



# Chi Tribune

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Miss Donna Martin  
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## CHI'S JANUARY MEETING . . . . .

Thanks to Kay, we met "in the home" again last month. As is usual when we are fortunate enough to meet in a home, rather than in a motel, a good group attended: Karen IL-3-M, Mitzi IL-8-C, Donna IL-11-S, Rachel IL-14-B, Betty Ann IL-17-A, Fran IL-19-M, Lillian IL-24-C, Sharon IL-25-H, Janna IL-28-P, Deanna IL-35-G, Kay IL-44-N, Maryann IL-203-B and Kathy, Mickey IL-204-S, Kiki IL-207-M, Helen IL-209-R, Naomi IL-212-O, Lorna IL-222-J and Teri, Susan IO-1-I; prospective members Karen, Susan, and Lynn; and guests Michelle NJ-12-W, Tracy [REDACTED], and Dina.

Deanna opened the meeting portion of the evening by thanking Kay for again opening her home to us, then introduced our guests for the evening, Michelle [REDACTED] and Tracy [REDACTED].

The first of our special guests was Michelle [REDACTED], the President of PHI Chapter in Philadelphia, and who is also associated with the Regional newsletter "Our Sorority," a recently started publication for Betty Ann Lind's Mid-Atlantic Region. Michelle gave us a brief report of the activities of her Chapter in Philadelphia, and also informed us that the dates for this year's Fantasia Fair have been set: October 16th through the 25th, in Provincetown. Our other special guests were Tracy [REDACTED], who operates a general "trouble hot-line" for the Chicago area, and her friend Dina. Tracy reported on her educational/lecturing efforts, as well as general results from the hot-line service.

On behalf of herself and co-sponsor Maryann, Deanna reported that "Lovers Night," the theater outing on February 14th for couples only, was almost sold-out with space remaining for only one more couple at our reserved tables. If any other couple wishes to attend the dinner and theater party at the Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, contact either Deanna or Maryann right away. You will be advised if the space is still available, or if there were any cancellations.

A Tri-Sigma national publicity campaign is being planned for selected newspapers and magazines on a nation-wide basis. A few trial mailings have been made, one of which was to the Rockford (Illinois) newspaper. Our own Mitzi allowed herself to be interviewed by a reporter, and that interview along with the information we furnished in the mailing has already been published as a feature article by the Rockford newspaper. The Tri-Sigma national address was given, and we hope that this article (and those to come) will make many more people aware of us and encourage them to make contact.

Deanna advised that we will attempt something new, starting with our next meeting. One of the biggest problems each month is the collection of the meeting fee, causing the Secretary/Treasurer to spend quite a bit of her time at the end of the business meeting "chasing" the membership to collect their fee. As a "Donna-saving" measure, the meeting fee will be collected at the door as you enter, and each member will be checked-off for attendance at that time. Please cooperate by having your meeting fee ready as you arrive, it will be much appreciated!

The next monthly Chapter "Social" will be held at the Lite Factory on February 11th. Unless otherwise announced, the monthly social gatherings will always be held on the second Wednesday prior to our monthly Chapter meeting, at the Lite Factory. Although the date was not announced at the December meeting, or published in the January newsletter through oversight, there was a good attendance even with a lack of publicity.

Ruthann and Malinda have announced that there will be a party in Madison, Wisconsin, on February 7th; \$5.00 per person. Contact Deanna for complete information, if you are interested in attending.



## JOINT MEETING . . . . .

Reservations are now starting to be received for the joint meeting of CHI and Delta Chapters on the weekend of March 7th, in the Holland, Michigan, area. We will have the same accommodations as we had in past years - a set of three very pleasant and modern apartments located together in a building which is separate from the main motel complex. There are no other rooms in this building, so this arrangement affords us complete privacy. The weekend is open to all Great Lakes Area members (you need not belong to either CHI or Delta Chapters to attend), as well as specially-invited non-members of the Sorority. A reservation form was enclosed with the last newsletter; if you didn't get one, or misplaced it, request another copy from your Editor. If you plan to attend the joint meeting, make your reservation (with deposit) now, to insure the best choice of accommodations. We expect to show video tapes of selected transvestite TV programs (no pun intended), and one of our members is expected to bring a video camera so that we will all have an opportunity to "see ourselves" as we really are!

