

# Chi Chapter Magazine

Vol# XXXVI November 1997  
Issue # 11

Dec: "Puttin on the Ritz"

## Chi named Commended Chapter

66 attend October meeting

By Laws Amendment Fails 80-19



*Miranda  
Writes....*

### Thank You!

Thanks to those of you who stood up and spoke at the last meeting. A dialog has been initiated, which I hope will continue. I would like to especially commend those who spoke in favor of the amendment. It takes courage to risk losing friends by defending an unpopular viewpoint.

### Transgender Spirituality

The November program on Spirituality is one which was originally scheduled for August, but which was canceled due to weather. Mary Anne Foster kindly agreed to do the program at our next meeting. We are also fortunate to have Father Dennis O'Neill, from the Living Circle interfaith spirituality center. If the spirits are willing, it should be a fascinating and memorable program.

### Costume Contest

Congratulations to the winners of the 1997 Halloween costume contest: Christine won the most glamorous in her 19th Century bustles and laces as Mrs. Jefferson Davis; Pamela won the most gruesome as the dead witch (or was she a vampire?); Faye and Velma won the most garish as Mistress Cat and Mistress Rat, with whips and chains and leathers. Thanks to everyone who participated. You helped make it a fun event.

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Presidents  
Podium*

### Which Witch??

October's meeting was full of goblins, witches, high heeled hockey players, pirates, Victorian ladies, vampires, pregnant hookers, and many more including one member who came as 'Rocco' The restaurant owner.

### Outcome....

True to the spirit of Chicago, we had several dead voters right from the graveyard voting on the bylaws amendment. Which by the way was defeated 80 to 19. I appreciate all those who were interested enough to get involved, regardless of how they voted. 56% of the membership voted on this issue, with votes continuing to trickle into the PO Box. This is a considerable increase over the 7% return on the questionnaires which were sent out last year. I look upon this outcome as a mandate to continue on and pursue the Tri-Ess vision.

### Ritz....

Don't forget, in December we have our annual 'Puttin on the Ritz' Awards/Dinner/Dance. There is a coupon on the back page. Naomi & Rachel will also be hosting a hospitality room following the dance.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Nov 15th Meeting Info Page 7**

# Couples Group

The couples group met at Candace & Dawn's home on October 25th. 5 couples were present. Due to the holidays approaching the next meeting is planned for Jan 24th. We will announce the location at a later date or you may call the helpline for information.

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

# P.A.L.S.

The P.A.L.S. meeting was held at 6:30pm on Oct 18th just prior to the regular meeting. Present were; Kate, Kim, Linda, Dawn, Sue, Laurie Anne, Joyce, Donna and Kathleen..

## November meeting schedule November 15

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

Location of the meeting room is *the same as last month* entrance should be thru room 117 or the regular room.

For room reservations, call: 630-279-0700

## Dues are now being accepted for the year 1998.

**Chapter Dues are \$24.00 for all members.**

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**National Dues are \$36.00 for individual and \$48.00 for couples**

**(Two years available at \$60 or \$80)**

**(If paid before 1/1/98 then only \$35/\$45)**

**Please remit direct to Chi Chapter at:**

**Chi-Chapter  
PO Box 40  
Wood Dale IL 60191-0040**

## Chi Chapter in Ess

**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**

**E-Mail: Chitriess@aol.com**

**Home Page:**

**HTTP://users.aol.com/chitriess/triess/  
chimain.htm**

Check your mailing label. The label will give you the amount of your Chapter and National dues. All dues amounts are calculated for an expiration date of Jan 1, 1999. You may also take advantage of a substantial discount on your national dues by paying just \$60 for a two year membership. Adjustments for prorated amounts will show a reduced amount.

Local      National

24    35

Jane Doe  
PO Box 3622  
Weston IL 60177

## ADMISSION TO A CLUB WITH DETOURS

Do you still recall how you executed the first step to our club? On this subject, everyone has her own story to tell. Mine is somewhat complicated and, therefore, perhaps interesting.

