

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is April 19 at 8:00

A New View

by Cathy

We had another good turnout for the March meeting, there were more than thirty-five attending. Of course it did rain pretty hard at times that night, it was nowhere as bad as on the previous month.

Glenn from Dayton came to her first meeting, and Susan brought her mother June. I spent some time talking to June and she's quite a nice lady who really loves her child. She said that she enjoys reading the newsletters and was glad to be able to come to a meeting and meet some of the people she's been reading about. She also said that she thought that being able to come to a group like Cross-Port meant a lot to Susan and was glad that we were here. Of course she was told that she was welcome to attend anytime.

We asked during the business meeting if anyone was interested in becoming an official Cross-Port pen-pal, someone who would write to those sisters who desire to correspond with someone but who were not quite ready to come out in public to a meeting. No takers yet, that still leaves a rather large hole in our support system. If you think you might be interested, write to me at the P.O. Box.

A note to Oday via anyone who knows how to contact her: Although I was able to read your new address the night of the meeting, when I reread it to update the mailing list, I was unable to make it out (says a lot for my mood the night of the meeting doesn't it), so I'm not able to send you your newsletters yet. Please send me a new version of your address.

Easter is almost here and with it comes a message of the renewal of life and rebirth. This often has a deeper meaning for those of us who are members of Cross-Port. Many of us have more to be thankful for this year than last. Maybe we have found Cross-Port and new friends which gives us the courage to continue on where otherwise we may have been tempted to give up. Maybe we have ended an unsatisfactory life where we always felt out of place and have begun a new life which finally has meaning. With Easter comes Spring and the beginning of another year of growth and beauty.

It is with these thoughts that I want to take the time to thank someone who has a lot more to do with making Cross-Port possible than anyone gives him credit. That person is Chris of Christopher's Lounge. For more than three years now Chris has provided Cross-Port with a home on a monthly basis and place of refuge whenever we feel the need to go out yet still feel safe. During this time he has never charged Cross-Port a fee for the privilege or made a cross-dresser feel out of place because they were there "on the wrong night". My first time in public took place, like it has for so many others, at Christopher's and it was a night that changed my life more than any other. Thanks Chris, we are looking forward to another year of bringing new people into existence at Christopher's.

A lot of inquiries are still coming from the support group listing being run by the Dayton Journal-Herald. I still have not seen the ad but they apparently are running it with the first two digits of our zip code reversed. As a result, those inquiries are coming to us via Green Bay, WI. I'm afraid it does slow things down a bit.

A totally unexpected result of the ad are two letters we have received from men in prison who are looking for girlfriends to correspond with. Don't be mistaken -- they do realize we are a cross-dressing organization. Adds a whole new meaning to the term "jailbait" doesn't it?

Seems we have television celebrities in our midst, ladies. Jeannie and Hazel appeared on the Sally Jessie Raphael show recently in a show which dealt with transsexuals and their jobs. Since they were two ladies living together the audience seemed to be more interested in their personal relationship than in Jeannie's relationship to the rest of the world. They handled it well, however, proving that love keeps them together.

Jennifer, Suzanne, Jeaninne and I went to the Miss Gay USA contest in Louisville April 6 & 7. Linda and Heather joined us Saturday night. We really enjoyed watching the semi-finals Friday night. Christopher's Lounge was well represented by Ashley West, a former Miss Christopher's who was competing in the contest. She was also being helped by the current Miss Christopher's, Amanda Kane. They did an excellent rendition of "Everybody Run, The Homecoming Queen's Got A Gun". Amanda was perfect as the psychotic homecoming queen and Ashley's frantic running around the stage kept everyone on the edge of their seats. Unfortunately, the finals were on Sunday night and we all had to work Monday morning so at publication time we don't know who won the contest.

According to the New World News, the Miss Gay Indiana has some strict new rules. If you are on hormones or have had implants or augmentation done to that area of the body defined as being below the neck, forget about competing. Seems they want to turn the contest back to those who have the most talent, not those who have had the best surgery. Makes sense to me. It would also seem to exclude the last four Miss Gay USA title-holders, all of whom it appeared to me have had their bodies altered by at least one of the above methods.