## CHI TREASURER'S REPORT . . . . .

Balance on hand, December 31st:	\$144.91
Meeting Fees:	+120.00
Regular Member Dues:	+108.00
Associate Member Dues:	+ 36.00
Donations:	+ 41.00
Reserve Fund Interest:	+ 11.94
Miscellaneous:	+ 10.00
Meeting Room & Refund Fee:	- 55.00
Refreshments:	- 82.00
Postage:	- 34.21
Supplies (Envelopes & Misc.):	- 4.28
Chapter Reserve Fund:	- 11.94
Miscellaneous:	- 5.00
Balance on hand, January 31st:	\$279.42

## BE CONSIDERATE! . . . . .

The business cards of our Chapter "Friends" are regularly published in this newsletter, and we ask that you patronize them to show your appreciation of their support. Our friends really love to help us, but they also have to make a living. Use their services, helping both them and the Chapter, but don't make a pest of yourself! If you wish to consult our friends on a professional basis, do so but don't make a bore of yourself (and the Chapter) by constantly telephoning them at their home or place of work just to "talk," or going to their place of business and taking up their valuable time for hours on end just "socializing," with little or no intent to make a purchase. These are business people, and can't afford to spend time in listening to individual problems or entertaining guests!

## LAST CALL FOR CHI CHAPTER DUES . . . . .

As reported in recent newsletters, Chapter dues are now payable (and overdue). The dues are the same as last year: \$6.00 for Regular Members who live in the Chicago Metropolitan Area, and \$4.00 for Associate Members who live outside that area and are normally unable to attend our Chapter meetings on a regular basis. Please mail your dues, with your check or money order (no cash, please) in the proper amount payable to "Donna Martin," at the address shown on the newsletter masthead. Also, don't forget that you must be a member of the national organization in good standing to become (or remain) a Regular or Associate Member of CHI Chapter. A list of all CHI members will be published in the March newsletter. Will your name be there?

## CHI'S FEBRUARY MEETING . . . . .

The next meeting of CHI Chapter will be held on the third Saturday of the month, February 21st. Details of the meeting place and time will be found on a separate sheet (Regular and Associate members, and invited guests, only). We hope to see you there, this month.

*Donna*

# 'We aren't weirdies. We're just like anybody else.'

By NORMA ROTH  
Staff writer

**Transvestite:** A person who derives sexual pleasure from dressing in the clothes of the opposite sex.

So says Webster's 20th Century Unabridged Dictionary.

A Rockford man we shall call Sam disagrees. He denies any sexual overtones to "dressing" as he called it.

"We feel the public isn't well informed (about transvestitism). They see the comic side on TV and the illegal side. You see all the weirdies. We aren't weirdies. We're just like anybody else," he said.

"We" are heterosexual transvestites, especially those who are members of an organization called Society for the Second Self, the Tri-Sigma Sorority.

Sam is a tall, lanky, middle-aged man, married and a father. Photographs of him "dressed" show an attractive, well-made-up, tastefully dressed woman, of which he is quite proud. He has felt a compulsion to wear female clothing most of his life.

"I had four sisters and I always admired the pretty things they had, but I never dressed until one time when I was about 10 and a group of neighborhood boys decided to dress like girls and the girls decided to dress like boys.

"One of my sisters had a chemise that I liked, so I told my mother that if I was going to dress like a girl I was going to wear the chemise, and I did."

AS THE ONLY boy in the family he had a room of his own early on and was always being told there were things he couldn't do because he was a boy. He does not attribute his transvestitism to any of those factors, however.

"One question we can't answer is why," he said. "I know I like to 'dress.' I don't know why."

As a youngster, he thought cross-dressing was something that all boys did, but as he became a teen-ager and began dating, he lost the compulsion to "dress." In the army, later, there was no opportunity.

But when he married, "there were all these feminine things lying around and you try them on if they're big enough."

