
TRANSgenderist

Monthly Magazine of the Transgender Independence Club

September, 1999

Fourth House Party At Denise's House Draws Record Crowd

Denise's party drew a record 26 people. A fun time was had as we enjoyed the spacious yard (although with the rain) and Denise's lovely and spacious house! The food, as usual, was spectacular, and we had a wonderful social event. Winnie said we had a-way to go before we matched the TVIC crowds, though, which sometimes reached 40 people. However, we are on track to do that soon, at the current rate of growth! Thank you very much, Denise, from all of us, for putting on such a wonderful party!

Besides the food and conversation, we had music on the back porch which was a fantastic addition. These just keep getting better and better, and if you read on you'll read about the next three house parties (yes, our TGIC members came through; thank you, members!).

Fifth House Party to be at Karen [REDACTED]'s Apartment

Karen [REDACTED] will be holding the fifth house party on Saturday, September 25th at her apartment in Schenectady, from 6 to 12. Bring a dish to pass and come ready for some spirited conversation. And we would welcome our resident musicians back; I really would like to hear that new organ of yours, Karen! (She had her new Wurlitzer organ in the back of her station wagon at Denise's party).

As before, maps to Karen's apartment will be available at the clubhouse, but you can call Karen directly at [REDACTED] for personalized directions. Don't fill up completely that day, though, for the next week.....

Outing and Sixth House Party Scheduled at Evan Lawrence's House

Transman Evan [REDACTED] will open his house in Cambridge for the sixth TGIC house party on Saturday, October 2 from 4 to 9 (as he says, that is the official time). Again we will have a pot-luck supper and a lot of conversation. Thank you, Evan, for opening your house to us. Evan has also told me he has two bathrooms to change in, and if we arrive a bit early after the train, no problem (see below).

I will be hostess that day for a trip on the Battan Kill Rambler train through the scenic Battan Kill River valley. The track has been extended this year from Salem to Cambridge, making the trip very interesting. Anyone who would like to go, we'll gather at the Salem railroad station at 10:45 AM, giving you plenty of time to buy your tickets (\$10 adults, \$6 kids round trip) and take a look at Salem. The train leaves Salem at 11:30, briefly visits Shushan and then continues on to Cambridge, arriving at 12:25. There is an hour and a half stopover here to allow for lunch (dutch treat, or bring a lunch) and walk around historic Cambridge. The train leaves Cambridge at 2 PM and arrives back at Salem at 3:10 PM. Whether you do this in drab or drag, what a wonderful day out!

Seventh House Party Planned

Susan from Hudson has tentative plans to have the seventh house party at her apartment in Hudson on Saturday, November 6. Thank you, Susan, and more information will be available in the next issue of the TGist.

A State of TGIC Address From Our President

Well, I suppose it's time for me to say something as the new president of TGIC. Is there any new agenda? Is the club surviving and healthy? YES, It is! Is it growing? Yes. It's happening, not in numerical membership, but there is a form of healthy & productive growth happening among the members who attend the meetings with some degree of regularity. There is a growing sense of comradery. This has been happening for the past several years with some people coming and going. And the minor crisis of Winnie's retirement was a minor crisis because there are those of us to take over Winnie's position as president, secretary, treasurer and den mother. These duties are now divided among four people! Winnie is doing well so any crisis status in her life is past.

At a recent house party, a friend of non-member status (so far) remarked that he was impressed with the level of comradery among us. He had attended two house parties. Two parties in our honor at J.D.'s, a dinner & theater party, and a few other events.

The monthly house parties are new, and this is in the middle of the summer when organizational things sometimes halt for the summer and may or may not restart!

We are also in a dialog with Senator Tom Duane, an openly gay N.Y. State legislator fighting for OUR rights inclusive with the gay rights struggle. A number of us have sent him documentation of our problems with straight and sometimes very narrow-minded society.

