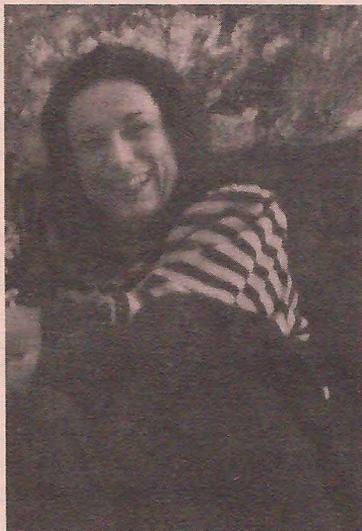


In Memoriam: Arden McLaughlin



Few of us who have achieved successful gender reassignment have been able to accomplish such a change without the love, care, and help of people along the way. In 1983, when I saw Paul Walker for the second time, he recommended that I call a couple in Berkeley who he thought might be willing to help me explore experiences that might increase my understanding of my own confusion and possibly find a solution. That couple were Ken Pool and Arden McLaughlin. On September 15, Arden died of complications from a long illness coupled with an accident.

It was Arden who accompanied a petrified and excited me to my first encounter with the real world, a trip to the Pacific Center. Arden was convinced that I was a TS and told me I could try to avoid it and force myself to live the old life, but some day I would see that it was no use fighting it. "It was an eternal recurrence," she said. "It's your destiny."

She helped me develop a sense of color and style, suggested I stick with my real hair and scrap the wig. She and Ken introduced me to ETVC on a cool summer night in 1983. I remember sitting through an interminably long business meeting.

She told me I would need a name. I hadn't thought about that. Up to then, I changed names as fast as I could change clothes. She was very prescient about things, a gift

for sensing subtle signals that led to insights that were revealing to each of us whom she touched. When I changed jobs one time, she told me she had bad feelings about it. I was never happy there.

There were many of us in those days who sat at the foot of her bed and listened to her wise counseling. She was often bedridden and in pain, but she was always willing to help. Finally even she had to give it up for her own survival.

We should all know by now that she was one of the founders of ETVC, creating a place where we have been able to test our sense of ourselves, to meet others like us. For some, it has been an outlet for expression that cannot be sealed up or just a place to live out our fantasies. All of this in a social atmosphere with the opportunity to have fun.

The legacies of Arden McLaughlin are many people who have learned that gender confusion does not mean that one is eternally doomed to a guilt ridden, behind-closed-door existence, that one can at least have the opportunity to be happy in this world. For some of us, thanks to her, we are now living the lives of pretty normal productive women.

We will always remember her.

Jennie

(See additional story on page 10)

How Miss ETVC Is Selected

If you think you don't have a chance to be Miss ETVC because you can't play the clavichord, you may be interest in learning how the judging is done for this competition.

What we are looking for as we judge these fabulous ladies is someone who cares about ETVC and its message enough to be willing to represent us all.

The judging is structured so that 40 percent of the total point value awarded to each contestant relates to the personal interview with the judges. You may be a professional clavichordist and may indeed win the talent portion of the contest, but this doesn't guarantee you will be wearing the tiara at the end of the evening.

Judging is done in two parts. Part I includes:

<u>Competition</u>	<u>Point Value</u>
Personal Interview	40%
Legs or Sportswear	20%
Talent	20%
Evening Gown	20%

Contestants are also rated from one (low) to 10 (high) in several different categories depending on the type of competition. Four categories - costume, makeup, poise and personality - apply to all competitions.

Additionally, there are special ratings for specific portions of the competition.

For the personal interview judges look for ability to pass, femininity, communication skills, intelligence and ability to represent the club. For the talent competition judges assess natural talent, concept and presentation. For the leg or sportswear competition judges assess the shape of the legs. Modeling ability is assessed in the evening gown competition.

Out of this will emerge five finalists who will begin Part II of the competition with a zero score and will be asked to answer one of five questions. At this time they will be judged on a one to 10 basis in the following categories: costume, makeup, poise, personality, communication, intelligence and club representation.

The finalist with the highest point total in Part II becomes Miss ETVC 1991.

Best of luck to all the contestants - we're confident the best gal will win...and proud of each one of you for creating our most fun-filled event of the year.

(See page 13 for more Cotillion information.)

Editor's Notes

Does the desire to crossdress intensify over time? Is it inevitable that once you leave the closet you will want to dress more, go on to electrolysis and perhaps hormones?

Obviously, there are those among us for whom a transgendered lifestyle, or even a sex change, is an absolute necessity. But I am convinced that this is a very special, and quite small, group of people.

I believe that the more important issue for most people in our community isn't whether to begin hormones or whether they should live as a woman full-time, but rather how to avoid being distracted by unrealistic ideas about such things.

Explore your femininity to its fullest, but keep your perspective, particularly if you find yourself wanting to intensify and expand your activities. Consider carefully why you suddenly may want to increase your dressing, especially if you also happen to be having family, financial or career difficulties.

I remember a newspaper advice columnist once said that the only time transvestism is harmful is when it interferes with relationships and work. That seems like a sound observation.

Goodbye: To advice columnist Renee Chinquapin who has decided to end her "Just Ask Miss Renee" feature after nearly two years of wonderful work. We will miss you Renee. Good Luck in your new career as a counselor/therapist!

Hello?: Our president Martina Bloom has finally answered the question we've all been wondering about: why she calls her column Martina's Klostent and why her license reads Trina Martina David Bloom. Oh, and Martina I'll answer your final question this way — if it's cool with the DMV, it's cool with me.

Why They Pay Me The Big Bucks Around Here: I feel like Emily Latella. Never mind, I think, on the bathroom restrictions at the Daybreak. Apparently, it is okay now to use the Ladies' Rooms there according to several of our far flung correspondents.

About Those Survey Returns: For a mail-in survey we did pretty well with our first-ever member poll with 78 responses or about a third of the current membership. I am listening to what you said and so is your executive committee. For example, you may have noticed last newsletter that we had little shorts called TV/TS Tips with ideas on places to go for fun and to shop. This new feature is a direct result of what many people asked for in their write-in responses. Similarly, because many of you asked for it, we are now including articles by therapists who specialize in the issues of the people in the gender community. More changes are coming, but please be patient.

