

## Picnic Time

August Meeting features Mary Ann Foster



Presidents  
Podium

### Changes, we have Changes

At the July board meeting, Christine was appointed the new Treasurer, replacing Bridget, and Kiki was appointed the new Secretary. A search was made for a new Treasurer when Bridget made her announcement and the first few choices backed down due to outside commitments. Christine volunteered and the search was on for a replacement secretary. Now, you ask, who writes well and needs a structured life? None other than Kiki, who also volunteered. (Yeah right! At her age, we could only bend her brittle bones so far.) Good bye trailer, hello typewriter. BTW, I couldn't fit her picture on her column this month so I put her on a tractor...in the future we will see carpenter Kiki, etc.

### Picnic.....

Our annual Chapter picnic will be on August 17th, the Sunday following our monthly meeting. This year, Sheila D. has graciously offered the use of her home in Streamwood. Please refer to the map insert in this issue.

In a radical change over previous years, this year you MAY crossdress if you wish. Normally, the picnic is family oriented with no crossdressing because of the kids. At last years picnic no kids attended so we are trying something different.

### Splash !!!

A whale of an evening was had by all, even those not in Chi Chapter. Our members, the family reunion people, all 85 of them, hotel workers and the Police were all involved at the last meeting. Miranda and Kiki have covered the pool party so I don't have to rehash most

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Miranda  
Writes....

### August Program: Spirituality

The program at the August meeting will be on Transgender Spirituality presented by Mary Ann Foster. I understand from Mary Ann that seeking one's true gender is a spiritual journey. Quite frankly, I do not know what this means, so I am looking forward to an enlightening evening.

Mary Ann presented a similar seminar at the '97 Be-All along with Father Dennis O'Neill, and it was a real success. She also conducted the nondenominational worship services at Be All, which I understand moved several of the attendees to tears.

Some of you may not be familiar with Mary Ann. In the previous issue of the Chi Tribune, I wrote a little bit about her background and her involvement in the Living Circle, an interfaith spirituality center. However, I neglected to mention that Mary Ann and Blanche hold an annual picnic at the end of July in Michigan, near Douglas Dunes. For four days they open their home and land up to everyone in the transgendered community for a relaxing weekend of simple fun and relationship building. She also puts on the Douglas Dunes Getaway Weekend during the 3rd weekend in October. She is quite a remarkable gal!

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# JULY MEETING RECAP.....

## by Kiki

The July meeting began around 7:00 P.M. with the introduction of members and a couple important announcements. Christine Adams, our Secretary, has taken over the position of Treasurer due to the resignation of Bridget Morgan who has taken a new job in the San Jose area. Debbie will join her in California. Kiki Carmichael, that's me, was asked to be Secretary and she graciously accepted after one broken arm. Some people congratulated her on her new position and several just gave her funny looks, as if to say why do we need a Queen of the Trailer Park as Secretary. I would like to say right now, that Queens of the Trailer Park, can be very good secretaries and are not rubber stamps. I will not be known as Rubber Stamp Kiki, and I do have a mind of my own somewhere. (I will admit that I thought of several smart remarks during the meeting which I did not let loose feeling it would be inappropriate due to the high station of my new position. Darn!)

Miranda made a few announcements the most important of which was the success she has had in getting the Evanston City Council to vote on a new discrimination rights ordinance which includes transgendered people this July 28. If it passes, Evanston will be the first city in Illinois to have such an ordinance.

Denise announced that Tri Ess is the sponsor of the annual volleyball picnic at Sheila D's on August 17th which as you all know, was sponsored by CGS. There was no mention that a volleyball contest between CGS and Tri Ess would be held probably because Tri Ess has won so many times.

She, or was it he, also announced that Barbara Number 1 celebrated her 79th birthday and is alive and well. Turns out a gal by the same name in the same city and on the same street did die recently. Wow, that's awfully close!

Denise and Miranda were awarded large engraved Gold Stars for their fine work on the BE ALL by Candice on behalf of the chapter. A round of applause was given.

The barbecue was fab and put on by Norma and Joyce. Entrees were hamburgers, cheeseburgers and hot dogs. It was delicious. People brought so much food it was unreal.