News of our progress with these and any other activities will be posted in our monthly newsletter and TGIC on line.

I take no credit for this. It's happening because involved members are making it happen, not just me. Conversely, if TGIC falls apart, I take the heat. Do I have an agenda? No. The agenda has taken formation on it's own from our combined efforts and input. It ain't broke so it don't need fixing.

There IS a club charter and by-laws. I've actually seen it and looked it over! We are not following it exactly but I don't perceive that as broke either.

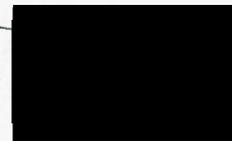
Very recently, a member brought up the fact that the presently involved regulars, including five of the seven officers are predominantly TS's, TS candidates or full-time, life committed cross-gender people like myself. We make decisions and plan parties and meetings while the closet renters who are

not TS's, often with security concerns, are the ones keeping the clubhouse afloat financially. For those people, the monthly third Saturday meetings at Yours are still happening. This is the group that was formerly the Lambda-Chi-Lambda chapter of Tri-Ess originally organized by Sharon Ann Stewart. These meetings have a more even mix of TV's and TS's. If that's not enough, COMMUNICATE WITH US. I just learned that at one time in the past (before my involvement) our group had split into TVIC/TGIC to address and serve both groups more efficiently. Maybe the ex LCL may become a new TVIC or some such. It's a possible option.

What did I not cover? F-M people? They are always welcome. Evan did attend Vicky's party. The F-M transgender phenomenon manifests itself differently from the M-F phenomena. We're Yang becoming Yin; they are Yin becoming Yang, a different transition in a different direction from a different starting place. They are organizing for themselves and they are welcome here.

That's it. Responses pro and con are welcome.

Winnie



Editorial

Where is TGIC going? This has been a topic at meetings recently, and I would like to give my opinion. First of all, TGIC is a social club. When I come to a TGIC meeting, I know that there will be smiling faces of friends just like me, a transgendered person. I believe that TGIC (and the parent group, TVIC), one of the oldest T* social clubs in the United States, will remain a dynamic T* social club into the 21st century, and we look forward to sharing with other T* social groups and T* service providers.

A dynamic organization does not remain at rest. I strongly backed the house parties and events out as a way of pushing the boundaries of T* life beyond our small clubhouse. But, in addition, I share Tina's concern that TGIC not become just a TS and transgenderist club; TGIC's strength has been in its diversity, and we need that to continue. There is a questionnaire about TGIC's program in this issue of the newsletter, page 7; what's your opinion?

I also believe the new political dynamism of some of our members is also a very good thing, because as T*s come out into life beyond the clubhouse, we need the protection of law and even more than that, the recognition that T*s are wonderfully unique full-fledged members of a wonderfully diverse society. Like so many social clubs in the past, we have come to a phase of political activism as we take our place in society.

I have a dream for us. I have a dream that some time in the 21st century crossdressed transgendered men will be able to report to work en femme without legal or social stigma. And I have a dream that transsexuals will have their rights easily accessible instead of having to cross the legal quagmire that transition usually requires, and more than that, will be respected by society for what they have accomplished. Until then there is much work to be done....

And now for some REAL news

--Vix, The Real Vicky

Hawk's Coming-Out Letter

[Few things have given me greater pleasure than to publish this letter I received. Congratulations, sir, and may your coming-out be as seamless and problem-free as the one you helped me with, my own. --Vix]

Boy's Night Out

--Moonhawk

Coming out is never easy, often it is a relief, but only after being really scary and yes, sometimes it is fun! What better time to celebrate than Pride Week in Albany!

Here I am, an FTM transman, out to you in the LGBT community. I hope you will welcome me in my transition from female to male. I invite you to come out and join the fun in the Community Center Friday night, September 17 at 7:30 PM when my partner, Helena Davis, and I will be hosting a viewing of the award-winning film, "You don't know Dick: Courageous Hearts of Transsexual Men." This film expertly details the various experiences of a wide spectrum of FTM transgender and transsexual men and their partners and families. Following the film there will be a round-table discussion on the film, TG and TS issues in particular. Refreshments will be offered. The program is free and all are welcome. [I'll be there; y'all come!]

