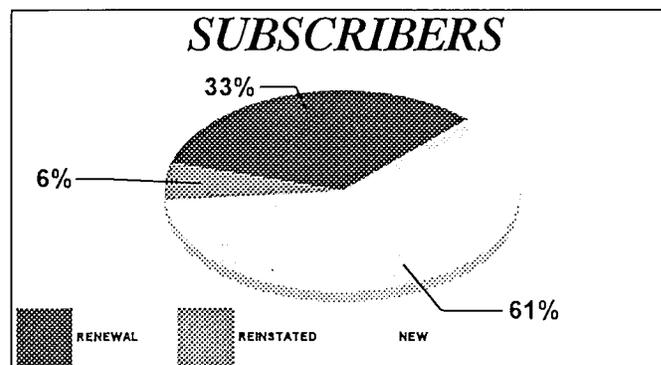
California is our biggest state, followed by Massachusetts and New York, with Illinois and Ohio tied for fourth place.

Basically, we made one initial mailing (8300) to our entire mailing list, and followed that with two selected mailings (2000) to old friends. We still have a mailing targeted to our Canadian friends to make, and another aimed at our brothers and sisters in other nations.

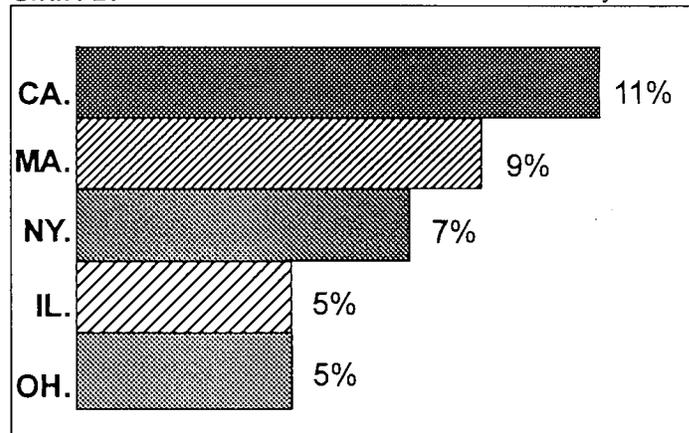
With these actions, our first year as a membership organization will be completed. It is entirely possible our final membership total for 1995 will reach 900 plus.



**Chart 1:** TOTAL \$27,725 Note: as of 9/95



**Chart 2:** Note: as of 9/95



**Chart 3:** Geographic Distribution by State

It is all of you who have made this success possible, and we want to thank those members already on board, and those soon to join, for your participation, commitment, and support.

- Laura Caldwell, Chair, Finance Committee

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# Transvestism NO LONGER Termed Illness IFGE Efforts Pay Off

In May of 1995, the American Psychiatric Association adopted changes recommended by Dr. George R. Brown, an associate professor of psychiatry, that recognized crossdressing as a harmless practice. Until then, the APA Diagnostic Standards Manual had classified all transvestite behavior as a mental disorder — regardless of circumstances. Dr. Brown's efforts were supported, and encouraged, by the IFGE, through the efforts of our own Dr. Shelia Kirk and Yvonne Cook-Riley.

Briefly, what Dr. Brown accomplished was this: Prior to the publication of the new DSM-IV, the mere act, or intent fantasy, of crossdressing resulted in a psychiatric diagnosis, even if crossdressing was not responsible for any problems or disabilities. Dr. Brown had argued for over a decade, based on his experiences with the transgendered community, that the same standards of health and illness should be applied to those who crossdress as to any other medical or psychiatric condition. The fact that a person crossdresses does not, in and of itself, he claimed, constitute a behavior or wish that is pathological or diagnosable. And, a crossdresser can now only be consid-

ered to have a mental disorder, if he or she demonstrates one of the "3 D's" of diagnosis:

- 1) Distress
- 2) Disability (occupational or otherwise)
- 3) Dare-deviling (high risk behavior likely to lead to physical injury, loss of job, family disruption, imprisonment)

Note that the fourth D, "deviance" is specifically excluded by the APA as a basis for rendering a diagnosis. Just because society does not accept crossdressing behaviors is, the APA concluded, not a sufficient reason to label a person with a psychiatric diagnosis. This represents a major conceptual shift in American psychiatry. Implicitly organized psychiatry has signed on to the "transgendered bill of rights."

Of course, some crossdressers do have psychological disability and warrant a diagnosis. Among the readers of this piece, simply put, are three groups of crossdressers, two of whom do not have a problem, and one group that does.

- 1) Those who currently crossdress without damaging their lives in any major ways, but may have not

matured and grown to the point where being a crossdresser is celebrated as a gift - the ability to sample life's adventures from multiple perspectives.

- 2) Those whose crossdressing is currently troubling and has caused major problems in life, in love, leisure, or job, possibly because it is an aspect of their life that is totally out of control and poorly accepted within themselves.

- 3) Those whose crossdressing is neither troubling nor out of control but it conflicts with spouse, family, or some other part of society. They may crossdress discreetly — but they engage in no high risk behavior.