The barbecue was followed by a Pool Party at nine where we were allowed use of the pool after it closed. Miranda brought a huge Free Willie whale about as big as Denise for use in the pool which was cool.

I brought one of my bathing suits and before putting it on, I decided to check out the territory. As I walked out to the pool I instantly became aware that the pool is surrounded by the motel and that all the second floor rooms have large balconies on them. They were full of teenage boys watching us and video taping us. As made my way to the gate, several of them waved and yelled at me. I waved back in a festive manner but felt like the Christians going to the slaughter!

Once on the pool area, I noticed more young boys using the driving range which was almost in the pool area.

If there is one thing I've learned going out as Kiki it is, "Avoid teenage boys" unless of course you like cat calls. I hung around for a few minutes then got the bejesus out of there never to return.

The following attended the meeting: Miranda, Naomi & Rachel, Laura, Kiki, Sheila D, Barbara Diane & Barbara, Pamela, Candace & Dawn, Amanda & Julie, Lee, Sandy, Dee, Allanah, Norma & Joyce, Colleen & Verna, Toni, Amber, Pamela, Jeri B., Loraine, Kelly, Debbie, Denise & Kim, Renee, Margaret & Deb, Aries, Free Willy, Beth, Kimberly, Laura, Andrea, Janet, Jeri J., Nicole, Jill & Kathleen, Jackie Ann Crystal, Diana, Lisa Anne & Bessie, Julie Ann & Susan, Donna, Denise, Velma, Rori and newcomers, Pam, Sara and Elaine.

Andrew Cunanan was not spotted.

Bye....



## CHRISTINE'S CUTE

On Saturday, July 19, 1997 there was a meeting of the Chi-Chapter board prior to the regular Chi-Chapter meeting. In attendance were Miranda, Candace, Denise, and myself. Here is a summary of that

meeting:

The first topic discussed was the lack of a club treasurer, as Bridget, our former treasurer, has moved to California. I volunteered to take on this job if I could get some help collecting money prior to the meetings, since I help out with the newcomers' meetings at that time. The board felt it could get help collecting dues and meeting fees so that I could continue to help with the newcomers' meetings; however, it also felt a need to have 5 people on the board. If I took over the treasurer's job, someone else would have to be the secretary. As luck would have it, Kiki has volunteered to take over the secretary's duties. Therefore, I abstained while the other board members voted to appoint me treasurer. Next, I voted with the other board members to appoint Kiki as secretary. Both of these appointments are just for the remainder of the year. Before 1997 ends, we will have new elections to decide who will be on the board or 1998. We are very lucky to have Kiki volunteer to be secretary. As many of you already know, she is a wonderful writer! As for me, I have gotten Windows 95 on my home computer (after much cussing and grumbling - don't believe Bill Gates - Windows 95 is NOT transparent). My next step will be to get copies of the accounting software (it requires Windows 95) and files from Denise so that I can do all the bookkeeping on my home computer. I hope to be doing that by our August meeting.

Our next board meeting topic was this year's Christmas Party. Reservations have already been made at the O'Hare Ramada for this. Miranda is going to try to get the Gay Men's Chorus for the party. However, they have a lot of requests to perform during the holidays and they usually try to fill most of them by only sending smaller groups out. Therefore, if Miranda does get the Gay Men's Chorus for the Christmas Party, we probably won't see the large production that we saw at 'Be All' (THAT was great - thanks Miranda). Miranda is also going to try to get George to DJ again for us at the party. The Christmas Party is also the time when the club presents its awards to the people who help the community. Therefore, Denise reminded us to start thinking of deserving people to nominate. (No, we're not going to nominate ourselves.) The board will vote on these awards at a later meeting.

Our next topic was a restructuring of the membership dues. The national dues for Tri-Ess is going up \$1 to \$36. There will also be a 2 year national membership available for \$60. There will be similar changes in the national dues for a couples membership. Since Chi-Chapter maintains its membership in the national Tri-Ess organization, you can expect to see your dues change the next time it comes due. As for our local dues, there is no plan to change them at this time. At any rate, that would be something that the general membership would have to vote on. As a club, we get several advantages from membership in the national Tri-Ess. One of these is qualification as a non-profit organization. Another is the fact that the national group will fund 1 person from a chapter with 100% national membership to go to the 'Holiday en Femme'. For various reasons, we have about 95% national membership and are working to get everyone into the national organization.