On a more personal note, it is my vision for this community that it continue to develop its connection to its transgender members through visibility, education and a welcoming hand. I want to thank CDG&LCC, Inc. for its support. I believe this event will be an important contribution to both our LGBT community pride and community building. Please join us for an informative, enlightening, yet fun time.

FTM International, Inc., one of the oldest service organizations in the country for female to male identified trans people, announced that on August 1 it held its first board meeting and elected a new slate of officers. Among those elected was Moonhawk River Stone, elected to the board and also elected Secretary of this national organization. [Congrats, Hawk!]

JD's Will Host Party

JD and Rosie will host another show-stopping T* party on September 16th from 9 PM on to whenever. Thank you so very much! [That means you can start on Thursday and go all the way to Saturday with a different T* event in a different place each night (16/Clubhouse & JD's; 17/Boys' Night Out, CDG&LCC, 18/Tri-Ess, Yours). Imagine that! Awesome!]

More October Events

Karen [redacted] would like to be hostess for two more events in October, but would appreciate help in planning them. Please call her at [redacted] to help and make reservations and such.

The first event is an Ani-DiFranco concert at the Palace on October 3rd at 8 PM [and don't crucify me, Karen, if I spelled that name wrong!] Talk to Karen for more details and to reserve tickets in a block (pay ahead of time, please).

The second event is the ^{definite} date for the TGIC Halloween Party at Yours on October 23rd. Karen is starting the plans for this and **NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!** Please call her and volunteer your services, because this event needs your support and action.

Thank You Callan, Petula, and Raechel!

Callan [redacted] has asked to be relieved of her duties as administrative head of TGIC On-Line, effective by the end of September. We would all like to thank her for her dedicated service to the greater T* community by keeping this e-mail list functioning for about four years, and also to thank Petula at Hartebeest for keeping this e-mail list operating so very well.

Callan also receives our thanks for creating a free world-wide web site for TGIC with some very interesting features. This prototype web site is found at the address:

<http://homestead.com/mscallan/TGICAlbany.html>

And we would also like to thank Raechel [redacted], our vice-president, who has volunteered to take over for Callan as administrative head of TGIC On-Line and also as webmistress of our web site. Thank you so very much, Raechel, for stepping in and volunteering!

We all hope that Callan will continue to contribute to TGIC On-Line, sharing with us her wit and insight on a regular basis. Thank you again, Callan, for all of your hard work! --Vix

TGIC Information

[This is from the TGIC information brochure. If you have not seen this, please request a copy, it is excellent material. Although it is written from the MTF perspective, the other text suggests that FTMs are also welcome. --Vixie]

TGIC provides a safe place to crossdress and express other aspects of feminine behavior, and a place to interact socially with others like us. We can explore the reasons we have for dressing, compare our underlying feelings, see how others have managed these issues, learn techniques for improved presentation as a woman, find out about resources available to us, and, most of all, not feel alone and isolated.

Having the need to dress can be a horrible burden and a dark secret, or it can be an enjoyable activity that, while kept quiet, is in and of itself harmless and fun. Among club members, the desire to dress is assumed and does not need any explanation or excuses. TGIC allows us to openly express ourselves without incurring feelings of shame or guilt. We can discuss fashions, makeup, manicures, shopping, etc., just as any woman would, as well as baseball, biking, golf, hunting, plumbing and other hobbies.