Diagnostically, the first and third groups do not warrant a diagnosis (the third group's conflict is with society, which is itself often wrong, rather than the individual). But the second group does have a legitimate diagnosis as mentally disturbed, because their crossdressing is out of control and causing major life disruptions.

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## IFGE '96 Convention Its Your Show!

Our 10th annual convention is truly your show. It belongs to the members and friends of IFGE who have provided the support and commitment to get us to our 10th birthday party. We expect to break all attendance records for an event of this nature.

Minnesota is the most progressive state in respect to human rights and Minneapolis is almost equal distance from each coast and within a four hour flight from anywhere in the country.

Check our brochure to see just how inexpensive this event really is. If two or three "first timers" register as being from the same address, everyone gets a 25% discount. If you are alone, we'll even try to find a compatible roommate. We'll even provide a

big sister to show you the ropes. Early registrants are eligible to win a cash prize equal to their registration fee (see Tapestry #74, Oct. 1996 for details).

Don't miss our special TG art show (enter it if you are an artist), where attendees can exhibit and sell their art. Even if you have been to most or all of our previous conventions, this one will be VERY special.  
Jane Fee, Convention Chair

## F2M Convention

(continued from pg. 1)

ing and information group for and about F2M crossdressers, transgenderists and transsexuals.

F2Ms, including all transgendered women "who identify with a masculine self-concept to varying degrees have long been marginalized by society, either because they are assumed to be lesbians, or because they fit into the masculine model so well they are virtually invisible in society," says James Green. "In either case, F2Ms are different from other men and women. We have a different view of the world, we have a different experience of gender and of social development than non-transitioning people, regardless of sexual orientation."

To cap the conference, Mayor Frank Jordan officially proclaimed Aug 18-20, "F2M Conference Weekend in San Francisco."

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## Shelia Kirk & ICCSGI

The 2nd International Congress on Crossdressing, Sex and Gender Issues (ICCSGI) kicks off next year, IFGE's own Dr. Shelia Kirk and Dr. Vern Bullough as co-chairs of the Program Committee. The ICCSGI is a world-wide event with enormous implications for the TG community. Dr. Kirk's appointment by JoAnn Roberts, the Steering Committee co-chair, helps keep IFGE at the forefront of the tremendous changes — and activism — currently sweeping the TG world. Last year's Congress was a huge success and a giant step forward toward the community's recognition by medical and mental health care professionals, as well as mainstream society. We're sure that with Drs. Kirk and Bullough helming the Program Committee, next year's Congress will be as big a success.

## IFGE Spring Meeting Very Productive

The IFGE board meetings of the past have run the gamut in the expenditure of emotions and time. We have had meetings that lasted only three hours and others that have tied Board of Directors to the table for as long as two days. We have had hilarious moments and we have had times with tears, arguments, and heart wrenching interchanges. Board members give voluntarily of time, money (paying their own expenses to attend various locations four times per year), and their vast expertise and fund of knowledge.

In our last meeting in June, at the Be All event, a host of important considerations were covered, including:

- 1) A revision of the criteria and mechanism for selection of members of the board, Trinity awardees, and the Virginia Prince recipient. Ms. Winnie Brant is the chair of that committee and is in the midst of sending appropriate ballots and directives to voting members (along with an explanation of the revisions).
- 2) Further development of the planned program for the 1996 IFGE convention in Minneapolis. The Program Committee, chaired by Ms. Maryann Kirkland, is working actively with the general chair for the convention, Jane to make this an outstanding convention. Social events and educational tracks are being developed to provide some truly wonderful experiences.
- 3) Discussion of IFGE participation in the Internet. IFGE has logged on the worldwide web and is continuing an ongoing presentation to the many thousands who surf the net.
- 4) A financial report given by Ms. Laura Caldwell of the Budget/Finance Committee. Among the highlights: the Winslow Street Fund, invested in various commodities, is earning money enough to offer grants each year of sizable amounts. In 1995 at the annual IFGE convention, \$3,000 in grant money was awarded to SPICE, the Annual Law Conference, and a very innovated event, the F-M International Convention, soon to be held in San Francisco. Several other recipients were included as well. "It's a fact not appreciated by a great many in the transgendered community," stated Ms. Caldwell, "that since its inception the Winslow Street Fund has given over \$10,000 in grants to help individuals and organizations continue their work for the community. The money put into this fund for this express purpose by IFGE initially was \$30,000. This is a very considerable amount. Donations in small amounts are still made to this fund. But one very important fact must be emphasized. That money can never be used by IFGE for any other purpose. And it certainly can not be used to soften IFGE's budgetary needs! In fact, this organization could be free of its financial difficulties if it had that money. Instead, IFGE has put that amount to work in an investment plan to benefit the community, and at times finds difficulty in securing adequate income to meet its monthly expenses. I ask you, is this service to the community? — I think it is," states Ms. Caldwell.
- 5) IFGE's participation in various professional conventions, in specific, the American Psychiatric Association meetings, the American Psychological Association meetings, the Social Worker's Convention, and the Society of Sexologists Conferences. IFGE's past successes in attending these conferences attest to our need to remaining involved on a yearly basis in all four of these. However, there is also a need to plan for cost and probable participation with other community groups.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held in late October at the Fall Harvest event in St. Louis.