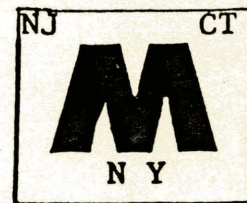


Tri-Ess Sorority

our Special JOY



Metro

Vol. II, No. 9

CHI DELTA MU Chapter

Sept-Oct, 1982

Editorial

This issue of OUR SPECIAL JOY is our anniversary issue, for the first newsletter was published in October, 1981.

I personally want to thank all you sisters, wives, and girlfriends who have contributed your articles, comments, thoughts, etc. Also, I want to thank Nora Helene on behalf of all sisters for the effort she has and is making in producing O. S. J. and other material for us. Without her effort we would not be where we are!

This effort ("sisterwork" ?), is what makes for a good newsletter, and hence, a good organization.

I hope that you will continue to contribute items for publication, and that perhaps we will see some new sisters share their feelings and thoughts in the newsletter in the months to come. Lets face it, we are a unique group of folks. Sharing our feelings, concerns, hopes, etc., with others WHO ARE JUST LIKE OURSELVES is very important for all of us.

Regretfully, I could not write an issue for both September and October due to personal concerns. We're back on schedule now, and monthly issues will resume in November. Enjoy!

Radio & TV

We are very happy to announce that Dr. Judith Kuriansky, Ph.D. will have as a topic hetero crossdressing on her program. It will be aired on October 20th, on WABC AM Radio (770 frequency). Our sister, Eileen and wife Priscilla, and perhaps others will be on the program! WABC carries a wide area (to the mid West and South), so we may have a fantastic response. All inquiries will be directed to Carol, in California, as this is the organization's policy. Be prepared, for we will need sisters to help us with inquiries. Thanks much to Eileen and Priscilla for doing a most important service for us and all other sisters!!!



OUR SPECIAL JOY/Sept-Oct, 1982

Chapter Promotion & Activities

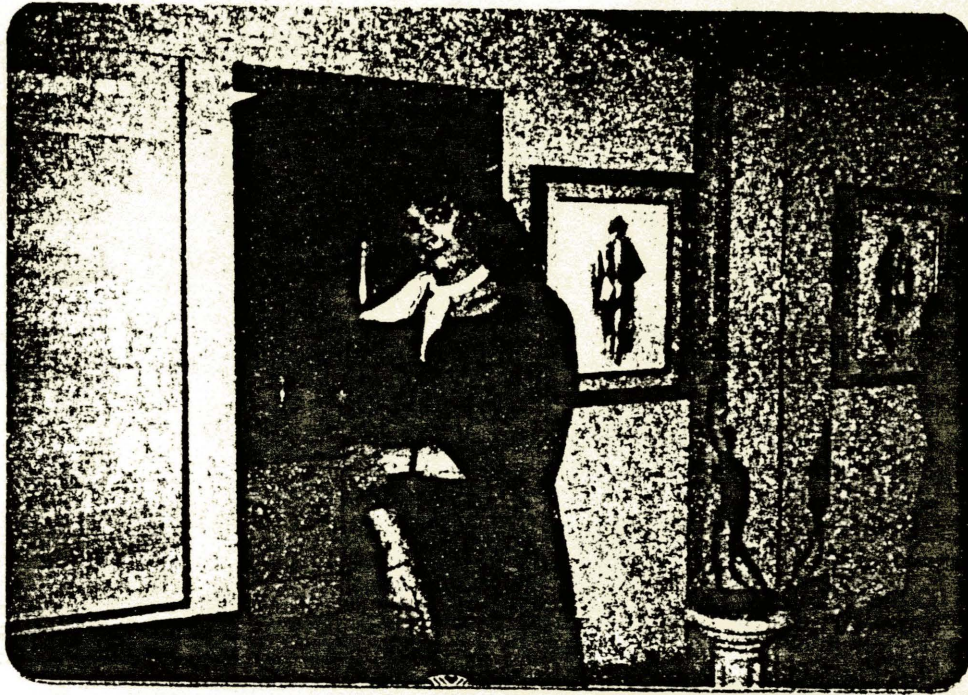
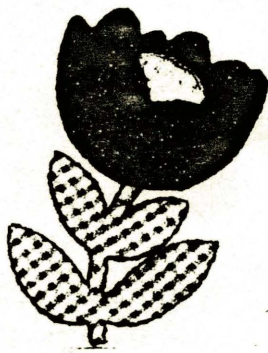
...Our September meeting was certainly a significant event! Our guests, Dr. Judith Kuriansky and her assistant, Amy, were most welcomed. I regret that I could not attend due to our move. I trust that Dr. Judith and Amy learned a lot about us, and that those in attendance also benefited in a similar manner. As always, the Chapter meeting is open to those professionals who want to learn of true facts about us!

