Boston-area-oriented transgender history:

1910: Magnus Hirschfeld coins the term “transvestite.”[1] A pioneering advocate for transgender persons,[2] he arranged the first documented sex-change surgery in 1931.[3]

1952: Virginia Prince (and others) publish the first issue of *Transvestia*, the first overtly political transgender publication in U.S. history. [4]

December 1, 1952: Christine Jorgensen's sex reassignment surgery becomes an international sensation[5], creating widespread awareness of transsexualism.[6]

1961: Virginia Prince, in Los Angeles, founds the first long-lasting transgender organization in the U.S., starting with the "Hose & Heels Club," which evolves into the national organization Full Personality Expression (FPE).[7]

1966: Transgender patrons react violently against police harassment at Compton's Cafeteria in the tenderloin district of San Francisco, resulting in the first institutional change resulting from trans protest.[8]

1968: The Boston-area Gamma chapter of FPE is formed under the leadership of Linda Franklin, Betsy Shaw, and Paula Neilson, meeting at a member’s apartment in Framingham.[9]

1969: Transgender patrons, including Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, lead riot against police harassment at the Stonewall Inn in New York City.[10]

---

[1] *Transgender History* by Susan Stryker, Seal Press, Berkeley 2008, p 16

[2] *Stryker*, p. 39

[3] *Stryker*, p. 39

[4] *Stryker, p. 46-47*

[5] *Stryker*, p. 47

[6] Introduction by Susan Stryker, *Christine Jorgensen: A Personal Autobiography*, page *v*, “…she helped introduce the word ‘transsexual’ into the American vocabulary.”

[7] *Stryker*, p. 54-55

[8] *Stryker*, p. 63

[9] www.tcne.org

[10] *Stryker*, p. 82-86

1960s-70s: A Wives Support Group meets in the home of lay minister Francis Craig. They publish a newsletter called “Lips of Francis.”

1972: Gender Identity Services, a support group, is founded by Deborah Finebloom, meeting in Boston. The group expired within a year after being sued by a member. Several members helped form the XX club in Hartford.

1973: Gamma Chapter becomes the Cherrytones Club, meeting at Dorothy Dean’s apartment at 500 Columbus Avenue, Boston.

1973: The XX (Twenty) Club is formed in Hartford by Rev. Canon Jones and Helen Hyde, to support pre and post-operative Transsexuals. This group is still functioning.

1974: The Outreach Institute is formed by Ariadne Kane.

1975: Merissa Sherrill Lynn joins Cherrystone Club.

1975: Minneapolis passes the first local anti-discrimination law protecting transgender people. [11]

October, 1975: The first Fantasia Fair is held in Provincetown, organized by Ari Kane, bringing together diverse individuals from around the country and the world, and involving the local community.

1976: Cherrystone Club moves to 65 Chester Street, Allston, Kay Campbell’s apartment.

1977-8: Cherrystone Club splits into two groups, support and social. The social group, led by Kay Campbell, became the Kay Mayflower Society, and moved to Allston. They gradually evolved into an Alternate Lifestyle club, and dissolved in 1985. The support group becomes the Tiffany Club, holding its first meeting of December of 1978 at the home of Merissa Sherrill Lynn in Hampton Beach, NH. The Tapestry newsletter was first published in 1978.

1980: BAGLY formed, Grace Sterling Stowell joins and becomes early leader.

Nov 1, 1980: Tiffany Club holds first “out of house” party at the Waltham Comfort Inn.

Dec, 1980: Merissa appears on local TV program “People are Talking.”

January 1981: Tiffany Club holds its first “First Event” at the Waltham Comfort

---

[11] Transgender Law and Policy Institute, www.transgenderlaw.org/ndlaws, maintained by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, Boston, MA

Inn.

1981: Tiffany Club purchases the Wayland house for its meetings, rents out rooms to meet mortgage payments.

1981: The support group Open Door is formed by Charlene Kirby in Bedford, MA, for the express purpose of supporting pre and post-operative Transsexuals.

1984: Tiffany Club Wives Support Group formed.

1984: BAGLY gets its 501c3

April, 1986: TCNE is sued by neighbor for depressing property value. At a public hearing, all the neighbors testified on behalf of TCNE, which prevailed.

1986: Lou Sullivan, in San Francisco, organizes the first FTM-only support and education organization in the U.S.[12], soon becoming FTM International, the first national support organization for male-to-female transgender people.

March, 1987: The first IFGE conference is held in Chicago, organized by Merissa Sherril Lynn and the Chicago Gender Society.

March, 1987: The Tiffany Club's 501c3 is evolved into IFGE, with the Tiffany Club becoming the Tiffany Club of New England, in order to speed IFGE's formation. The International Foundation for Gender Education is founded by Merissa Sherrill Lynn, and Tapestry becomes the first international journal on transgender issues, on March 8, 1987.[13] IFGE located in a space above Vernon's on Moody Street in Waltham.