I heard from Michelle [REDACTED] last week. She has successfully relocated in the Chicago area and her new job is going fine. She said to say hi to her

friends at Cross-Port and to let them know that she may be able to make the May meeting.

Don't forget that May is IFGE month at Cross-Port. All money that comes into Cross-Port during the month of May will be turned over to IFGE at the Be-All convention in Pittsburgh this June. Last year we raised \$150 for them and they were able to start a new service fund with the money. Hopefully we will be able to do as well by them again this year.

A note here from the "A Word to the Wise Department". It is possible that the May newsletter will be a day or two late next month because Cathy's alter ego will be doing a macho kind of thing and has scheduled a few days off the week before the newsletter is due out and will be reroofing his garage. Here's hoping it will go smoothly and not run into deadline time.

Cross-Port Finances

Here is the current status of the Cross-Port Treasury:

Beginning Balance as of the March Newsletter is: \$1558.84

March Expenses:

Phone:	\$32.00
Envelopes & Stamps:	\$39.37
Printing Mar. Newsletter:	\$23.21
Gay Pride Week Donation:	\$50.00
Outreach Institute Donation:	\$50.00
Bank Charges:	\$.90
Total Expenses:	<u>\$195.48</u>

March Incomes:

Meeting Collection:	\$90.00
Dues, Etc.:	\$183.00
Total Income:	<u>\$273.00</u>

Ending Balance as of April 12: \$1636.36

We also mailed six intro packets this month.

For those of you who keep track of such things, subscriptions to the *InnerView* are running at a level we did not attain last year until September. Thanks, folks.

Ah-Ha San Anton!

by Jeannine

Cross-Port and IXE were definitely present at the second annual Texas Tea Party sponsored by the Boulton & Park Society in San Antonio February 22-25. Lori from southern Indiana attended the entire event accompanied by her charming wife and Claudia from Cincinnati (Florida in winter) arrived Thursday evening. My wife and I also attended so we had a very fun reunion.

All of us had a great time, including the wives. But then, it would be very difficult for us cross-dressers to be in skirts and heels for three or four days without having great fun!

I was much impressed with the event and with Boulton and Park's organization. Last year they hosted the first Tea Party expecting maybe 35-50 in attendees and instead ended up with over 140. This year over 200 attended including 37 wives and S.O.s. We met girls from literally all over the U.S., several from Canada and one from Wales, England.

I was also impressed by the progressiveness and Anglo-Spanish culture of San Antonio itself. It's a much busier and more beautiful city than I'd expected with many points of interest such as the beautiful downtown River Walk, El Mercado (the Spanish marketplace), several 17th century missions, and of course, the Alamo.

I'll attempt to set out a summary of the Tea Party activities. No organized activities were planned for Wednesday, but as expected, several C.D.s were already there so I dressed up (would have anyway) and spent the evening at the hotel pub getting acquainted with several attendees. On Thursday many of the girls went on an organized five or six hour shopping tour of several shops and malls. Regrettably I didn't make this event as my wife and I had planned to go to the Spanish marketplace (me dressed up of course), but after getting all ready we backed out because the wind was blowing so hard she feared her hair would be a total disaster and I worried that my wig might go sailing down the street leaving me feeling rather self-conscious without it.

However, I still regret that we didn't go anyway as it was a particular opportunity that may not

present itself again. We had learned of two nice restaurants named La Margarita and Mierra where strolling mariachi bands play, and I had fantasized clasping a red rose in my teeth and tipping them a few bucks to serenade me with "Blue Spanish Eyes". Oh well, it didn't happen but I still have the fantasy -- and a few others as well.

Lori and her wife did make the shopping trip and reported it was all great fun, especially noting the reactions of people when a large group of C.D.s entered the stores en masse. However there were no problem incidents and all the stores had been previously contacted and O.K.ed.

Thursday night we had an organized dinner in the hotel followed by musical entertainment and good conversation.

Friday we arose and many of us took a bus tour of San Antonio, stopping and touring a museum, lunching on the patio of a Mexican restaurant, viewing the beautiful sunken Japanese gardens, and taking a walking tour of the San Jose Mission, built in the 17th century. During these walking tours we came in contact with numerous members of the general public but no problem incidents were encountered. I did discover that when one walks across a lawn in 2-7/8" heels, one sinks into the sod at least that far.