...We are most gratified that Dr. Judith will have a program about us, and that members/wives will participate! This is a real "plus" for our Chapter.

...A notice was sent concerning our October 9th meeting in New Jersey. Our November meeting will be on the 13th, at which we hope to have a makeup demonstration and participation by sisters through Merle Norman of Ft. Lee, New Jersey. Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, unless notified of other arrangements.



Ladies attending the September meeting are as follows (front row): Frances, Nora Helene, Priscilla (wife of Eileen), Dr. Judith Kuriansky of WABC Radio, and Amy, an assistant of Dr. Judith. Back row: Barbara (NY-307-B), Lynda, Wilma, Jana (10-201-T who has moved to our area and who hopefully will join the Chapter), Eileen, Marilyn (wife of Lynda), and Patricia.



Treasurer's Report

We have had no financial activity in the month of August, so our July 31st status of ending cash balance is the same as August 31st, and, therefore, the opening balance on September 1st.

Beginning cash balance (9/1).....	\$138.67	
Receipts		
Meeting fees.....	20.00	
Contributions.....	6.15	
Dues.....	20.00	
		106.15
Expenses		
Motel.....	74.64	
Refreshments.....	26.15	
Postage.....	20.00	
		(124.08)
Ending cash balance (9/30).....	\$124.08	



Chapter sisters are reminded that we are beginning dues renewal time. We are holding the dues at \$10.00 a year, for which you will be kept advised of Chapter activities and other matters. Dues are payable one year after you initially joined the Chapter. Patricia and I have paid our dues for the year. Sisters whose dues are payable this month are as follows: Nora Helene, Marion, Barbara Mc., Joyce, and Claire. We trust that all you ladies will renew with us and be a part of a very active and growing group of people who appreciate and participate in the femme world. Send check/money order to your Treasurer:

M. J. Moran
P. O. Box 4988
Poughkeepsie, New York 12602

.....> Note: NEW ADDRESS !

Special Feature

"Going Out"

by Suzy (NJ-G)

For many of us the desire to go out "en femme" is a strong one. After weeks, months, or in many cases years of remaining indoors, the urge to venture into the real world becomes more and more intense. Even though I've been going out for five years now, I can still vividly recall those initial fears. Fears of ridicule...fears of detection and arrest...loss of a job...embarrassment to one's family. Yes, these are very real concerns that warrant careful consideration. You should fully evaluate the pluses and minuses for your individual situation.

In my early stages of dressing, my fears won an easy victory and in the house I remained except for an occasional breath of fresh air in my backyard. In retrospect, I'm glad I did not rush out the front door back then because to be honest I WASN'T READY. My clothing was out of style and inappropriate, my wig unfortunately looked like a wig and, most importantly, I did not possess the inner confidence that is so very, very important. Back then I did not believe I could pass as a "real girl".

In time and with lots of help and consultation with my wife Joyce, my feminine self began to blossom. With her advice Suzy developed a new look and increasingly gained self confidence. Naturally, only a short time elapsed before I wanted to escape from the house. After perfecting (as best I could), my make-up technique, acquiring a suitable wig and practicing the acts of standing, walking, and sitting like a lady, I was ready.

These initial experiences consisted of an occasional evening stroll through the less populated portion of the town's shopping area (I choose nights when most of the stores were closed and only the window shoppers were out). Later, as my confidence grew, I visited the same area during a regular shopping night. I still, however, did not enter any stores but carefully tried to evaluate people's reactions. One very good technique to employ is to casually browse around and have your wife or a friend gauge people's reactions to you.