For those of you who missed the July general meeting, you missed a great pool party that almost wasn't. As anyone who went to last year's July meeting knows, we had a pool party then earlier in the

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(Continued from page 1) Miranda Writes

## A Big Thank You to the Hospitality Committee

Our July Barbecue turned out beautifully, thanks for our wonderful Hospitality Committee. Norma, Joyce and Donna had to bring a trailer with them to haul all the stuff they needed to make the BBQ a success. Norma was out there, slaving away over the hot Webers, to make sure that everyone had a full plate. And Barb and Barbara worked hard to make sure that everyone was happy. It was a tremendous effort, and I hope each of you takes the time to thank them personally.

Thanks also to everyone who brought a dish to share. There was enough to feed an army (or to feed the WACs?). I am looking forward to a repeat of all the goodies at the August Picnic at Sheila D's. More about that elsewhere in the newsletter.

## More about the Pool Party

After getting off to a rather rocky start (see my other article, "The Pool Party That Almost Wasn't") we did manage to have a good time at the pool. Colleen and Verna, who always make such a cute couple, looked great in their matching outfits. And didn't Jeri look fabulous in her bathing suit? What a figure!!! And I am sure that was the first time that Julie was able to go swimming in that adorable two-piece. We all got to cavort with and ride on Free Willy, Chi Chapter's newest mascot. I'm afraid that after I lost my contact lenses, I didn't see much more of the party.

## Pride and Education

I am so proud of you girls!!! In the glare of the public, with the family reunion looking on from the balconies, with them rudely videotaping our party, you came out to the pool and stood there with dignity and grace!!! There is no better education in the world. Words alone cannot accomplish what you accomplished by showing the world what beautiful and special people you really are. Thank you, thank you, thank you. It was a brave thing you did, and you should feel proud of yourselves.

There were a couple of amusing incidents. As a few of us were standing inside the door, two young ladies, about 12 or 13 years old, came up to us. They politely asked if we minded if they asked a question, "How do you do the boob thing?" They were very respectful and honestly wanted to know. As we were answering their question, a woman rushed up to them and asked the girls if we were bothering them. Such is the public's perception of us: guilty until proven innocent!

And later, one young man from the family reunion came down to the pool in his wife's bikini. He didn't come to mock us. He came to join in the fun. "Well, I'm here to try it," he said. We welcomed him, and he had a great time riding Free Willy. It was quite an ice-breaker. We shouldn't be surprised if he shows up at our next meeting; he probably has always wanted to wear that bathing suit! What Toni and I would like to know is, who gets the toaster oven if he shows up? (Ask Toni if you don't get it.)

All in all, it turned out to be a splendid evening. We did some real positive outreach. We gave the family reunion an experience they will never forget. And they gave us something as well. They proved to us that we can stand there, with dignity, and say "I am a transgendered

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(Continued from page 1) Presidents Podium

of that. I remember speaking to the manager several weeks before the party and discussed last years pool party and the complaint he received at that time. He was fully aware of what might happen and he said he had no problem with us having the pool party. His main concern was that hotel policy is that if someone complains about something, they generally refund their money. Hey, sounds like the Hyatt Lisle last November doesn't it?

Anyway, he eventually asked that we hold it after closing time and a sign would be posted advising that it was a private party. He told me that if anyone did complain, they should be asked to leave since it was private. Well, some night clerk over-reacted and apparently didn't follow procedure, that and the fact that a guest with the reunion group had called the Police on us. Well, the manager was contacted and possibly misinformed as to the events but Miranda straightened the whole thing out and the Police went on to get the reunion teenagers who were drinking beer on the balconies.

I spoke to the manager this week and he advised that the woman who complained did apologize and she will be sending the hotel a letter of apology. (How about one to us?). He also

I know the hotel doesn't want to lose us, after all we are a cash cow (Sorry), with our monthly payments of \$340.00 for the rooms.