Which brings me to another thing. We still need more REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS to cover our events. Surely there are a few of you who would like to write for us and I know that most of you have cameras! Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a reporter or a photographer.

More congratulations to Davida, the new Grand Duchess of San Francisco and Mr. Edd, the new Grand Duke, whose coronation was on September 15 at the San Francisco Hotel. Like the ISE coronation, the Ducal Court gave ETVC folks in attendance wonderful reception and made us all feel comfortable and welcome.

Cindy R. Martin

Letters to the Editor

Cindy Martin's comment about the use of the lady's room at the Daybreak is in error. I know the owners/bartenders. They personally told me that they heard that there was a rumor that TV's weren't welcome in the female bathroom. They insisted that this is just not true.

Jane's attempt at humor in her article about the Gay Day Parade was more insulting than humorous. Her comment about Rachael (me) lounging in a "parasoled" beach chair left me spitting bullets and breathing fire. I worked from set-up time to tear-down time, passing out literature, answering questions and touring other booths, explaining our group's purpose. I sat in that chair to avoid the sun (cancer problems) while adding left off phone numbers on our brochures. It would not take too many comments like that in the newsletter to destroy my desire to volunteer. Rachael

Ed Note: Rachael should blame me as well as the two other people who read and edited the story before publication because none of us saw it the way she did. However, it is clear that Rachael feels she was seriously maligned and for that I am truly sorry.

ETVC NEWSLETTER

ETVC is a non-sexual, membership based organization with the purpose of serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-challenged people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services.

For details about ETVC programs, membership, newsletter subscriptions, and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

O F F I C E R S

President	Martina
Vice President	Kristyn
Secretary	Cheryl
Treasurer	Nancy Ann
Education	Jessica & Paulette
Outreach	Kim & Telzey
Social	Jo Anne & Diahanna

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 9/30/90)	263
1989 Membership	286
New members this year	27

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 8/1/90	\$5,892.64
August income	2,084.10
August expenses	2,329.86

Balance on 8/31/90	5,646.88
September income	943.73
September expenses	747.61

Balance on 9/30/90	5,843.00
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The ETVC Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Newsletter contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC.

Other organizations may reprint or reproduce portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor:	Cindy
Design & Layout:	Gloria
Photographer:	David Swanson
Production:	Cheryl

A D R A T E S

	per issue	per year
Business Card	\$20	\$100
4" x 5"	\$50	\$250
8" x 5"	\$80	\$400
8" x 10"	\$160	\$800

PERSONAL ADS

ETVC will accept personal ads from ETVC members at the rate of \$1 per 3 lines. We will not accept ads with a purely sexual objective.

Send ad copy and a check for the appropriate amount to: ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Ad deadlines are the first weekend of the month of publication (June, August, October, December, February and April).

HOTLINE

415-

What is IFGE?

In her everlasting search for truth, Telzey, our Outreach Co-Chair, queried Merissa Sherill Lynn, executive director of the International Foundation for Gender Education, about its purpose. IFGE is best known for sponsoring an annual national convention of the gender community and for publishing the TV/TS Tapestry.

Here is Merissa's edited response:

We want it clearly understood that IFGE is not a CD/TS organization. It is a CD/TS educational resource. In order to ensure that we have accurate information for our reference directories, and that we produce the best educational publications available, we must pool the resources of our community as a whole. That means we must provide good communications and mutual support.

IFGE is not an umbrella organization. It provides means through which individuals and organizations can work together to build a happier and brighter future for all. To have one little group doing its own thing in San Francisco or Boston or Chicago or Dallas or Philadelphia is not going to do much to help the vast numbers of people who need us. To use a tired cliché, "We've come from different shores in different ships, but we're all in the same boat now, and whether our boat is to sail or flounder is up to us...all of us."

We are fully aware that ETVC may not need IFGE. IFGE needs ETVC.

With love,
Merissa Sherill Lynn

New Member Orientation

On September 11, in San Leandro, the Outreach Committee held its second monthly New Member orientation meeting. The meetings were developed to allow new or prospective ETVC members to become acquainted with our group, to ask questions, and to learn from individual members what the group is like. Present were ETVC members including President Martina, Outreach co-chairs Telzey and Kim, New Member chair Melissa, Rachael, Carol, Becky and Amy. Two new members came to the meeting and we spent over an hour answering their questions.

Carol



Tiffany (center) receiving the Sister Organization Friendship Award from Empress Timmi Ryan (right) at the 1990 ISE Coronation.

Miss ETVC receives the ISE Sister Organization Friendship Award.

Congrats: To Tiffany, our hardworking Miss ETVC 1990 who was named recipient of the Friendship Award during the ISE coronation for her outstanding efforts at bringing our two groups closer together. During the September 29 presentation at the Imperial Star Empire coronation outgoing Empress Timmi Ryan made a special point of praising ETVC's efforts in the gender community. Our large contingent was treated wonderfully during the event and seated at a ringside table. Thanks ISE and congratulations to your new Empress, Trampolina (great name, eh?) and Emperor, David.

Cindy Martin



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SPECIAL EVENTS

A Visit from Doris Fish

World renowned for her work as a greeting card model, Ms. Fish has also made a few waves in San Francisco as a performer and actress. The popular columnist for the San Francisco Sentinel will speak on Saturday, November 10 at 2 p.m. at the Chez. The topic: herself, of course. "Me, me, me," she says, "Of course, I'll give lots of advice on how to be as beautiful as one can be." Donation fee of \$3.

Speech & Language

Yvonne Gordon is a California licensed speech and language pathologist. She has worked with voice change for over seven years and has worked closely with people in the San Diego Sex Change Program. Working with both individuals and groups, she has helped to "create a total femme voice and presentation." November 14, 8 p.m., Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant St., SF. Donation \$3

Gender Faire

It's titillating, it's provocative, it's more exciting than a barrel of dancing girls. It's Gender Faire. Be amazed at the plethora of gender info available. There will be videos, books and exciting people personing our infamous ETVC gender booths.