My next plateau was to actually enter a store that I was familiar with and knew wouldn't be extremely crowded. I made it a practice to frequent the larger department stores. Small stores should be avoided since in a smaller store you are much more likely to be approached by a well-meaning sales clerk.

Gradually, my confidence continued to grow sufficiently enough for me to occasionally go out dressed during the day. These trips are always exciting, fun and with careful dressing and good judgment, usually not dangerous. Most people are so interested in themselves that they hardly notice us unless we draw attention to ourselves.

(continued on next page)



Before ending this article, I wanted to share with you two highlights.

*Three years ago I ventured into Hyannis, Ma. and entered a large department store accompanied by a sister, Judy, both en femme. Since we were far from home we walked up to a make-up counter and received a complimentary make over. There was no doubt that many people realized we were men (especially after our make-up was removed), but no one really gawked. Judy and I explained ourselves, educated the three make-up consultants, and hopefully made three converts to our cause.

*This past year I finally made it into a ladies room. On a few recent shopping trips and last week during a visit to a nearby cocktail lounge, Mother Nature called and I had little choice but to run for the nearest ladies room. My heart was in my mouth, but somehow I found the courage and went in. In fact, I even freshed up my lipstick in the bathroom before heading out the door. Needless to say, this was quite exciting but something I would not recommend.

If you don't have the urge to go out, stay home. If you have the urge, I've put together a list of the key do's and don'ts. Please be careful and have fun!

-Do invest in a good wig.

-Do dress appropriately for the season, the time of day, and the purpose.

-Do get someone's HONEST appraisal of your "passability".

-Do go slowly at first. Remember that a bad experience will remain with you for a long time.

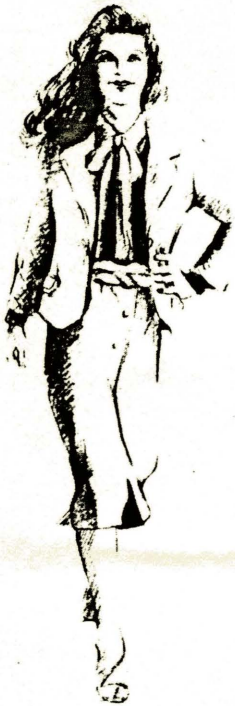
-Do be confident. If you can't look a man or woman in the eyes, stay home.

-Do be a lady. Act appropriately for the clothing that you are wearing.

-Don't take silly chances. Discretion is the better part of valor.

-Don't frequent stores catering to teenage crowds. Young girls are very adept at "reading" TVs.

-Don't panic if you get read. Just continue what you were doing and exit gracefully.



BROOM-HILDA



Food For Thought

Why?

Why have I had these feelings for as long as I can remember? In my early years, I recall that for some reason unknown to me some children were called "girls", the others "boys". I was called a "boy", but I wanted to wear the clothes of a girl and play with girls' things. Why? The clothes were certainly prettier, with all the bows and lace, and they were more comfortable than boy clothes. I felt more content about myself when dressed in them. Years of repression and guilt follow, because boys "don't do that". Why? The feelings do not go away with age. Why? Neither do my feelings (appetites?), for food, air, and all the other necessities for life. Why? Finally, a point of self-acceptance of myself and the realization that my feelings * my special joy * are an integral part of me as a person, a human being. Why? Perhaps this would be a very dull world if we were all cut from the same mold! I still feel very nice about myself when I'm wearing my favorite things. Why? Why NOT!!!



(From the October 1981 issue; as we have many new sisters, I thought I'd repeat something which took a lot for me to write, but I'm glad I did it for it reaffirmed my feminine self. Ed.)

KENNETH A. WEENE, PH.D.

898 OYSTER BAY ROAD

EAST NORWICH, NEW YORK 11732

(516) 922-1444

Carol Beecroft sent this letter on to me. I wrote Dr. Weene and invited him to our meetings. Should any sister be in contact with Dr. Weene, I'd appreciate it if you would let me know. Ed.

In recent years I have worked with a few clients whose major problem has been coping with a cross-gender identity. One of the most obvious needs of these clients has been a support group for themselves and their mates, particularly a support group which does not lump them with other groups having problems with sexual identities.

Therefore, I am trying to start such a support counseling group to be offered at relatively low cost. If you know of someone who might wish to take part in such a group, please pass this information along.