Denise

## Xmas

We are planning some great entertainment for the Ritz this coming

**Chi Chapter/TriEss**  
**P.O.Box 40**  
**Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040**

### Officers

**President: Denise Peters**  
**VP/Program: Miranda Stevens**  
**VP/Membership: Candace Mahne**  
**Secretary: Kiki Carmichael**  
**Treasurer: Christine Adams**

### Committees

**Newcomers: Amanda**  
**Dee Dee Bolden**  
**P.A.L.S./ Couples: Dawn**  
**Hospitality: Norma, Joyce & Donna**

Chi Chapter is a not-for-profit social and educational support group of Tri-Ess members and their spouses, partners and friends. Meetings are normally held on the third Saturday of each month.

**Chi Chapter Telephone Helpline:**  
**(630) 262-8707**

# Couples Group

The next Couples meeting will be on **Saturday, August 23rd**. We will announce the location at the meeting or you may call the helpline for information.

**NOTE: There is NO crossdressing at the meeting.**

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# P.A.L.S.

The P.A.L.S. meeting was held at 6:00pm on July 19th just prior to the regular meeting. Present were; Julie, Susan, Bessie, Dawn, Joyce, Donna, Kathleen and Kim.

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## August meeting schedule

4:00 pm Changing rooms open #117 & # 101  
6:30 pm Changing rooms close  
6:30 pm PALS & Newcomers groups meet  
8:30 pm Meeting begins

Location of the meeting will be the lower level 'Mirror' room...Mirrors, mirrors and more mirrors.  
Entrance may be made from the South lot thru room 117.

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*(Continued from page 2) Christines Cute Comments*

day. However, the hotel actually had some other customers cancel their rooms rather than share the pool with us. In the spirit of compromise, it was agreed that this year's pool party would take place at 9:00 P.M., when the pool is normally closed to other guests anyway. At 9:05 P. M., the front desk informed us that due to complaints from other customers, it was canceling the pool party. Although we didn't pay anything extra for the use of the pool, this was still thought to be an unfair action. When Miranda threatened the hotel management with a lawsuit, they agreed (3 cheers for Miranda!). Our pool party was back on! Members were very discreet and did not use the lobby entrance to the pool. Once we were out by the pool, I was looking for this person who thought we were so disgusting, but saw no one like that. Th only people outside of Chi-Chapter who were watching us were various groups of very friendly teenagers and young adults who were sitting outside their rooms. They got a good-natured laugh out of us (we don't exactly remind people of the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue). One of them even put on his girl friend's two piece and came out to talk to us as well as mug for photos. In short, a good time was had by all! Here's hoping we can do it again next year.

# Mary Kay

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**Kiki in her Tractor mode**

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*(Continued from page 3) Miranda Writes person, and I am proud of it."*

## Future Programs

The program line-up for the rest of the year is shaping up well. In September, I am hoping to have a program on Developing a Femme Voice. (I can't say any more yet because it is not yet finalized.) October is our annual Halloween Costume Party. Start planning your outfit now! November we will be holding elections, and I will try to get a short program as well. And then in December, Puttin' on the Ritz once again returns to the Ramada O'Hare for a gala formal evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. The year seems to be flying by, but only because it has been one of the most eventful ones ever.

Luv and

*Miranda*



# Great Lakes Gender Leadership council

## Activities calendar

### August 1997

#### Week of August 3-9

Wed 8/6 9:00 p.m. South Side Girls, Clubhouse Players, 13126 S. Western, Blue Island. (708) 389-6688.

Thurs 8/7 7:30 p.m. It's Time, Illinois, 146 N. Oak Park Ave. Call (708) 535-1506

Sat 8/9 6:30 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting. Call (414) 297-9328.

Sat 8/9 TONI Social, Picnic Outing , call (219) 650-2142 for details.

#### Week of August 10-16

Tues 8/12 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee (708-863-7714)  
Ellen Meyers, Gay/Lesbian Liaison, Cook County State's Attorney's Office

Sat/Sun North Halsted Street Market Days, Halsted Street between Belmont and Addison. 8/16-17

Three stages of continuous entertainment. Don't miss it!