The city tour was made especially interesting because we were fortunate enough to have an attractive and very articulate middle aged lady as our tour guide. She has a good sense of humor and near the end of the tour commented that she had almost forgotten that we were really "guys" and that she felt very comfortable with us. At this comment several of us girls invited her to attend the evening dinner and to bring her husband along, preferably in a dress. She thanked us sincerely for the invitation but declined as she had to pack that evening for a trip to India (not Indiana). She really giggled at the idea of her husband in a dress, referring to him as "that big macho thing". Considering my own macho past and that of several other C.D.s I've met, I had to chuckle to myself "Honey, you might just be surprised!"

For those who didn't take the city tour on Friday there were various activities at the hotel including a photo studio, boutiques, a make-over salon, etc.

Friday night found us at dinner and a talent show. Much to my delight "Mrs. Shufflewick", the

hard drinking cockney English "lady" performed another of her side-splitting comedy routines. Dorothy Finch of Vancouver, B.C. plays Mrs. Shufflewicks and is quite a wit in her own right. Following the talent show, the downtown bar tour began and we were furnished transportation. Lori, myself, our wives and a young couple from L.A. spent some time in a couple of night clubs and then walked a few miles along the beautiful downtown River walk located near the Alamo. This is a very nicely developed area with many shops, restaurants, night clubs, etc.

On Saturday at 7am following the Friday night bar tour the day *reportedly* started off with an aerobics session which, somehow, I managed to miss as did everyone I know of, except possibly two. The night before, the talent show M.C. had asked for a show of hands by those planning to attend this 7am event and only two hands were raised, one of which belonged to a very lively little cross-dresser in her late seventies. If that is what cross-dressing has done for her, I'm really sorry I waited so long to start! Several workshops for wives and S.O.s, wig care, dance instruction, etc. were held during the day. Lori and her wife availed themselves of the services of the beauty parlor located in the hotel and Lori was quite pleased with her beautiful professionally applied acrylic nails.

Speaking of wives and S.O.s, the Tea Party feels they may have set something of a record with 37 of them in attendance. Boulton & Park has a very active support group for them. Peggy Rudd, author of My Husband Wears My Clothes conducted one of the Saturday seminars which was reportedly a very heartfelt and moving meeting. She is a very lovely Texas lady who is doing a lot for our groups. I've met her briefly twice, once at Be-All and again at

The Tea Party. On both occasions we met in the ladies room of all places. She was most congenial and mentioned that she is working on a second book. Doctors George Brown and Richard Docter also conducted seminars and were luncheon speakers.

I returned our Hertz rental car on Saturday as Jeaninne and I were enjoying the twenty minute wait for the hotel courtesy car to arrive. There were no problems of any kind and I got to simply charge the car to Ron's credit card -- didn't cost Jeannine a cent! On the way back to the hotel I had an interesting conversation with the van driver. He said that the entire hotel staff really looks forward to the Tea Party as we are a group of very nice people, friendly, cordial and easy to get along with (although he neglected to say "ravishingly beautiful"). He added that this was not true of some of the other groups who hold conventions and meetings at that hotel. When we arrived at the hotel, he made me feel a little special by insisting that I remain seated in the van while he set up the portable courtesy step and took my hand so I could exit like a proper lady. God, we're easy to please, aren't we?

On Saturday night a banquet was held with many beautiful gowns and cocktail dresses in attendance. Lori looked stunning in a black low cut cocktail dress with spaghetti straps and Claudia was radiant in a lovely gold sequined gown and, get this fans, 5 inch gold metallic high heels! I make a point of this because Claudia and I have a standing joke about the fact she's always kidding me that I never go anywhere without my high heels. But Claudia, all mine are only 2-1/2 or 3 inches tall! We were all very proud of her though as we did not see her stumble once as she handled them in a very lady like fashion.

CONSUMER ALERT RE: PHILIP SALEM

Kymberleigh Richards (Valley Girls Rep) reports that she is having trouble with one "Dr." Philip Salem. Philip Salem is not a doctor, nor is that his real name. IFGE has legal action pending against Mr. Salem for attempted blackmail. Mr. Salem has been repeatedly accused of being involved in illegal and highly unethical activities. Please warn the members of your organization that under no circumstances should anyone become involved with Philip Salem or his TV/TS Contact Service.