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News Briefs

[Answer to last month's quiz from Neenah: Evan [REDACTED] gets part 1 right, namely **Theda Clark Medical Center** is associated with **Kimberly-Clark manufacturing** (Theda was a daughter who died as a child), and they are the manufacturers of **Kotex**. Thank you, Evan, and congratulations!!! You'll get your dollar when I see you next. <Brass band music>]

[Nobody got part 2 right, but I later found out that since this product IS NOT used in Albany, it might have been pretty hard to answer. **Neenah is supposedly the nation's largest supplier of manhole covers** (personhole covers?). Well, I feel bad enough about asking a tough question, I'll make it worth your while: if anyone spots a Neenah manhole cover and identifies it to me in September, I'll give you a dollar <one per person, puh-leez!>].

And here's another quiz to whet your appetite. Many of us know that **Phyllis Randolph Frye** is an attorney and counselor, but **what OTHER licensed profession does she have, and in what state?** First correct gets the dollar, answer next month....

In a **legal decision in Great Britain**, three **TSs who requested sex reassignment** will receive that operation from the **Health Service**. The court ruled they had been denied illegally.

Over 500 individuals are expected to attend **Forward Motion: Celebrating Cultures, Advocacy, and FTM Lives**, a fall conference for **female-to-male transgender people**. This conference will be held on October 8 - 10, 1999 in Los Angeles at the Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center.

Tracy, self-identifying as a male to female crossdresser., is looking into the possibility of **starting an organization type club in the Utica-Rome area that is geared towards Transgender minded people** but would like to include both gays, lesbians and free expression type people. Anyone interested, please answer her online at oneidany@aol.com.

The **Boy Scouts of America's ban on homosexuals is illegal** under New Jersey's anti-discrimination law, the state Supreme Court ruled. The court's ruling is a **big defeat for the Boy Scouts**, which is fighting numerous court challenges to its exclusion policies. The court, in a unanimous decision, sided with James Dale, a Matawan assistant scoutmaster who was kicked out of the Boy Scouts nine years ago when leaders found out he is gay.

In Thailand, an unwritten tolerance of transvestite students at a major Thai teachers' college appears to signal a **shift in government attitude on issues of sexuality**. The Bangkok Post reported Friday that **male transvestite students on the Suan Dusit campus of Rajabhat Institute are allowed to wear women's school uniforms to classes**.

Western movie hero Jeff Chandler concealed a secret behind his manly 6 foot 4-inch tall frame. **He was a cross-dresser with a penchant for flowered chiffon and polka dots**, according to his former lover, musical swimming star Esther Williams in an excerpt from her autobiography published by Vanity Fair magazine.

[Here's a film about a TS to find. What IS it about Dutchess County and TSs? (I come from Poughkeepsie myself)] **'The Adventures of Sebastian Cole': When a Boy's Stepdad Is the Best Mother of All**. Set in 1983 in Dutchess County, New York, the movie gets deeply under the skin of Sebastian (Adrian Grenier), a bright, attractive, energetic high school student who finds out that his stepdad, Hank, is a transsexual.

In England, an **ex-policeman who is going through a sex-swap is now planning to marry a man he met on the Internet**. Andy Miles, 34, stunned his colleagues in the Metropolitan Police when he "came out" as a transsexual. Now he is divorcing wife Sandra, and is engaged to John Gilmour, a manager for PC World at Chatham, Kent. They plan to marry next year in Amsterdam after the ex-policeman completes his transformation.

A SYMPOSIUM, Friday and Saturday **October 22 & 23**, 1999. Transgender week will be in **October in Provincetown, MA**. The week will be a festival of celebration for transgender people and their arts, thoughts, growth processes, talents, and interests. This symposium is intended to be a showcase for the intellectual investigation of the core issue facing transgender theorists: What is gender and how does the understanding of it create and define transgender?

Legendary English outlaw **Robin Hood was likely gay**, scholars said. After studying 14th-century ballads that are the earliest known >accounts of Hood's deeds, Cardiff University literature professor Stephen Knight said he determined that **Hood's true love, Maid Marian, was fabricated by 16th-century authors to heterosexualize the hero** who stole from the rich and gave to the poor. His real love was probably Little John, Knight said.