Thank you,

Kenneth A. Weene

"No Lane Bryant!!!!!!!"



In Case You Missed It

Dear Abby: When I read in your column that a transvestite stole women's clothing because he was too embarrassed to buy feminine apparel from a salesperson, my heart ached for him. I am a transvestite and I have no trouble buying whatever I want, but there are a few rules to follow: Go shopping when the stores are not crowded. You'll find the clerk happy to wait on you. They'll even let you try things on. I've bought everything from lingerie to shoes to dresses with no problem. I even bought a bridal gown and went back for two fittings! Be neat, clean, discreet, inconspicuous and quiet. Never go shopping to "look", go only when you are in a position to buy, and you will be greeted with curtesy and open arms. Loves To Shop.

(Abby provided no response; was there really a need for one?)

Dear Abby: Is it against the law for a husband and wife to appear in public (restaurants, shopping, etc.), the husband dressed as a woman, and the wife dressed as a man? Paul and I are both normal in every sense of the word. It all started this way: I am 5 foot 11, and Paul is 5 foot 5. We are as compatible as two people can be, but we have always felt somewhat conspicuous in public. For that reason, I stopped wearing heels. One day I bought some women's wedgie shoes in Paul's size and gave them to him. He tried them on, found them to be very comfortable and was delighted with the extra height they provided. After wearing these wedgies a few times, he wanted another pair. Now he refuses to wear anything else. Just for fun, I put some makeup on him and got him a women's wig, and we went to dinner that way (just wedgies & wig ? Ed.). We loved it! Then I started to dress like a man (ugh!, Ed.), and now we do it all the time. I assure you we are sexually normal. My husband dresses as a man for work. We switch roles for fun only when we go out. Someone told me that this is against the law. Is it? --J. J.

Dear J. J. What is legal in one community may be illegal in another. In some places, crossdressing is considered "masquerading", or deliberately attempting to conceal one's identity, which could conceivably be against the law. Play it safe and consult a local lawyer.

(We hope to soon provide some legal opinions on dressing in public. Ed.)

November Meeting

The November 13th meeting is scheduled for New Jersey, with a potential cosmetic demonstration through Merle Norman. If you are interested in coming, you must let us know!

Our Readers Write

Now that your Editor is somewhat back on a regular routine, I hope to be hearing from our members for this column. I am sorry that I have not replied to recent letters, for we've been quite busy with our move. I hope to catch up.

Chapter Library

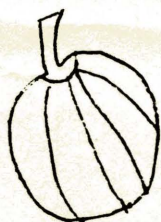
We have a number of books available for members use. If you are interested, please contact me.

Available from Carol Beecroft.....



DRESS AND UNDRRESS: A HISTORY OF WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR
Elizabeth Ewing. Cloth cover \$14.95, 240 pages with photographs and illustrations.

In effect a history of women's underwear, this book is exceptional for its emphasis on materials, techniques and manufacturing processes. It is unusual in that it covers the changing styles of women's underwear from 3000 B.C. to the present day. It is all here, bikinis to bumrolls, girdles and garters, Du Pont and Dior, whalebone and Wonderbra. Elizabeth Ewing describes the underclothes of each period in history and the manner in which this clothing evolved. But just as important, she explains the reasons for the changes and names the individuals who were themselves the agents of change. Ms Ewing is equally conscious that underwear, however functional it may or may not be, is the basis on which the silhouette of fashion is formed and is, moreover, increasingly an erotic element in its own right.



Again; I'd like to thank those sisters who have helped make our newsletter and Chapter a success. We have progressed to a level which I never thought we would in a year's time, and we have a lot of potential to grow, especially with the upcoming radio program. We may very well be inundated with responses (remember, this is the N. Y. Metropolitan area).

I trust that you gals will help us and those potential new-comers to our National Organization and local Chapter. By "help" I mean willing to contact a new sister to aid her in joining us. Remember, you were once there!

.....> NEW ADDRESS !!! <.....

Editor/Treasurer: Mary Jane (write M. J.), Moran, P. O. Box 4988, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602. Production/Distribution: Nora Helene (NJ-202-C).

Best Regards, Mary Jane.