Betty Lee [REDACTED] of Houston and the IFGE Board of Directors gave an inspiring after dinner speech followed by an evening of fifties style music and dancing in the ballroom. There was even a little belly dancing late in the event by a couple of the wives. Sure would be nice to have the equipment and coordination to do that!

When Sunday morning rolled around it was back to reality for me as we had an afternoon flight to catch and much packing to do. After a very nice buffet breakfast and numerous farewells we still had time to go shopping at a nearby flea market for a couple of hours with Lori and her wife, and the couple from L.A.

I think anyone who has been to one of these larger gatherings will agree that one of the most pleasurable aspects is meeting so many very interesting sisters from all over the country and from such diverse occupations as policemen, retired admirals, fighter pilots, M.D.s, computer technologists, engineers, and even an occasional farmer (Yours Truly). It's certainly a lesson in just how varied and widely dispersed this wonderful world of cross-dressing really is.

If any of you can possibly make it to one of these major events, please do yourself a favor and go! Be-All in Pittsburgh June 6-10 would be a great place to start and it's only a few hours driving distance.

From Our Readers

Dear Heather,

Although we've never met, I just had to drop you a line pertaining to your article on "Unconditional Love" in the latest Cross-Port *InnerView*. This is a very dear topic to me and one that I can personally relate to. The article was absolutely wonderful and brought a few tears when I read it. It's always nice to find out we're not alone in our feelings. Thanks gal!

-- Jennifer H.

Isn't it funny that we all share this thing called cross-dressing, and yet even though the themes of the lives of so many other cross-dressers run parallel to what we have experienced ourselves, we can often feel that we are "alone" in our feelings

within the one community which understands us most.

-- Eds.

Dear Cross-Port-ettes,

Hi. Howdy. It does seem like ages since I've dropped ya a line. Why? Well so much has gone on in the past two months. I have been out. Well, out to some extent. As you know we now have a group called Trans-WV here. Out of the three meetings I have made two. WOW. (This is a wow to me.)

Before January of 90 no one had ever seen me dressed up. I even had Tabetha's picture taken. Whew. Even as I look at the pics it still seems as thought it was a dream. Well anyway I took pics of everyone and me during the March meeting, but my film messed up some when I got home, so who knows how it will turn out.

Why should I worry about March's pictures? Well the difference between February Tabetha and March Tabetha was noticeable. I got my hair cut in a more uni-sex style. And I was not so nervous at my second meeting so I took more care and time with my make-up. Everyone at the meeting said I would "pass" with no problem. That of course tickled me a nice shade of pink to match my lipstick. Hee Hee. Anyway I was happy but not ready to bust down the door and charge around town. Ha. Far from it. But, you know it gets frustrating to get all dolled up and have to stay inside. I guess I'll venture out sometime or another.

Ok. I know it's an off the wall thought, but maybe I should become a glam rock star. Like ya know they getta have long hair and wear tons of make-up. And heck the girls just love it. And they will come for miles to see these dudes. Several weeks ago me and my best friend were at the Allerosa in Columbus. The Allerosa is a huge rock club and there were tons of babes at the stage just drooling over these guys.

I know that I am only a member of Cross-Port by mail, but as of next month I will have been a member for three years. I enjoy writing to you all and love getting the newsletters. Well, I've got to run back to my "Hideaway". So see ya.

Colorfully --

Tabetha

Thanks for the pictures of the TWV gang. We're glad things are rolling along. We keep meaning to tell Alona that we'd be glad to help out by printing TWV meeting info and minutes in the

InnerView until you-all get a chance to start your own newsletter, but haven't managed to convey that message until now.

Member of Cross-Port by mail simply means that you needed us more at times than girls who come to the meetings because you were more isolated. Now, with the advent of TWV, you have a place to go and friends to meet and be yourself with. We all remember our first time "out" and it always carries a little magic with us in our memories.

A rock star? Well, Aerosmith did make their comeback with "Dude Looks Like a Lady"--- Eds.