In San Diego, **hundreds of gay-pride marchers and spectators were tear-gassed July 24** when someone threw a military-issue tear-gas grenade into the Family Matters contingent during the 25th annual Pride Parade. The 70-person contingent **included small children and babies in strollers**.

Pfc. Barry Winchell was a **model soldier**. **He was beaten to death July 5 in Kentucky, evidently by members of his own barracks**. It now emerges that **his involvement with a pre-op TS may have been the motive for this hate crime**. Winchell had been involved in a relationship with a pre-op transsexual named Cal "Calpernia" Addams, who attended this week's hearings dressed as a woman. "When I heard what had happened, I thought, 'Oh God, they've killed him because he was dating me,'" said Addams, a former Navy medic who served in the Persian Gulf War.

In a new movie, **"Better Than Chocolate,"** one of the lesbian characters is transgendered. "Hard centers, soft centers, I like all the chocolates in the box."

In Ottawa, Ontario, **Synthia Kavanagh says she's a woman trapped in a man's body - and a woman trapped in a maximum security prison for men**. Kavanagh - a transsexual serving a life sentence for the 1987 hammer slaying of a transsexual prostitute in Toronto - has filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission alleging discrimination. She wishes to be placed in a women's prison.

[We received the following note from Cheryl. We are following up on contact people and details, but wanted you to be aware of this new and useful support group:] **TRANSGENDER AA GROUP, a new AA group meets at the CDGLCC, 337 Hudson, 8 PM, on Tuesdays.**

The "Reverend" **Fred Phelps** of the infamous **Westboro Baptist Church**, Topeka, Kansas, is well known nationally for his **homophobic and transphobic bigotry** and for his mantra, "God hates fags!" Phelps had a very active web site at www.godhatesfags.com, where one could find dozens of hateful documents, photos of Matthew Shepard burning in Hell, and even sound clips of the Phelps preaching against GLBT people, apparently very amused with himself. **On August 18, an anonymous good samaritan ended Phelps' presence on the Web by transferring ownership of the godhatesfags.com domain to the GLBT rival organization, "God Loves Fags," where they can read materials promoting tolerance towards GLBT people.**

Intersex in the Age of Ethics, a collection edited by Alice Domurat Dreger, has just been published by University Press Group of Hagerstown Maryland at www.upgbooks.com. "Intersex in the Age of Ethics marks the **first time an entire volume has been dedicated to the exploration of the ethics of intersex treatment.**"

A landmark case was just filed in Minnesota pitting a woman's privacy rights versus the bathroom rights of a transgendered person. Stay tuned!

Questionnaire; please return to TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212, or drop it at the clubhouse; thanks! Hi; we need your input about the type of activities you would like to see added to TGIC's program in the future. This list is just to establish some ideas about how to proceed. Please answer with Y=yes, N=no, M=maybe or X=not sure, OK?

1. My interest in TGIC programs:

- Makeup Class
- Karaoke Sing-Along
- Dinner at a Restaurant
- Boat Cruise
- Outdoor Picnic
- Poise/Department Class
- Pot Luck Dinners/House Parties
- Lingerie Sale Party
- Dance Class
- Comedy Club Night
- Concerts
- Trip to NYC
- Wig/Hair Styling Class
- Volunteer Work
- 50s-60s Party
- Sewing/Alterations Class
- Voice Lessons
- Victorian Party
- Charity Fashion Show
- Photo Session
- Makeover Party
- Tupperware Party
- Home Accents Party
- Jazz Trip/Party
- Swing Dance Party
- Night at Proctor's
- Gourmet Restaurant Dinner

2. What days of the week do you prefer to come out? Please indicate from most convenient to least convenient, and give approximate times please.