His wife was not happy about his "dressing," to put it mildly. "We had a

lot of fights about it. She first said that when the kids were gone she'd get a divorce, but by the time the kids were gone I wanted a divorce and she didn't."

THEY REACHED an "understanding," about 10 years ago, he said, and now he "dresses" at home nearly every day and is host to the Society for the Second Self periodically.

Not objecting to those activities does not mean Sam's wife has accepted it. "She puts up with it," Sam said.

When his wife suggested he get counseling, Sam told her "I don't need counseling, because I've accepted myself. You need counseling."

The children have differing points of view. "My son says, 'If that's your thing and you don't hurt anybody, it's OK.' With my daughter, it's been a problem."

Additionally, "everybody in my family and in my wife's family knows it," he said.

The urge to wear women's clothing "is like a compulsion," Sam explained. "When you're 'dressed,' you're more comfortable. When I was younger, there was the sexual stimulation from wearing women's underwear, but that wears off. We only know, if we don't do it, we're unhappy."

When he is dressed as a woman, Sam said his goal is to be "well turned-out, neat, well-dressed for the occasion. What I try to do is get an outfit I like and complement it with the proper accessories."

MEMBERS OF the Society for the Second Self come from the upper half of the social strata and include professionals and businessmen, Sam said. Speakers at the meetings may include lawyers, psychiatrists, beauticians, cosmetologists. They meet in one another's homes and in hotels or motels. Wives and girlfriends are welcome.

Sam used the presence of women at meetings as an example of the non-sexual nature of the group. "Our meetings really are kind of dull, just like a women's kaffeeklatsch."

The organization's newsletter, "Femme Mirror," includes an advice column by a wife, addressed to the problems faced by the wife of a transvestite.

According to one issue, life with a "Tv" is not easy. One letter to the columnist said, "Make Tvs realize their wives are there... If they want to appear as women they better learn what the word compassion means." Another commented, "No matter how understanding you try to be you're going to come up last... More and more they are closing their wives out."

THE COLUMNIST replied, "What REALLY matters to us is his treatment of us in our interpersonal relationships... to be a Tv you are supposed to allow your Second Self out of the closet — your feminine side." She concluded by saying that in her experience, Tv marriages "are holding together much better than in the population at large."

Tri-Sigma members take women's names and use feminine pronouns when speaking of each other. They attend conventions in resort communities where they go about "dressed" most of the time.

In Rockford, Sam never "dresses" outside his home and he said he has never been involved with the police when he was dressed in women's clothing.

Cross-dressing is not illegal in Illinois, he said, but transvestites are frequently charged with disorderly conduct if they are found to be "dressed" in public.

Periodically, the transvestite decides he's going to quit and he disposes of his female wardrobe by giving it to charitable organizations in a "purge."

"You get rid of everything and your resolution goes pretty good for awhile, but then you gotta have something and you go out and buy something and the secret stash starts all over again," he said.

SAM SAID Tri-Sigma members are not homosexual and they are not interested in undergoing the medical process that would make them transsexuals.

"I don't want to be a woman," Sam said emphatically. "The way I look at it, I've got the best of both worlds."

Information about the Society for the Second Self may be obtained by writing to the organization at P.O. Box 194, Tulare, California 92374.