A new musical group will entertain us with songs, including a new one about ETVC! Join us Thursday, November 29, at the Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant St. Members and Guests \$3.

ETVC/RGA Rap Group

The most exciting rap group in the Bay Area meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the New Community of Faith Church in San Jose. The address is 6350 Rainbow Drive in San Jose. The next two meetings will be on Monday, November 12 and Monday, December 10 from 8-10 pm. There are only two rules: no one dominates the discussion and no discussing the rap group outside the group. If you know the way to San Jose, join us. If not contact Kim (408) [REDACTED] or Martina at (408) [REDACTED] for more information.

Alternate Personas

Many TV's, TS's and TG's already have experienced bringing one or more of their alternate or "second" selves forward, just as people involved with age play notice younger and older selves and people involved with consensual S/M and D/S sometimes feel like different people when they are in charge or when they submit. In this presentation by William A. Henkin, MFCC and Sybil Holiday, the nature of alternate personalities will be explored via discussion and a slide show. An intriguing event that shouldn't be missed. Saturday, December 8, Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant St., SF. 2 p.m. Donation fee \$3.

Female-to-Male

Jamie Green and Loren Cameron will host an informative female to male presentation on Wednesday, December 19 at the Chez Mollet. In his previous life as a woman, Jamie was a pioneer in the advancement of the feminist cause. Loren, with a previous lesbian feminist history, believes gender is a fluid concept. They will discuss their individual journeys that lead them to "acknowledge and actualize their masculinity in this dramatic way - surgical sex reassignment." Everyone is welcome to the attend this extraordinary presentation. Donation fee \$3.

An Evening at the Chez

Celebrate the holidays in your best style! Live entertainment and lots of surprises are in store at the Chez on December 27. This is always a big event so be sure to wear your special holiday outfit. Members \$3 Guests \$5 - Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant St., San Francisco.



Krystin and Jo Anne pushing the heavy birthday bake for the August birthday girls.

**Looking for fun and excitement
in your crossdressed life?
Join the social committee!
Contact Diahanna at
(415) [REDACTED]**

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TV/TS/TQ GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for March & April



NOVEMBER

2	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
3	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
4	ETVC	Cotillion Meeting	Starts at 5 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
5	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Castro Valley	(415)
6	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 9:30 PM	San Francisco	(415)
7	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415)
8	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	TBA	(415)
9	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
10	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:30	Chez Mollet	(415)
10	ETVC	A Visit from Doris	Starts at 2 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
10	ETVC/RGA	Daybreak	Starts at 8 PM	Mountain View	(408)
12	ETVC/RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408)
14	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Richmond	(415)
14	ETVC	Speech & Language	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
16	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
21	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415)
24	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916)
29	ETVC	Gender Faire	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
30	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415)

DECEMBER

1	ETVC	Cotillion Auditions	Starts at 2 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
3	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408)
4	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 9:30 PM	San Francisco	(415)
5	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415)
7	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
8	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:30	Chez Mollet	(415)
8	ETVC	Alternate Personas	Starts at 2 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
8	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Richmond	(415)
8	ETVC/RGA	Daybreak	Starts at 8 PM	Mountain View	(408)
10	ETVC/RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408)
12	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
13	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	TBA	(415)
14	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
19	ETVC	F-to-M Discussion	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
19	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415)
21	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
22	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916)
27	ETVC	An Evening at the Chez	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
28	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415)

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling-oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, and last Friday of the month at 8:00 PM. The Center is located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call (415) [REDACTED] for more information.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. RGA can be contacted by writing: Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170.

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) meets at 7PM on the fourth Saturday of each month upstairs at the Town & Country Inn's restaurant 2060 Auburn Blvd. Sacramento; call (916) [REDACTED] for directions. Write Jennifer Richards, PO Box 417701, Sacramento, CA 95841 for more information.

The Tenderloin Self Help Centre meets every Wednesday from 4-6 PM at 191 Golden Gate (at Leavenworth), San Francisco, CA. This is a project of the Central City Community Hospitality House funded by the Community Mental Health Services. Call (415) [REDACTED] for details.

SOCIAL CORNER

Foxy Lady Wine & Cheese Party

Janine of Foxy Lady is hosting monthly get-togethers for ETVC at the Foxy Lady Boutique, 2644 Mission St., San Francisco. This safe and comfortable social gathering will include music and feature the offer for a discount shopping spree. There is free validated parking at 22nd St. in the Bayview Federal Savings parking lot. Take advantage of the wonderful opportunity for a social and discount prices every first Tuesday of the month. Upcoming events will be on November 6 and December 4, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

New Group in Sacramento

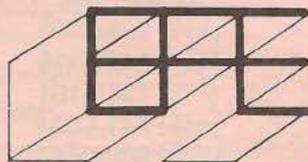
ETVC members are invited to become charter members of a newly forming support group for crossdressers and those who love them in Sacramento. You are invited to the first event on Saturday, November 3, 7 p.m. at Joseph's Town and Country Inn, 2060 Auburn Blvd. Sacramento. The group is aimed at serving the social, educational, political, recreational, and other special needs of gender challenged people. For more information call Charla at 916- [REDACTED] after 7 p.m.

Pajaro Dunes Weekend

The Pajaro experience is a great way to meet and enjoy the friendship of other crossdressers and to gain experience and self acceptance in a relaxing and comfortable environment. The next weekend will be November 16-19. Contact Joan Sheldon, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170 for more info.



Queen and King of Rock n' Roll, Louise and Bob ETVC August Social



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Significant Other Support Group

The Significant Other Support Group wants to invite all Significant Others to attend our SOS group meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons, but are themselves not a TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to come to these meetings, particularly if the SO feels they need support from their peers in dealing with their feelings about the TV/TS in their lives. It is important to emphasize that all meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. This is to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees will feel secure enough to really be able to share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern.