The fact that there exists the contact forum "Femme Travestie", had long been known to me; ever since a well known Zurich Gratis Advertisement published a short article on this subject on 6/6/91. This article aroused in me hidden admiration and, naturally, I didn't discard the paper but retained it for future reference. Given my particular talent, I have been a real worrier and the assumption of contact during the eighties appeared to me an extreme danger for my existence.

For about a year now, I have been surfing the Internet. Initially, I pursued the webpages of newspapers, schools, companies, etc.. This effort is greatly enhanced by such search engines as LEO, YAHOO, etc. An inner voice told me one day, that one could possibly find something on the subject of travesties so elegantly expressed as cross-dressing in the English language. And bingo, that's how it began. The local telephone company rejoiced last winter, judging by my phone bills.

Soon I had located the umbrella group TRI-ESS in the USA, its many chapters as well as invitations to many events. The statutes of this organization limit full membership to heterosexual men and their partners. This alerted me to the fact that there existed differences within the TV scene, in this particular case designed to enhance and maintain the marital union. Naturally, this position was not valued by "transgender" organizations, since it does not enable a united front in public. In fact, it is not simple to find a uniformly accepted solution for all groups. As a newcomer to this scene and someone in her late forties, I rather preferred the Tri-Ess philosophy and, therefore, applied for membership by e-mail. Among all of the events, I was immediately drawn to the "BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE WEEKEND" which was being staged by the Chicago Chapter, following their multi-city rotation. I showed the Internet invitation to my wife, how great it would be to participate in something like that. To my utter astonishment she countered: "Why don't you register and take 10 days of vacation."? - I was stunned and excited at the same time. It now meant to execute the decision and to make the arrangements for the travel. Naturally, I had four months to prepare. The anticipation is naturally the greatest enjoyment. In retrospect, the time of preparation was almost as exiting as the five days of actual attendance.

This period evidenced the strength of the Internet. Description of the hotel and reservations schedule of the Chicago public transportation "Metra, CTA", city plans, all this could be studied ahead of time with the PC. Here is some information regarding "BE-ALL".

This extended weekend takes place annually in a first class hotel in the mid-west of the US. It was first staged in 1983 and organized by Naomi Owen, now Vice-Chair of Tri-Ess. This year was the 15th anniversary. Next year, Be-All will be organized in Pittsburgh by the non-Tri-Ess club "Transpitt". This date has already been headlined in my personal calendar.

The objective of this event is to offer participants five wonderful days in a cultured hotel ambiance, interesting seminars, excursions, make-up courses and talent shows; providing ample opportunity to exhibit one's own wardrobe. Permit me to describe this year's activities from my own vantage point. A more extensive summary authored by the Chi Chapter can be found on the Internet. The trip itself already had its excitement since my two suitcases contained an interesting assortment of clothing

and cosmetic articles. The clearance through customs, however, took place without incident and I was not required to open my suitcases. Subsequently I took the CTA-Subway from the O'Hare airport to the city, stored my luggage and enjoyed my first sightseeing walk through the "Windy City" accompanied by beautiful weather. Subsequently I took the commuter train from Union Station to Lisle in DuPage County; a trip of about one hour. The hotel bus picked me up at the train station. It happened to already be at the train station to pick-up Miranda Stevens, Anne Casebeer and two other sisters who were returning from their first shopping trip. When we arrived at the Hyatt Hotel, it immediately became apparent in the lobby that a special party was in attendance. One could admire the full range of fashions; from evening to business wear could be admired. Following check-in and room occupancy, it was high time to prepare for the evening and to let my "Helga" out of the suitcase. The first steps down the hallway and through the hotel lobby were initially somewhat insecure, however, later on in the hotel cocktailbar, I felt as well as a fish in water and quickly engaged in lively conversation with new found friends. Most of them were very surprised to learn from whence I came. The following day, all "Newbies" were seated at a special table for breakfast, greeted by Christine Adams and introduced to all others in attendance. Two interesting seminars followed. Accidentally, I found myself in a workshop about behaviour and comportment. It soon became apparent that following two days of training, the participants were to be the models for a fashion show. This idea didn't appeal to me at all and I made the attempt to excuse myself from the future workshop by talking to Eve and Carole, who were in charge. Without success! During a wine tasting later in the hotel, Eve skillfully persuaded me to participate as I, supposedly, was the ideal type to be a model. Thus the next day was set and I practiced the steps and turns on the runway along with the other models who, incidentally, had some of the same misgivings as I did. Accompanied by good attitude and peppy music we made good progress under the skillful guidance of Eve and Carole, an active real life model.