3. How often do you go out to TGIC during the Spring?

4. How often do you get out to TGIC during the Summer?

5. How often do you get out to TGIC during the Fall?

6. How often do you get out to TGIC during the Winter?

7. Are you a TGIC member? If not, what is your relationship to TGIC?

The next questions are identity questions; feel free to answer these or leave them blank.

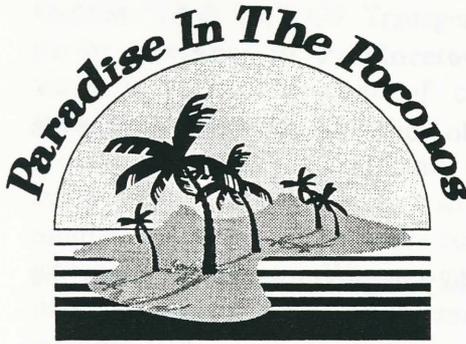
8. Do you identify as TV, CD, TS, TG, TGist, MTF, FTM, etc.? If not, how would you describe your identification?

9. Would you like to help out planning events? If so, please give us your name and a safe phone number or address or e-mail address you can be reached at.

10. What other events should we be considering?

11. Any other comments or suggestions?

Fantasy Crossdressers' Weekend



Nov 4 - 7, 1999

It's time for another all new *Paradise In The Poconos* weekend. We have a fabulous facility with an indoor heated pool & jacuzzi, game room, an authentic English pub, a night club and it's all *ours* for an extended 4 day/3 night weekend of pure crossdressing fun!

This year we will again have a special vendor with clothing, wigs, breastforms, lingerie and more, plus two makeup artists, a hair stylist and a nail artist. We'll also have seminars, and we'll have our world-famous parties (including our special surprise reception), tag sale, and talent show.

Cost: \$350* per person, double occupancy. Includes all activities, 3 parties, seminars, room, meals, tax, and gratuity. No hidden charges! Register now before we fill up. Full details at our web site <www.cdspub.com>. Couples Welcome! (* Single rooms \$475)

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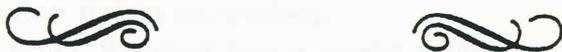
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 I'm at this office on Wed. for now....and possibly Sat....starting **June 2**

I feel it's very important for everyone to receive massage therapy.....
 Bodywork is essential for all of us in this stressed out world. If you are going through any type of trauma or change.....I would like to help support you through that.

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<http://homestead.com/mscallan/TGICAlbany.html>

Transgenderist's Independence Club (TGIC) is a nonprofit, educational, non-sexual social support group for persons wishing to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of gender, including crossdressers, transsexuals and their friends.

TGIC Officers

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| President | Tina [REDACTED] |
| Vice President | Raechel [REDACTED] |
| Secretary | Karen [REDACTED] |
| Treasurer | Cheryl [REDACTED] |
| Den Mother | Denise [REDACTED] |
| Newsletter | Vicky [REDACTED] |
| House Parties | Leslie [REDACTED] |
| TGIC On-Line/Web | Raechel [REDACTED]/Petula |

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Readers are invited to submit articles relevant to the Transgendered Community for consideration. You may bring or mail typed pages for publication to the TGIC clubroom. Format should follow that shown in the current newsletter. You may also e-mail the articles to [REDACTED]. The article should be part of the body of the e-mail.

Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30 PM to 10 PM. Some come earlier and stay later, but it is wise to call if you are not a Keyholder or if it is your first visit. Come dressed either way, meet and talk with friends. Many continue to socialize at one of the local night spots after the meetings.

BECOME AN IFGE MEMBER

The International Foundation for Gender Education is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Basic membership is \$25 per year. Subscriptions to Transgender Tapestry are \$40. Brochures and forms are available in the TGIC Club Room. Call or write to:
IFGE (617) 899-2212
PO Box 229
Waltham, MA 02154-0229

ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

Your regional HIV Counseling and Testing Program provides free HIV counseling and antibody testing, support and referral. No names will be asked.

(NYS Health Department)

Call: (518) 486-1595 or 1-800-962-5065.