Dear Cathy--

Hi, it's me Cynthia again. I just wanted to drop you a note and let you know how much of a coward I am. I guess the post office is not delivering my mail with my female identity on it because it is not in their records to do so. You all did warn me that the post office needed to be notified but since I have gotten mail faithfully for almost a year now I didn't feel it necessary. However when I didn't get last month's newsletter I became concerned and I sure don't want to miss next month's.

How to solve this problem I guess is easy enough. Although it always gives me a boost when I receive mail addressed to Cynthia I guess we need to make other arrangements until I gain the courage to notify the post office.

I don't know when the next time will come when I can greet you again in person but know this, I think of you all every day and remember the two occasions that I managed to come out. I hope the girls that have met their goals in the past few months have recovered and that their lives feel more complete. Reaching my desired goal would thrill me too. However life goes on, bills to pay, kids to raise and hopefully some day dreams fulfilled. Until next time.

Love Always --

Cynthia

Well, you are not the first person to get smacked by the fickle finger of the postal service this year. Yes, your newsletter was returned to us like it was for several others already in 1990. Maybe those folks got a crack-down order or something. If any of the rest of you are trying to get by this way on a P.O. box, you better act now before we get your

newsletter back stamped "No Forwarding Order On File".

If it is any consolation, the Post Office doesn't care a whit whose name is on a P.O. box, and multiple names can be on a single box. They only care that the names on the letters match the names on the box. They won't give you the third degree if you inform them that you want Cynthia's name on the box in addition to yours. For all they care she could be a cousin, niece, sister or lover. Of course, if there is anything that doesn't make sense in this world, it is how we feel about something, and if it makes you nervous, we'll deal with it another way.

Hope to see you at a meeting soon, thanks for your donation and take care. -- Eds.



Publication Notice
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InnerView is a monthly publication of Cross-Port for its members and friends. Subscription dues are \$18.00 per year payable in January of each year. It is our goal to support the TV, TS and Gay communities and in return we need your support.

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Contributions of articles are welcomed but may be altered, with the author's intent retained, or may be rejected, whether solicited or not. Absolutely no sexually explicit material will be accepted or printed.

Cross-Port is a not-for-profit support group which meets solely for the support of cross-dressers, trans-sexuals and their family and friends.



Linda's Corner



Well Tuesday morning was here before I knew it. I took a shower, shaved real close, and began the ever familiar ritual of changing gender. This time however, I knew once accomplished, I would leave my male persona behind, and not return for 7 days.

I put on the finishing touches of my make-up, and hopped in the car, airport bound. As usual, I got through the airport without any trouble and enjoyed a pleasant flight to Boston. I was picked up at the airport by one of the girls who gave me a tour of Boston and then on to the hotel. I spent most of the afternoon looking for a room mate and renewing old friendships. I eventually ran into Alona. (Alona from Crossport) We took a room together, unpacked, and got ready for dinner.

This year most of my time was pre-arranged with meetings, since I'm both the Representative for Crossport and now on the Board of Directors with IFGE. Of course it's always fun to run into all the girls I know from all the past IFGE conventions. And by knowing so many people, there's always someone near-by to talk to or have dinner with.

I met a girl from the new group in Kansas City. They're only a few months old, but one of the members is rich, so that person insists the President of the group should go to as many of the national crossdressing events as possible. And, with all expenses paid for, of course. Now that's a cross-dressers dream come true.

The luncheons and cocktail parties were all excellent. I got to have dinner in some of the best restaurants in town. In the evening we went dancing at some of the better straight bars in the area. We made many new friends, and picked up girls every night.

That's right, real girls. It always seems that when you get a group of TVs out on the town, you better forget about passing. Everyone knows as soon as you get near the place. Of course there are always a few people in the bar who resent you because you have challenged their sexual social role. Most people

really don't care, and go about their business. But it seems there are always a few girls who find us fascinating and start up a conversation. The invisible barrier which exists between men and women is removed, and so the communication that follows is very open and to the point. Soon they start to see through all the make-up, etc., and want to know about the cute guy underneath. To keep the story short, I can only say that three of our girls brought their new girlfriend to the banquet on Saturday night, and they all stayed over for breakfast in the morning. I made them all promise to make me their bridesmaid if they ever got married.