The SOS group meets the second Thursday of each month from 8 to 10 p.m. in the homes of members. You are all welcome with open arms. Next meetings are November 8 and December 13. For more information call Ginny at [REDACTED]



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The Book Library

Announcing ETVC's new lending procedures for our book library. Yes! That's right - there actually is a book library. And now we can make this valuable resource available to you. These lending procedures are reasonably simple and straightforward. A one-time \$10 refundable deposit, along with your current ETVC membership and phone numbers, enables you to borrow one book each month. For a copy of a more detailed loan procedure, the Book Library list, book request forms and the application, write to the Education Committee at our ETVC PO Box number, call me, or talk with me at the Chez during one of the socials.

We have a few new additions to our library:

Female to Male: The Life of Jack Bee Garland by Louis G. Sullivan. See our July-Aug. newsletter, Vol. 9, No. 1 for Jane's excellent review on this biography of a pioneer explorer of gender.

Conundrum by Jan Morris. An autobiography of her journey from male to female.

Towards a Recognition of Androgyny by Carolyn G. Heilbrum. She writes, "I believe that our future salvation lies in a movement away from sexual polarization and the prison of gender towards a world in which individual roles and the modes of personal behavior can be freely chosen." The concept of androgyny and its occurrence in myth and literature is traced in this "quietly provocative" book.

Men and Women: Dressing the Part by Claudia Brush Kidwell and Valerie Steele. Taking a very fascinating historical view, this book explores the relationship between changing fashion and our changing notions concerning masculinity and femininity. I highly recommend this book to everyone interested in gaining different perspectives and the potential for new ideas.

The Education Committee is dedicated to fulfilling your educational needs to the best of our abilities. We are extremely gratified to offer you the opportunity to benefit from the Book Library.

A New Social

In the effort to bring you more monthly events, I'm pleased to announce a new wine and cheese social. Janine is well known for her services to our community with her Foxy Lady Boutique at 2644 Mission St. in San Francisco. She has kindly offered to open the doors of her boutique after her regular working hours to host this social for you. Beginning in November (ironically on Election Day), her monthly social will occur on the first Tuesday of every month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. An extra bonus is the discount she'll offer to you during this social. So mark the evenings of November 6 and December 4 on your calendar for this social. This will be a good chance to pick up something nice (and perhaps even find out the election returns, if you like.)

Past Educational Seminars

My many thanks to those speakers we've had so far this term who have donated their time and efforts in order to bring you these seminars. Our very own Ronda gave an interesting perspective in July on her ideas on crossdressing as an addiction and how this exploration of gender may be used to help discover who we are. The consensus of the audience seemed to strongly favor the crossdressing as a means for self-expression and self-discovery.

Lin Fraser, a highly respected gender therapist, gave an excellent presentation in August on her experiences and philosophies on transvestism and transsexualism. The turnout for her talk was extremely high. We are currently transcribing

this presentation and hope to bring it to you soon through the Article Library.

And in September, Linda Thiele, a well-known clinical social worker, directed a couples rap, exploring the feelings of "the two sides" of M to F in a mutual setting. She had the group relate their positive feelings as crossdressers. These feelings varied greatly, from a sense of wholeness to vulnerable, from security to sexual. Then, the significant others were asked to relate their negative feelings, which included fears of neighbors/friends/family finding out and the fear that their partner might decide on sexual reassignment surgery. As one who is single, I learned from hearing both sides. Interestingly, when asked about their husbands' unusual preoccupation, the wives indicated that through all the negatives, there were many more positive aspects. I was surprised to hear that the wives would prefer their spouses continue to crossdress.

I also wish to thank all our other speakers and the people who have come to hear. For it has been you who have made these seminars a success.

Future Educational Seminars

These last two months of '90 promise to end the year with a bang. Doris Fish will speak Saturday, November 10, at 2 p.m. Doris is a prominent personality in the gay community who writes a weekly column in the San Francisco Sentinel and who has appeared on stage and postcards around the world.

Yvonne Gordon, on Wednesday, November 14, at 8 p.m., will speak on...well, er...speaking! She will present her knowledge and experience with feminizing one's voice and presentation. Sounds nice, doesn't it?

And rounding out December brings us William Henkin and Sybil Holiday, Saturday, December 8, at 2 p.m. They will give a presentation (including slides) on alternate personas, an expanded version of their program presented at the 1990 IFGE convention in Boston.

As a holiday present, the Education Committee is proud to present a panel discussion with Jamie Green and Loren Cameron, Wednesday, December 19, at 8 p.m. They will host a Female-to-Male discussion relating their experiences, insights, feelings and philosophies on gender and gender roles.

Remember, these Educational Seminars are held at the Chez in San Francisco. A nominal fee of \$3 is asked to cover costs. We are a non-profit group.

As long as we can maintain enough different speakers and a healthy sized audience, the Education Committee will continue to bring you the two seminars each month. Are you or do you know of someone who is interested in presenting so that others could benefit and learn? Let's talk. You can call me at

[REDACTED]

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What Did I Do On My Summer Vacation?

Tokyo's Elizabeth Club

Kyoko, a genetic girl, came outside the Elizabeth Club to get me because I couldn't decipher which building was the correct one. As she and I entered the building, we met Kumiko, who was also coming to help me. I greeted her in my best Japanese (which is none too good) and we took an elevator to the second floor.

The second floor is kind of like the entry port to the Elizabeth Club, which is run like a business and where members pay for various levels of membership. I was told there are somewhere in the neighborhood of 1000 members in the club.

On the second floor it seemed anyone could buy or rent female clothing of all types. There were dresses, skirts, lingerie, all kinds of things. Also, you could purchase the Elizabeth Club publication QUEEN. This is also where one would pay for day use of the club. It was about 5000 yen for me, about \$30 American. Members may pay a daily fee or a fee based on how frequently they use the facility.

The third floor had rows and rows of lockers where members could keep their female clothing and or complete the change from one gender to another. All of the members I talked to were reluctant to go outside "dressed up", so they all came and left the Elizabeth Club as males. Also some had wives or girlfriends who weren't aware of this side of their personalities. So the lockers came in handy.