That evening we were to enjoy a boatcruise in Chicago's harbor and along the skyline. We planned accordingly (low heels, rainhoods) since a few rainclouds had gathered over Chicago. A special bus picked the group of approximately 60 ladies up at the hotel and brought them downtown to the pier of the "Jamaica" on the Chicago River. The voyage could begin. From the observation deck, we admired the impressive and ultramodern skyscrapers which give Chicago its unmistakable character. Following cruising the canal for about a mile, we entered the open Lake Michigan. Now it was time to enjoy our dinner. In the lower deck, we were greeted by nicely set tables and a fine buffet. Between the various courses, however, we again and d to the upper deck in order to relish the magnificent view of Chicago. Unfortunately, it was too dark for photographs and the vessel too swaying. About 10 pm, the boat reached its dock at Wacker Drive. Some of the local girls left to enjoy the nightlife of downtown including a dragsow at the Baton. However, I chose to return to the hotel with most of the other girls in order to conserve our strength for the next day. The fashion show was scheduled to be the entertainment following lunch. We models continued to practice most of the morning, prepared our wardrobe and accessories in a neighboring room and were served an early, somewhat abbreviated, meal. While the other participants enjoyed their dessert, we starred in the ramplights of the runway, trapest across the catwalk and soaked-up the applause. I will always be greatfid to Eve that she drew me into this adventure.

Friday evening, various productions were exhibited in a "Gong Show". The gong always sounds at a point in the exhibition when it reaches its high or low point, and the stage is cleared for the next act. This, however, also signalled "half time" of Be All and with it the sad

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3) Kiki Helga

thought in the back of my head, that all of this would soon find an end. However, Saturday morning was to bring yet another highpoint. I had an appointment with Jim Bridges, the famous make-up artist from Hollywood. First, he treated me to an incredible make-over. Then he quickly convinced me that instead of my short auburn hairpiece, I would look better in a blond pageboy style. A look into the mirror almost caused me to fall out of the chair. I returned to the others and received many compliments. A shopping trip has a particular fascination for us crossdressers. The organizers had planned such a shopping trip to a large shopping center. Requirements: A friendly smile and a wallet. Saturday morning, the hotelbus took us to the Yorktown Mail. Alicia from Chicago was our hostess. She speaks German well, having been stationed in Kaiserslautern some years ago while in the service.

In little groups, we dared to enter the various stores, only to meet periodically at a prearranged point to reassess our situation. In general, all sales personnel was very friendly, even though they had soon "read" our true gender.

Saturday night offered a big ball with entertainment being provided by the Chicago Gay Mens' Chorus. This group had sent their best talent and the show turned out very professional and much appreciated.

These were the highpoints of this weekend. I would like to ignore the departure scenes purposely. I had formed many new friendships with whom I will communicate by E-Mail in the future. Now back home, I naturally miss this friendly company. Having gotten used to the company of people who have the same nature, it was easy to contact the forum "Femme Travestie" in Zurich. The events which I have since attended are casual, happy and provide, in addition to nice conversation, the chance to see and be seen.

Helga B.  
MUTSCHELLEN, SWITZERLAND

(Continued from page 1) Denise

### Who Was That??????

following members and guests were present at the October Halloween meeting; Amy, Miranda, Tammy, Paula, Lois, Laurette, Andrea, Eve, Christine & Cheryl, Denise & Kim, Fay, Christina Jennifer, Ronnie, Eileen, Gloria, Carole, Pamela A., Jamie, Michelle, Lori, Candace & Dawn, Amanda, Lee, Janet, Dee Dee, Norma & Joyce, Rachel, Toni M., Pamela, Vanessa, Stacey, Rori, Loraine, Sherri, Kelly, Donna, Debbie, Shelley & Linda, Jamie, Beth, Kay, Rachel & Naomi, Kimberly, Andrea, Criss, Nicole, Linda, Jill, Carolyn, Jackie Ann Crystal, Velma, Diana, Julie Ann, Sara, Kate, Glenda, Laurie, Ann, Kathleen

### Award!!!!!!

For the second year in a row, Chi Chapter has been named Commended Chapter. This award was announced by Jane Ellen Fairfax, Chair of The Society for the Second Self.