The banquet Saturday night was a parade of fashion. Everyone looked elegant in their best outfit. We all had a wonderful time being entertained by Wendy Parker after a scrumptious prime rib dinner.



"Put on two falsies and call me in the morning."

I always try to stand out in the crowd, but I could tell that the competition this year was the best yet. Feeling a little out done, I suddenly hear a shriek, and look up to see a girl in the exact same bridesmaid dress as myself. She started to run upstairs to change so I grabbed her. "Hey", I said. "Let's take advantage of this award situation." So off we went, hand in hand, like sisters who just came from a wedding. Of course everyone thought this was real cute and we had to pose all night long.

Sunday finished up the weekend with a tasty brunch, and a hug and kiss good-bye to many of the girls who had to leave. For me, Sunday afternoon meant a long board meeting that followed with another superb dinner and later drinks.



I thought I should inform you on some of the bits of information I picked up on at the conference.

As you may know, the convention next year is set for Denver. The following year it is San Antonio, Texas. The 1993 convention may be in Orlando, Florida, with 1994 possible in Philadelphia, Penn.

The Congress of Representatives had several meetings which of course I attended. We decided to focus our efforts on three main ideas. One such project is developing a manual on how to start and maintain a group. Myself, Alison Laing from Renaissance, and Janice Rupard from Boulton & Park Society are the girls responsible for this task. I also plan to tap the wisdom of Heather before I send out my part of the project.

Not to get too far off the subject, but I thought I would tell you that Heather and I went out to supper on Friday night. We just got our drinks, when I noticed we were sitting right next to Alice & Sharon from Crossport, and Elaine from IXE. Gee, it sure is a small world.

Also, I mentioned to one of the girls I partied with in Boston, that this week my wife and kids were going to Florida to see a shuttle launch. She said, "Guess what? I work on the shuttle and I'll get her a launch pass?" Now that's getting scary.

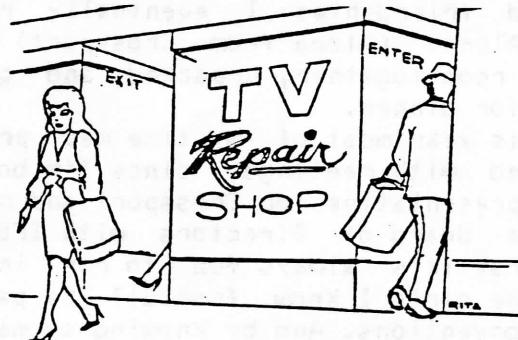
Now where was I? Oh yea....Another item was to publish a calendar of events as soon as they are known. I know of at least four big events that are planned for this year which are new. Many groups are combining talents to have regional meetings, like the southeastern conference planned for August this year in Atlanta. We need better communication between groups so functions don't overlap.

In publication area, IFGE plans to put out three Tapestries this year. They also plan to expand the list of publications for purchase. We will print that list for you from time to time.

The Educational Resource Committee of IFGE, plans to work on new avenues of

Public Relations by putting together a Press Kit and News Releases. They want to rework the Speaker's Handbook, and form a Reference of Speakers to draw on as needed. They also plan to make more educational videos like the one called "Metamorphosis" which will be seen this summer (July) on PBS.

Other topics IFGE plans to explore within the next year include the use of a 900 number, a PAC (Political Action Committee), a closer working relationship with gay and women's groups, an improved communications network between IFGE and the almost 200 groups and organizations out there, and to explore new research and educational projects.



I thought I would also inform you of a new book due out in just a couple of weeks called "From Masculine to Feminine.....And All Points In Between" written by Jennifer Ann Stevens. It is an easy to read, easy to understand guide for the transvestite, crossdresser, transexual, significant other or helping professional. It covers definitions, transitioning, dealing with guilt, understanding and acceptance, the roller coaster ride, gender attribution, and evaluating the problems and opportunities objectively.

It goes into great detail about clothes, make-up, body language, voice, hormones, SRS, living full time, and interactions with people.

It will be available from IFGE in the next month. Call IFGE at 617-894-8340 for more information.