The fourth floor was an active floor. Here's where the real changing came about. There was a row of about eight changing booths, similar to the changing rooms in a department store. There were two women on this floor who help with whatever problems you had and one of them actually did makeup for the members. I had the impression that the members weren't that proficient at applying makeup themselves. There were all kinds of paraphernalia provided, including combs, jewelry, nail polish, etc. I needed help because the skirt I brought had unraveled part of its hem, just for the occasion. The women there provided me with several pins that fixed everything.

I wasn't used to having someone else do my makeup so I did my own. I found I had forgotten earrings, so they were provided for me. What a great place!

The fifth floor was where all the major activities took place. There were several rooms where everyone socialized and had a good time. In one room you could have your picture taken or lip sync to music; in another you could sit and visit and in another you could watch television, listen to music or just socialize. There were non-alcoholic drinks and food. A cacophony of activities.

The girls were all really nice to me. I was especially fortunate that Kumiko was there when I called because she was the only one who spoke English well and she was nice enough to take me on a tour of the club and introduce me to everyone. They were just as interested to learn about me as I was to learn about them.

Gloria Wright

Reprinted from the Primrose

Gambling and Rambling at Tahoe!

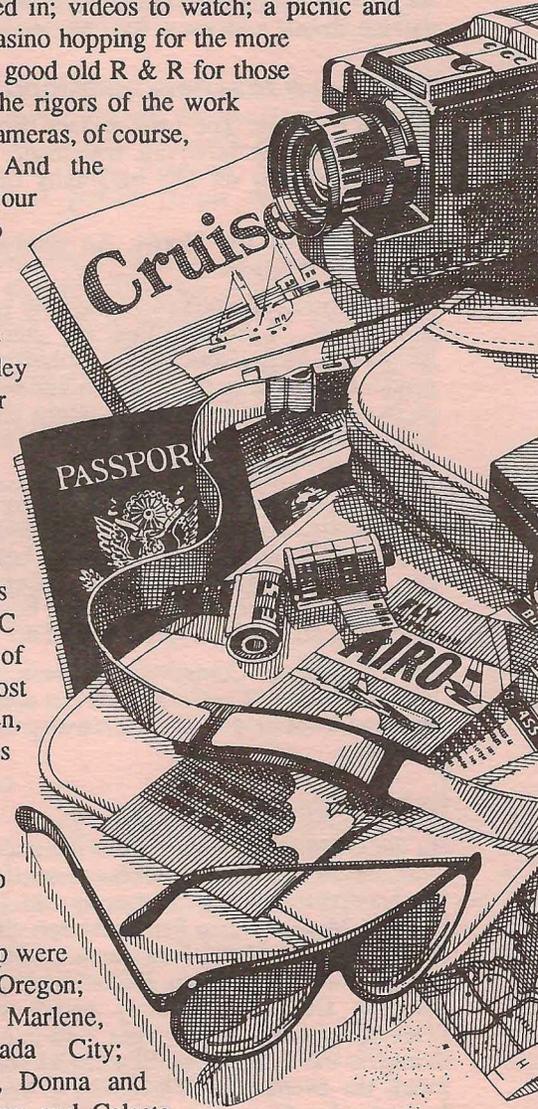
For those who could, for a few days or even just a weekend, awaiting us at Lake Tahoe was another of Joanie Sheldon's fabulous getaways this past August. At Incline Village, nestled in the hills above Lake Tahoe, rest and relaxation were waiting. During the first week, twelve plus of us met for several days of just plain fun - fantastic gourmet cooking; intelligent, thoughtful conversations and discussions; relaxing card games with a few games of Scrabble tossed in; videos to watch; a picnic and swimming at the lake; casino hopping for the more energetic, and just plain good old R & R for those of us happy to escape the rigors of the work world for a while. The cameras, of course, were going nonstop! And the bluejays, delighted with our popcorn treats, helped to keep the balcony area clean.

One evening, Jane Kamper Bentley entertained us with her comedy act (previously performed at the Chez) and during the day taped and interviewed significant others and Tri-Ess members, as well as the ETVC contingent. Linda of Garden Grove spent most of her time in the kitchen, making sure all of us were well fed. Everyone pitched in to help; Donna, I have never seen you set so many tables before.

Among this happy group were Ellen and Roni from Oregon; Judy Ann, Philadelphia; Marlene, Visalia; Betsy, Nevada City; Joanie, Jane and Loy, Donna and Julie from the Bay Area; and Celeste and Linda, Melanie and Didge from the LA area. Radene popped over from Carson City when she could, and Nancy K. decided not to miss one of our gourmet dinners.

With all the hoopla over dress and makeup, we, significant others, could not resist the temptation to try new hair colors, outrageous nail polish, etc. It was all great fun! Looking forward to many more such wonderful vacations!

Julie



SF Dream Trip

When I first wrote Rose and set up a meeting I never in my wildest dreams anticipated or expected the experiences I would have. It was a wild and woolly week.

I had very limited experience in crossdressing, though I have dressed since I was 6 or 7, and had never met, conversed or anything with another crossdresser. I never had a wig. Basically, I was a beginner, so I didn't know what to expect. Rose and her spouse Dorothy were great. They set me at ease and helped me purchase an outfit and loaned me a wig. They didn't rush me, but I felt obligated to dress for a "Joanne's visit" at Rose's on Sunday night and it was a great confidence builder.

I attended a "rap session" the next evening with Katie, Rose, Joanne and Terry. Again, everyone's self-confidence put me at ease very quickly. Everyone was very supportive and honest.

Thursday night was ETVC's business meeting. The mile walk from the Hilton to the Chez Mollet was my first venture in public by myself. It was titillating, but unnerving. I also received my first "whistle" and "Hey, momma!"; both were great for my morale. Once at the club, I was overwhelmed. There were so many people - I couldn't believe the community had so many TV's. Because I was nervous and shy, I started out slow, but by the end of the night had talked to 10-15 members. I don't recall all their names but Cecilia and Terri were especially nice.

Friday night was RGA in San Jose. Again I met many people but Amy, Donna and Denise were especially supportive. We closed the Daybreak and went back to my motel room and talked until 4 a.m. It was great!! I was so comfortable at the Daybreak. It was fantastic.