Sat 8/16 8:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Tri-S, Elmhurst (630-262-8707). Program: Transgender Spirituality with Mary Anne Foster and Dennis O'Neill

Sun 8/17 Chi-Chapter Picnic, Sheila D's, See insert map for details

#### Week of August 17-23

Wed 8/20 8:30 p.m. CGS Social, Temptations, 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park

Fri 8/22 CGS/Femme Underground Above Ground Event: Dinner and Cabaret. Departing at 7:00 from Transformations (146 N Oak Park Ave.) for dinner followed by Honey West and Alexandra Billings at Legacy 21. Call Rori for details (708) 383-8338.

Sat 8/23 7:00 p.m. TONI meeting, Portage, Indiana. Call 219-650-2142 for location and program details

#### Week of August 24-30

Tues 8/26 8:30 p.m. CGS social, Hunters, Elk Grove Village (call CGS hotline )

#### Week of August 31-September 6

Wed 9/3 9:00 p.m. South Side Girls, Clubhouse Players, 13126 S. Western, Blue Island. (708) 389-6688.

Thurs 9/4 7:30 p.m. It's Time, Illinois, 146 N. Oak Park Ave. Call (708) 535-1506

**Douglas Dunes Michigan Weekend**

**October 18**

**To make reservations call: 616-857-1401  
Mention the Mary Ann Foster Dunes weekend**

## The Pool Party That Almost Wasn't

by Miranda Stevens

Something very interesting happened at the July Chi Chapter meeting... all of us got to experience discrimination first hand. Let me tell you about it.

For two months we had been planning a pool party at our usual Elmhurst location for our July 19 meeting. At first the hotel manager agreed that we could use the pool early in the evening, around 6:00 p. m., which is how we originally announced our plans. A week after our June meeting, I contacted the manager to reconfirm our verbal agreement, and he told me that we couldn't use the pool at that time because guests would complain that they were being denied access to the pool. So we renegotiated and came up with a compromise... we would get the use of the pool for a private party at 9:00 p.m., after the regular pool closing time. After all, the other guests would not be able to use the pool at that time anyway, since it would normally be closed.

Well, at 9:05 p.m. on Saturday, July 19, just as we are changing into our bathing suits for the party, the night manager told Denise that the pool party was canceled. A guest had complained. There was a family reunion going on at the hotel at the same time as our regularly scheduled meeting, and apparently the matriarch of the family did not feel that we were suitable people to be seen by the members of her family. I can't even imagine the nature of her complaint, but the hotel caved in immediately to her demands.

I went immediately to the night manager. I informed her of the facts. First, we have been steady customers of the hotel for over 2 years now. We have always paid our bills. There have been no complaints about us. We rent rooms. Basically, we bring a lot of business to the hotel. Second, the pool party had been planned and agreed to for months. Then I informed her that what they were doing was a blatant act of discrimination, and that if they insisted on canceling the party, we would take hotel to court and sue for discrimination.

The night manager called her boss, and I spoke to him, reiterating the same points I made above. His response was, "Well, what can I do about it?" I told him that there was only one right thing to do, to allow the party to go on as planned. After several minutes of discussion, he agreed that we could have the pool until 10:30 p.m.

Do you think that the hotel would have dared to even consider canceling a scheduled event if we were an ethnic or racial minority? How about if we were a religious sect, or a group of physically challenged individuals, or a women's group? You know that they wouldn't. These groups are protected by scores of human rights acts and ordinances.

I am outraged, and you should be too!

Folks, I have heard complaints that my focus is too political. I have heard that people don't want to hear about what It's Time Illinois doing because it doesn't apply to them, the occasional crossdresser. We in It's Time Illinois are out there, in the glare of the public, risking our jobs, our families, sometimes our lives, to gain the legislation so that something like what you just experienced cannot happen in the future. What happened on July 19 could not have happened if there were laws guaranteeing us even the most basic of human rights.

It is called discrimination in a public accommodation, and for most American citizens it is illegal. We are one of the exceptions, and It's Time Illinois is going to change that!

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## December 20, 1997 Puttin' On The Ritz

The  
Chi Chapter  
Christmas Dinner/Dance  
**Ramada O'Hare  
Rosemont**

Full details and prices will be forthcoming during the upcoming months.

For those of you who wish to make early **tower room** reservations, our guaranteed price is \$78