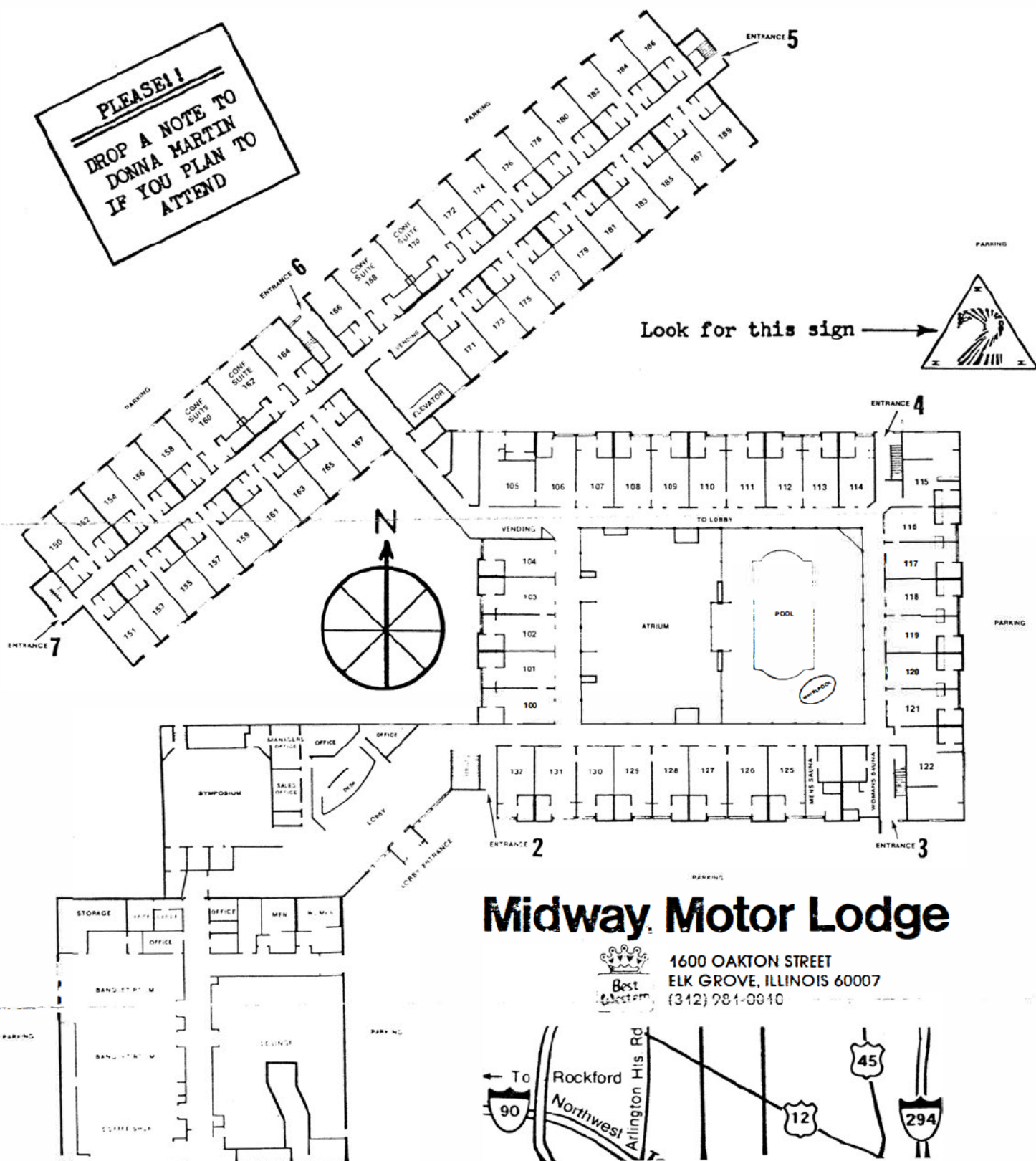
\*NOTE:

"SAM" = Mitzi IL-8-C



Our November 15th meeting is scheduled for the Midway Motor Lodge, 1600 Oakton Street, Elk Grove Village. The motel is located just northwest of the intersection of Route 83 (Oakton Street) and Route 72 (Higgins Road), just a few miles northwest of O'Hare Airport. We have reserved a suite (Rooms 160/162/164) on the first floor, with access through the entrance marked number "6" on the northwest side of the motel complex. (Alternate suite will be Rooms 166/168/170). Our rooms will be open after 2:00 P.M. for the convenience of our members who are traveling long distances, with the usual sign on the room door for identification. If any out-of-town members would like overnight accommodations, please add a note to your postcard reply and we will do our best to reserve a room for you in the immediate vicinity of our meeting rooms.

If you have a last-minute problem, or change of plans, please telephone Deanna (Dave) at (312) [REDACTED], or call the motel and ask for the "Tri-Sigma Room." Our room numbers will also be listed on the bulletin board in the main lobby of the motel under "Tri-Sigma."



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