TGIC On-Line

All transgendered people are invited to join TGIC On-Line, an informal e-mail network sponsored by Transgenderist Independence Club (TGIC). Messages exchanged on TGIC On-Line focus on events of interest to transgendered people in a region from Lake Placid to Newburg. If you are interested in joining the network, or want more information about TGIC, send an e mail message to: TGIC-request@hartebeest.com with any subject line and in the message body, the text:

JOIN TGIC
STOP

(Please note: JOIN TGIC must be on line 1. STOP must be on line 2) You will receive an automated acknowledgment (Journal) of your request, which must be approved with the list moderator.

Calendar and Events

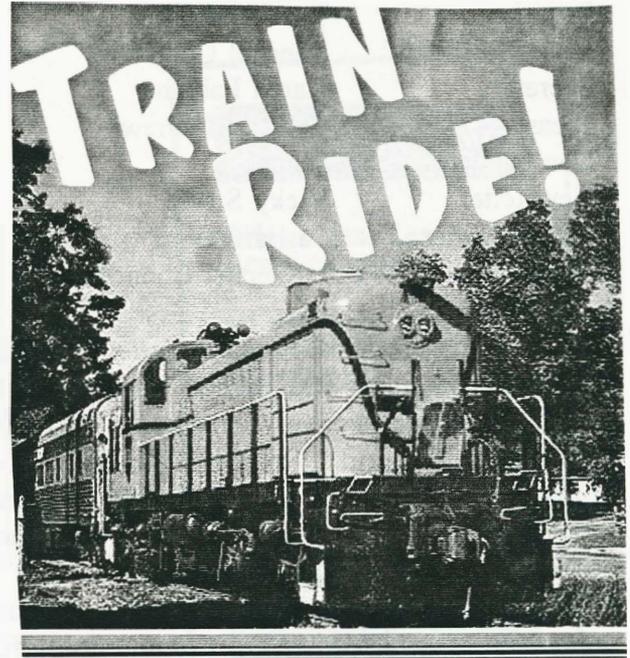
TGIC meetings are held every Thursday from 7:30 to 10:00 in the clubhouse. *See explanation in this issue.

- September 2 COMPASS F2M Support
Waltham, MA
- September 6, 2-10 WIGSTOCK Drag Show
NYC (8/99, TGist)
- September 11, 2-5 Twenty Club, TS Support
Hartford, CT
- September 16, 9-? JD's Party for TG&Friends*
- September 17, 7:30 Boys' Night Out, Hawk
CDG&LCC*
- September 18, 9 on Tri-Ess at Yours, Barrett
Street, Schenectady
- September 21-26 Southern Comfort Conf.,
Atlanta, GA (7/99 TGist)
- September 25, 2-5 Twenty Club, TS Support
Hartford, CT
- September 25, 6-12 TGIC House Party,
Karen Fabiane's apt.*
- September 26, 7 Talent Show, CDG&LCC
- October 2, 10:45-3:15 Train Ride,
Salem->Cambridge* →
- October 2, 4-9 TGIC House Party,
Evan Lawrence's House*
- October 3, 8 Ani DiFranco Concert,
Palace Theater*
- October 9, 2-4 Twenty Club, TS Support
Hartford, CT
- October 16, 9 on Tri-Ess at Yours, Barrett
Street, Schenectady
- October 23, 2-4 Twenty Club, TS Support
Hartford, CT
- October 23, 7 on TGIC Halloween
Party, Yours*
- November 4-7 Paradise in the Poconos
King of Prussia, PA*
- November 6 Susan & Spouse TGIC
House Party, Hudson
- November 13, 7:30 Capital Pride Fall
Concert, Page Hall, Albany

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and Cambridge Station,
Broad St, off West Main (Rte. 372)

For Information: (518) 692-2191

Comments? Vicky [redacted] or
c/o TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212
All the news that fits.

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