

Short Bio for Joanne Herman

Since her transition to live as a female in 2002, Joanne Herman has been active as a spokeswoman for transgender awareness and understanding. Joanne is the author of the new book *Transgender Explained For Those Who Are Not* and a blogger for *The Huffington Post*. She is the first transgender person ever elected to the Boards of Directors of Fenway Health, Point Foundation, and GLAD, the first transgender member of historic Old South Church in Boston, and one of the first openly transgender alumnae of Dartmouth College as a graduate of Dartmouth's last all-male class. Joanne lives in Boston with her fiancée Theresa (Terry) Fallon.

Long Bio for Joanne Herman

After almost half a century living as a male, Joanne Herman transitioned in 2002 to live as a female in order to resolve a gender incongruity she had felt for as long as she remembers. She has since been active as spokeswoman for transgender awareness and understanding.

Joanne's book *Transgender Explained For Those Who Are Not* was released in the fall of 2009. Her book features short, easy-to-read explanations suitable for parents, relatives, colleagues, friends, allies and even journalists who want to quickly get up to speed on what it means to be transgender. Joanne blogs regularly about transgender issues for [The Huffington Post](#). Additionally, Joanne is:

- The first transgender member of the Board of Directors of [Fenway Health](#), the largest LGBT-focused health center in the world. The waiting area of the Women's Health floor of Fenway's Health's new home is named in Joanne's honor.
- The first transgender member of the national Board of Directors of [Point Foundation](#), the national LGBT scholarship fund, where she is Treasurer and Co-Chair of the organization's Finance Committee.
- The Founding Chair of the Transgender Rights Project Founders' Circle of [GLAD](#), the New England LGBT legal rights organization. She previously served as the first transgender member of GLAD's Board of Directors, including positions as Treasurer in 2008 and Clerk in 2006.
- The first openly transgender member of the congregation of [Old South Church in Boston](#) (United Church of Christ), the same church where Benjamin Franklin was baptized and Samuel Adams served as a deacon. Joanne served on Old South's Finance Committee from 2006-2008.
- One of the first openly transgender alumnae of [Dartmouth College](#), as a graduate of the last all-male class. Dartmouth's then-President Jim Wright awarded her a Class of 1975 diploma in her new name in 2006.

In 1975, when her name was Jeff, Joanne married Barbara Wermeyer (Smith '75) at the Smith College chapel. After Joanne underwent sex-reassignment surgery in 2003, Barbara willingly stayed with Joanne. Barbara helped Joanne get established in her new life while Joanne helped Barbara battle a rare form of cancer known as carcinoid. Joanne was widowed from Barbara in 2006 after thirty years of marriage.

Joanne holds a BA in Government and Economics from Dartmouth and an MS/MBA from Northeastern University. She is currently Financial Controller at New England Foundation for the Arts and lives in Boston with her fiancée, Theresa (Terry) Fallon. Joanne is also fluent in French and an avid bowler.