### Dinner??????

Our friends at CGS are holding their Christmas Gathering on Dec 6th at Ann Sathers Restaurant. Be sure to support them as they have supported us. Full details on page 5.

(Continued from page 1) Miranda

### Elections

As most of you know, I am not running for office. I am grateful to Rachel for stepping forward to run for VP Programming. It is a difficult job. Let's all give her our support and help her out as much as we can.

As far as the other positions, once again there are no challengers. I am not going to make endorsements. You should look at the candidates, and vote for them only if you feel that the club will grow, thrive, and be vibrant under their leadership. To be a leader, it is not enough to be the custodian of the status quo, the keeper of the old order.

In discussing the elections with one of my dearest friends, Amanda Lynn, we thought it would be valuable to issue some challenges to the new board.

We challenge you to be our guides and leaders, but above all, be an inspiration to us. Be brave enough to lead us out of our comfy Tri-Ess closet, to stand up for our rights, to promote non-discrimination beyond the membership policy.

Be open and honest with us. Uphold the standards of journalism in our newsletter by attacking issues and not persons. Disagreement is OK, in fact it is welcome, but not at the expense of slander.

Be welcoming and gracious. Make Chi Chapter a real support organization, where members and visitors can discover, express and be their true selves. Where newcomers feel welcome, part of the group, wanting to return to the next meeting.

Make us proud of you. Make us proud of who we are. Make us proud of Chi Chapter.

In a democracy, there is always choice. Just remember, you can always vote "No Confidence" for those candidates whom you feel will not live up to your vision for Chi Chapter.

*Miranda*

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# GREAT LAKES GENDER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### NOV-DEC 1997

#### Week of November 2-8

- Wed 11/5 9:00 p.m. South Side Girls, Clubhouse Players, 13126 S. Western, Blue Island. (708) 389-6688.  
Thurs 11/6 7:30 p.m. It's Time, Illinois, 146 N. Oak Park Ave. Call (708) 535-1506  
Sat 11/8 6:30 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. Call (414) 297-9328  
Program: Presentation/demonstration on interwoven hair-piece/wig techniques  
Sat 11/8 IL Fed. for Human Rights. Fundraiser at the Park West. A great evening showcasing gay and lesbian talent from Illinois. Call (773) 296-4141 for info.

#### Week of November 9-15

- Tues 11/11 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee (708-863-7714)  
Program: Electrolysis by Kelly Morrissy  
Sat 11/15 8:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Tri-S, Holiday Inn Express, Elmhurst (630-262-8707).  
Program: Spirituality with Mary Anne Foster and Father Dennis O'Neill

#### Week of November 16-22

- Tues 11/18 Femme Night Out with Kelly St. Cyr (847) 746-4707  
Sat 11/22 7:00 p.m. TONI, Thanksgiving dinner at Paula's home in Indiana. Call her at (219) 736-5520 for details.  
Sat 11/22 7:00 p.m. CGS/TS Support Group, Transformations, (708) 383-8338.

#### Week of November 23-29

- Tues 11/25 CGS Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Party at Temptations, 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park. Bring a dish to share.

#### Week of November 30-December 6

- Wed 12/3 9:00 p.m. South Side Girls, Clubhouse Players, 13126 S. Western, (708) 389-6688.  
Thurs 12/4 7:30 p.m. It's Time, Illinois, 146 N. Oak Park Ave. Call (708) 535-1506

**Sat. Dec. 6, CGS Christmas Gathering, 6:30 p.m. at Anne Sather's Restaurant, 929 W. Belmont. Tickets: \$30 members, \$35 nonmembers, \$40 at the door. Call 708-863-7714**

#### Week of December 7-13

- Tues 12/9 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee (708-863-7714)  
Sat 12/13 6:30 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. Call (414) 297-9328  
Program: Christmas Party and Social