Saturday, Amy convinced Don (me), to join Gary and Michael in auditing an ETVC presentation on "Sexuality" at the College of Notre Dame. The three presenters were superb. I didn't plan on saying anything nor admitting that I was a TV but somehow both happened. Michael, Gary and I sent around pictures of Denise, Amy and Debbie so the counselors could see what we looked like dressed. They were extremely surprised at the transformation and I think it really added something to the presentation.

That night, enroute to the beach, Amy and I were stopped by a car full of sailors, looking for directions. Well, we were "read" yup!! They knew we were dykes. As they drove down the street yelling "Dykes!" we wanted to die. It was one heck of a night.

I don't have a very understanding wife so I don't dress very often, but the experiences I had in (the Bay Area) will live with me for ever. You're great!! Your community is warm and supportive. I can't thank you enough.

Debbie
Centerville, Ohio

Toronto's Walk on the Wild Side

Walk on the Wildside is a unique service for the crossdresser in Toronto. The owner, Patty, will supply everything: lingerie, wigs, outerwear, etc. At the time of my visit, the wardrobe consisted of larger sizes, but there was something for me to wear in a size 8/10.

We chatted for a bit and Patty showed me her album of Wildside girls. I was amazed at her ability to transform a rough-looking hockey player type into a soft and alluring siren. Not wasting any time we went into the studio and I changed. Patty was trained in theatrical arts and is very skillful with makeup. Working with different shades of foundation and powder, Patty shaped and contoured my face. Plucking some eyebrows (not too much) and working with shadows and mascara she created doe-like eyes.

When she finished, Leslie came forth. But this was not the Leslie I was used to. The Leslie I knew was attractive but not demanding; she is soft and feminine. She would have blended in at any mall or social gathering. I was now a Wildside girl. A Wildside girl not only attracted attention but demanded it.

With Patty's expertise in makeup she was able to create the illusion of ample bosoms. She gave me the cleavage I thought I never had. It was great. I thought that I had died and come back as this sensuous woman I saw in the mirror.

It was now time to introduce the newest Wildside girl to the public. Wearing a black spandex jumpsuit, T-shirt and heels, Patty gave me a tour of Toronto's Yonge St. (Yonge Street is a like the Haight in San Francisco and Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley during the 1960's. It could get pretty wild.)

We went to a seafood restaurant for dinner and being a bit nervous I couldn't eat much. It was the first time I have ever stayed in one place en femme. I have gone shopping and have even been in a crowded elevator en femme but never have I visited a restaurant. I was afraid of being read. Also the corset I had on to bring out my hourglass shape didn't help. Ever tried eating with a corset on? My fears were laid to rest when the patrons and restaurant staff showed no signs of reading me.

After dinner we went back to Patty's studio and removed all traces of Leslie, followed by a facial. Leslie was able to visit Toronto for about 7 hours. There were seven wonderful hours.

So how much did this cost? About \$200 Canadian, \$170 US. It wasn't cheap but the service and the experience is well worth the cost.

Leslie Lee

Ed. Note: ETVC does not endorse Walk on the Wildside, a well-known service in Toronto. If you wish to contact the service, call 1-416-██████████

Martina's Klostent

By now many of you have heard of the death of one of the six founding members of ETVC. Arden McLaughlin was a great person who helped many of us. Two long-time members have written articles remembering her elsewhere in this newsletter.

Here is an excerpt of what I said about this at our September social: "Early last week Kim called to inform me that Arden McLaughlin had passed away following complications resulting from a traffic accident and the health problems she has been plagued with for years. Arden was one of the six founding members of ETVC and with the help of Ken Pool has counseled and helped many transsexuals. Ken has been close to her for 18 years. Arden has been a strong supporter of projects for World Peace, especially in Kenya."

TRINA MARTINA DAVID BLOOM. That is how my driver's license now reads. Do you like it? Martina, my preferred femme name, is in the second position and my given first and last names follow it. How did I come by the name Trina? My thanks go to a pen pal in New York who misspelled Martina as Matrina. So why didn't I put Martina first? It refused to roll off the tongue like a name should. How did you decide on your femme name? Should our next survey include a question on that? What would you like to see in the next survey? Write down your ideas and send them to me care of our PO Box.

Have you answered our last survey? Cindy is looking at the results already, but only about one quarter of the total membership has responded. That is very DISAPPOINTING. We do our best but YOU are the people who make this group what it is.

Some have asked me why I call this column Martina's Klostent. One, in my formative years my sister got me adding the N to closet thus, closet; two, I did not want the spelling to be too close to closet as that may mislead the reader. So closet became KLOSENT. Is this acceptable? Cindy? Yes, it is silly.

Musicians Wanted

Musicians sought for band that will play at clubs, parties and events as well as doing some recording. I play guitar, bass, keyboards, and drums, and also sing and write music and lyrics. TV's, TS's, TG's all encouraged to apply. Call Laura at [REDACTED]

Arden McLaughlin Dies

ETVC Founder, Friend

Arden McLaughlin, one of ETVC's founders, our first social chairperson and one who has helped hundreds of TV's and TS's, passed away on Saturday, September 15, 1990. She died from a stroke shortly after an automobile accident.

A genetic female, Arden gave many transvestites and transsexuals hope and encouragement. She aided many TV's in their journey out of the closet and helped numerous TS's become confident new people during their difficult transitions.

Arden and others helped put ETVC on the map with a 1940's party at the Chez Mollet which was filmed by HBO. She helped create the foundation for the fun and successful socials that we continue to have today.

All of the early members of ETVC knew and respected Arden for the caring, generous person she was. Newer members did not get the opportunity to see or visit her much because she was usually bedridden in recent years. However, she continued to counsel and help lots of gender people despite her frail condition.

One of Arden's great humanitarian efforts was helping "Projects for World Peace in Kenya." Together with Ernie, Arden provided great relief to a country in great need. Projects for World Peace in Kenya was her favorite charity and we would like to make a donation in her name. If you would like to donate please write ETVC, PO Box 6486, SF, CA 94101. Make your check out to ETVC, but mark in the bottom section that it is for "Arden's Fund".