March, 1990: The 4th annual IFGE conference is held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Natick.

Feb 1992: TCNE particpipates in Harvard's Hasty Pudding Club event.

June 1992: TCNE establishes electronic bulleting board for membership. Remains in place until Oct 1997.

June, 1992: TCNE reaches a favorable settlement in MCAD case against Colonial Hilton in Wakefield following their derogatory refusal to renew an event contract.

1992: Phyllis Frye organizes the first annual International Transgender Law and

---

[12] *Stryker,* p. 119

[13] IFGE website, www.ifge.org

Employment Conference in Houston Texas, a series of gatherings that spurred widespread legal activism and led to the founding of the national political lobby group, 'It's time America."[14]

1993: Minnesota passes the first statewide anti-discrimination law protecting transgender people.[15]

1993: The novel "Stone Butch Blues," by Leslie Feinberg, is published, dramatizing the plight of gender-queer people born female and reaching a “large and appreciative international audience.”[16]

March 1993: Institute of Contemporary Art exhibits “Dress Codes, A Celebration of Cross-Dressing in Contemporary Life,” with trans community input and participation.

May 1995: Transgender activists demonstrate at the Brandon Teena murder trial in Falls City, Nebraska[17], kicking off a nationwide series of protests against anti-trans violence and injustice[18]. Participant Kimberly Pierce goes on to produce an award-winning film about the murder, "Boys Don't Cry."[19]

June 1995: The activist GenderTalk Radio begins airing in Cambridge, MA, in 1997 becoming the only international trans-hosted talk show on transgender issues.[20]

Nov 1995: Community gathering for murdered transsexual Chanelle Pickett is held at Arlington Street Church. Candlelight vigil proceeds to the state house, where NRN says “There’s nobody there now. That’s the way it’s always been for us transgender folks.”

---

[14] *Transgender Nation* by Gordene Olga MacKenzie, Bowling Green State University Popular Press 1994, p. 165

[15] Transgender Law and Policy Institute, www.transgenderlaw.org/ndlaws

[16] *Stryker*, p. 124

[17] Personal email containing press release from event organizer Davina Anne Gabriel, May 18, 1995

[18] “Transgenderism '95: A New Day Dawns“ by Nancy Nangeroni, in *Sojourner, the Women’s Forum*, Feb 1996

[19] *Wikipedia*: Boys Don’t Cry (film),

[20] “GenderTalk – A Labor of Love”, in *Pinned Down by Pronouns*, by Nancy Nangeroni & Gordene O. MacKenzie, edited by Toni Amato and Mary Davies, Conviction Books 2003, pages 109-112

1996? Trans- and Intersex activists demonstrate at Hynes Convention Center.

Date? Trans activists demonstrate in Haverhill outside courthouse during trial for murder of Deborah Forte.

Jan 1997: Cambridge passes amendment to city Human Rights ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity or expression.

Jan-Apr 1997(?): On 3 separate dates, trans activists demonstrate outside of Middlesex County Courthouse on behalf of murdered transsexual Chanelle Pickett.

Nov 1998: Candelight vigil for murdered transsexual woman of color Rita Hester in Allston, MA inspires the international Transgender Day of Remembrance, observed each year since, on November 20.[21]

Dec 1998: Trans Activists demonstrate outside offices of Bay Windows, protesting disrespectful references to murdered transsexual Rita Hester.

Mar 12, 2001: It's Time Massachusetts founder Penni Ashe dies of cancer, missing her award ceremony for IFGE's Trinity Award, and is buried in male clothing by unsympathetic relatives.

Oct 2002: The murder of transgender teenager Gwen Araujo draws nationwide media attention to violence against transgender persons.[22]

Dec 2002: Boston passes amendment to city Human Rights ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity or expression.

2003: The National Center for Transgender Equality is founded, establishing an ongoing transgender lobbying presence in Washington, D.C.[23]

September 2009: 13 States, the District of Columbia, and more than 93 cities and counties have passed laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender

---

[21] "Media Coverage of the Murder of U.S. Transwomen of Color," By Gordene O. MacKenzie and Mary Marcel, in *Local Violence, Global Media: Feminist Analyses of Gendered Representations*, Peter Lang Publishing 2009 New York, www.peterlang.com, p. 94

[22] *MacKenzie & Marcel*, p. 95

[23] National Center for Transgender Equality website, www.nctequality.org/About/about.html

identity or expression.[24]

November 2011: Governor Deval Patrick signs the Transgender Equal Rights Act making Massachusetts the 15th state to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity. Significantly, coverage for public accommodations is omitted in the face of fierce opposition labeling the effort as “The Bathroom Bill.”

[24] Transgender Law and Policy Institute, www.transgenderlaw.org/ndlaws