#### Week of December 14-20

- Tues 12/16 Femme Night Out with Kelly St. Cyr (847) 746-4707

**Sat. Dec 20, Chi Chapter "Puttin' on the Ritz", 6:30 p.m. Ramada Hotel O'Hare, Rosemont. Advance tickets: \$36 individual, \$64 per couple. After Dec. 12: \$41 individual, \$69 couples. Call 630-262-8707**

#### Week of December 21-27

- Tues 12/23 CGS Social at Temptations, 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park.  
Sat 12/27 7:30 p.m. TONI, Southlake Center on Taft St. in Merrillville.  
Program: elections of officers for the coming year. 219-650-2142  
Sat 12/27 7:00 p.m. CGS/Femme Underground Social, Transformations, (708) 383-8338.



**CHRISTINE'S CASH  
COUNT  
OCTOBER 1997**

CHECKING ACCT BALANCE	10/11/97	\$4102.18
<b>INCOME FROM MEETING FEES AND MEMBERSHIP DUES</b>		
		\$718.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
FOOD FOR OCTOBER MEETING		\$ 98.00
OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM EXPENSES		\$ 38.00
MEETING ROOM		\$351.80
NEWSLETTER/PRINTING Oct		\$256.80
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$744.60</u>
NET LOSS		- \$26.60
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
PALS ACCOUNT.		\$409.00
PETTY CASH.		\$212.00
HOTEL DEPOSIT	Ritz	\$700.00

**Board Nomination Results.**

Nominations were held at the October meeting. The following are the results of that meeting.

**PRESIDENT:**

Eve	Declined
Miranda	Declined
Denise	Accepted
Christine Adams	Declined

**VICE PRES. PROGRAMMING:**

Rachel B.	Accepted
Miranda	Declined
Candace	Declined
Pam M.	Declined

**VICE PRES. OUTREACH/MEMBERSHIP**

Candace	Accept
Lorraine K.	Decline
Miranda	Decline

**SECRETARY**

Gloria	Decline
Toni M.	Decline
Kiki	Accept

**TREASURER**

Christine A.	Accept
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**Out Of Focus**

by Kiki

Douglas Dunes

So where was I during the great debate at the last meeting?

I was up in Saugatuck enjoying the weekend at the Douglas Dunes. And what a wonderful weekend it was!

Weather was fantastic if a little cool. The fall colors were just starting to appear and as each day went by, became more pronounced. This was the sixth time the Saugatuck weekend was held and I've made ever one of them.

I had made reservations several weeks before and as usual made my reservation to arrive on Thursday instead of Friday. There is now a hard core group of us who do just that.

For the first time in six years I drove up as my male self because I was just getting over a bad cold and my voice had dropped down a couple octaves. There was no way I could have talked as a female and since I'm not a flaming crusader, I decided to go as Bill.

The first night about nine of us who had arrived early went to a place called the Mermaid in downtown Saugatuck and had a wonderful dinner. Of the nine, maybe half were en fem which really makes it easy for the gals to pass.

There were a total of 23 that came up for the weekend. Over half were from CGS and/or Tri Ess and a few from IME, the Grand Rapids group. And of course, a few wives came along.

The thing that makes it so good, are the impromptu get-to-gathers we had at different cabins in the afternoons, the wonderful food, and the late breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday where we all just sat around and chatted forever.

Ya just had to be there.


I just can't keep my mouth shut on this Miranda business. Miranda is so capable in everything she does from what she gave in organizing the Be All to getting an anti-discriminatory ordinance passed in Evanston. It is beyond me why she would try to change an organization by definition and charter devoted to the heterosexual crossdresser.

With so much wrong in the world and so many other important things that need to be changed, you would think she could find something more important than Tri Ess to put in shock and try to change. If nothing else, she sure woke us up!

We've had the Million Man March in Washington and just the other day we had the Million Woman March in Philadelphia. Perhaps she is just the person to start a Million Transy March. It could be held in San Francisco or New Orleans.

The march would proclaim "...the continuum of gender with a full spectrum of transgendered expression. Everyone would be free to explore their gender honestly in a nurturing, non threatening environment". Now that would be something! Bring a good pair of shoes.

Bye.



# VELMA

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