ETVC applauds the contributions that Arden McLaughlin made to the gender community and especially ETVC. Her longtime friend and fellow ETVC founder Ken Pool put it best when he said, "Arden, we loved you more than we knew." Arden's legacy lives on in the hundreds of people she helped.

Arden, we are all better for having known you.

Kim Hellman

TV/TS Tips:

In our survey several members recommended Newfangles, 432 Santa Clara, Oakland, 839-0457, a former ETVC advertiser, and Buffalo Exchange, Haight St., SF as good places to shop dressed. When you buy something there, tell 'em you heard about them from the ETVC newsletter. We need more advertisers!

Members tell us that the Driftwood Lounge, 22170 Mission, Hayward, 415-[REDACTED] welcomes us.

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Coming Out

Part 1

As individuals experiencing various levels of gender issues and self-awareness, we often find ourselves becoming more in touch with our feelings and needs. Equally important to discovering new levels of self is sharing the discoveries we have made, so that we may enrich our experiences and fulfill our newly identified needs.

"Coming out" can be a powerful experience, often serving as a catalyst in revealing our special secret self, while at the same time improving our own communication skills. But sharing our gender and sexuality issues with people close to our hearts can be intimidating.

We may draw on the fear of "I may be rejected," or "I feel a lot of shame surrounding this issue." Hence, we perceive coming out as risky business.

One guideline, as therapist Roger Peo has said, is to consider whether "this will improve my relationship with this person." This is an excellent measure in determining necessity versus risk.

Revealing our needs has always been a risky business. There are, however, a number of tools we can use to minimize the risk.

PREPARE FOR COMMUNICATING. Much like going to a business meeting, it can be helpful to prepare a list of items you wish to discuss. Also, talking with a knowledgeable friend or counselor can be helpful. Dan, our imaginary gender person, is about to tell his wife, Karen, about his gender issues. Dan first spoke with his therapist about his feelings, then strategized a communications plan, and finally, he defined a level of confidentiality to request from Karen.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT...was the first thing Dan did by asking Karen whether she would feel comfortable talking personally over dinner.

VALIDATING THE RELATIONSHIP...is an important door opener. It reaffirms that the relationship and its positive strengths exist. Dan stated, "Karen, I want you to know I've drawn a great deal of happiness from our eight years of marriage. What I have to share is very personal and I feel I can trust sharing it with you."

Dan also sought a confidentiality agreement at this time.

(To be continued)

Joni Eveling Israel

Joni Eveling Israel is the founder of the Gender & Self-Acceptance Program in San Francisco.

Crossdressing within a Relationship

Part 1: Disclosure

Disclosure of your crossdressing to your spouse or, if single, to a prospective partner is one step in establishing a greater level of intimacy. It can also be a valuable way of honoring your identity and sharing yourself fully. Disclosure may come at the beginning of a new relationship, or after many years of marriage. Whatever your situation, it is important that you feel ready to disclose and emotionally able to take a risk before you talk to your partner. You may want to assess your readiness to disclose by asking yourself some of these questions.

HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT MY CROSSDRESSING? You want to feel good about yourself and as open as possible when you make your disclosure. It will be more difficult for you to assist your partner in understanding your crossdressing if you are feeling ashamed or guilty about this part of yourself. Additionally, your partner may rely on you for clues about whether this is an acceptable behavior. Your own self-acceptance and understanding could help your partner through this disclosure. If you do not have a high level of self-acceptance you may benefit from talking to others at a transgender club function or a TV/TS support group, by reading current literature on crossdressing or by consulting a gender therapist.

WHAT DO I BELIEVE WILL HAPPEN IF I TELL MY PARTNER? WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DON'T TELL? What you expect to happen as a result of your disclosure can be an indication of how realistic your expectations are and can also point out whether you might inadvertently sabotage the success of your disclosure.

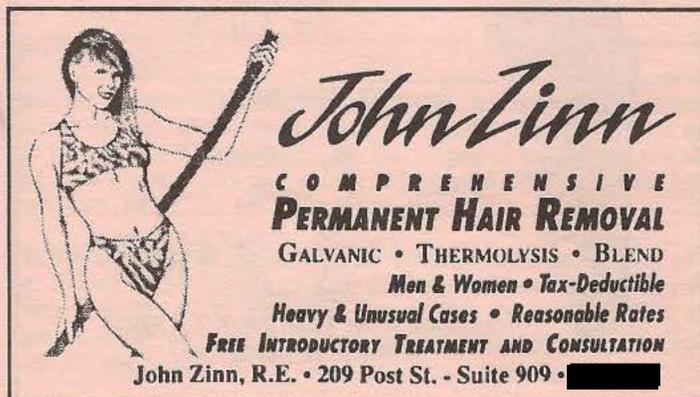
Generally speaking, if you are expecting an enthusiastic response from your partner and an immediate invitation for a shopping trip to Nordstroms, you will be sorely disappointed. Your partner has formed a certain image of you which probably has not included crossdressing. Time and much honest and loving discussion will be needed to bridge the gap between her image of you and the new one you are presenting.

On the other hand, if you are expecting disaster to strike, you might unintentionally engineer the result to match your expectations. If your disclosure is tinged with a sense of defeat about your situation and the future of your relationship, your partner will be distressed and confused since up until this time she had felt that the relationship was solid. If you can't shake the feeling of impending doom as you contemplate disclosure, don't disclose! Wait until you are feeling more confident and comfortable about yourself and your crossdressing before you talk with your partner.

(To be continued)

Luanna Rodgers

Luanna Rodgers is a San Francisco therapist specializing in work with the gender community.



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Tahoe Diary **Sunday, August 5**

10 a.m.: We begin packing and loading the minivan: two suitcases, a garment bag, a trunk, a fold-up lounge chair, a camera, two wigs, a makeup case and lots of loose ends.

"What do you need all this stuff for?," my wife asks.

"I want to be ready for all occasions."

"If there is an occasion, you'll be too busy changing clothes to notice."

2:05 p.m.: We depart

7 p.m.: At Joanie Sheldon's house at Incline, Nevada, thunder showers have dropped the temperature from a daytime high of 104 to somewhere in the 70's. We are greeted by Ms. Sheldon herself; Betsy from Nevada City; Linda and Celeste/Ron, members of the Powder Puffs of Orange County; Roni, editor of the Northwest Gender Alliance Newsletter; Ellen, co-founder of NWGA; Marlene from Visalia; and Judy Ann.

A word about Judy Ann. One year ago my wife and I, escorted by Donna and Julie, had stopped by Joanie's Tahoe retreat for a brief visit. My wife had yet to meet any crossdressers en femme — until she met Judy, who beamingly welcomed us. Judy is a Catholic brother and one of the most intelligent, spontaneous people we had ever met, full of joy and wisdom. My wife was instantly captivated and I have been enormously grateful ever since.

It was during that fortunate meeting one year ago that Joanie Sheldon offered up the traits needed to be a crossdresser, including intelligence, courage and "a sense of humor, because you can't take all this s___ seriously."

Monday, August 6

12 p.m.: "See you all later."

"Where are you going?"

"Reno."

"Alone?"

"Alone."

I'm wearing a green silk outfit. My wife has helped me fix my own hair.

"I'm worried," she says. "What if somebody gives you a rough time?"

"I'll be all right." I smile confidently, just like Gary Cooper in High Noon, except I'm not wearing a cowboy hat.

I am no expert on going public or passing, but I've found that the anticipation is much worse than being there. Of course, there are layers of being to being there. It's as though you leave and enter bigger and bigger closets until there are none left. Your house is a closet you leave for your car, where you are visible, but hidden too, by its interior dimness, closeted by its enclosure and mobility. You leave your car and enter a mall—in the world, but not yet interacting with it. Your silence is another closet.

So it was with me as I entered a small mall to stroll through its Marshall's, wishing I owned a pair of flats. Alas, I was too timid to ask if they might carry larger sizes. At Thrifty's, I picked up some envelopes, but couldn't find a soap dish. Suddenly I felt a challenge rise from within. "Pardon me," I said to a salesman, "Can you tell me where the soap dishes are?" His answer shocked me. "Yes, certainly. Over there."

I was beginning to feel comfortable. "Of course I belong out in the world. I'm right to be here," I thought.

Downtown Reno paid no attention to a tall woman dressed in green strolling up Virginia Street. She entered stores and browsed the sales racks alongside other, shorter women. She took some items with her into a closet she had never before entered on her own: The fitting room. Nothing fit.

For a late lunch she had a salad at Burger King...then back to the little mall for an eye makeover by a friendly woman at Merle

Norman and the purchase of a couple of pair of flats at good old Payless Shoes and a discovery: flats minimize your height, but, MERCY, how big your feet look.

Tuesday, August 7

12:15 a.m.: We arrive at our picnic site.

12:16 a.m.: Joanie grabs the shady spot.

12:45 p.m.: Marlene, as her male self, dons a wet suit and plunges into the reputedly icy waters. Roni, as Roni, dons a floppy hat and wades in.

7:15 p.m.: Back at Incline, my wife dresses for dinner.

"But you never dress up for dinner!"

"All the other ladies were, so I thought, "why not?"

Why not? I get out my black silky dress, black stockings and red shoes. Red shoes? Why not?

Wednesday, August 8

8:30 p.m. It has been a wonderful day, refreshingly rainy and cool, the best so far. Maybe because we have all been together long enough to feel completely relaxed. Maybe because of a sweet desperation to make this last day especially good.

We lounged and talked, ate, laughed and painted our nails; my wife and I painted each other's nails in as many different colors as we could gather, which was a lot, since everybody seemed to have brought at least two bottles of polish each. My wife has laughed at our crossdressing silliness and joined in, as well. She has had as much fun being a girl as we have.

Now dinner is finished, the car packed, our farewells completed.

It is dark. Traffic is easy. We drive gently through the good night.

Jane Kamper Bentley



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Cotillion 1991: ETVC's Top Event

What is better than living in the best of times and knowing it? These may not be the best times politically or economically, but in the world of crossdressing, fantasy, illusion and fun, the upcoming Cotillion Season is truly the best of times at ETVC.

During preparations for the 1990 Cotillion, I never felt as though I were going to a meeting with "committee members" - I was going to play with my friends. There was the day we all worked together to design the stage backdrop and Barbie brought her killer nachos: the Saturday afternoons when we photographed the contestants (all those outfit changes!!!); the making of "Transformations" - the stunning slide and music show creatively edited by David V.

I remember watching Dan put Stephanie through her paces in front of the mirror on late night; the look on Teri's face when she was first runner-up and Franchesca's astonishment when she was presented the Joanne Award for Excellence. Just seeing the contestants on stage exuding confidence and feeling good about themselves was worth it all.

The Cotillion Season is really a time for you to join in - to put your creative talents and ideas to work. Give it some thought: what would you like to do on stage? What would you like to see in a show? How would you like to help? You can easily be a part of the "best of times" at ETVC. The 1991 Cotillion will be held on January 12 at San Francisco's California Club. Call Stephanie Wong at (415) [REDACTED] for information on tickets and on how you can participate in this great event.

The Cotillion is part beauty pageant, part talent show and all-round good time. It is also ETVC's biggest event of the year.

Contestants are being sought right now, but if you cannot be a contestant you can still help out.

Contestant applications are available from Stephanie or Kristyn Booten at ETVC events or by writing to: 1991 Cotillion Entries, 1732 6th St., Richmond, CA 94801.

Tickets are \$18 in advance or \$25 at the door. They will be available at coming ETVC and RGA events, at all times at the Chez Mollet or by mail to: ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco 94101 before December 31, 1990.

On Sunday, November 4 at 5 p.m. a general Cotillion meeting will be held at the Chez Mollet for interested people.

On Saturday, December 1 at 2 p.m. auditions will be held at the Chez Mollet. Bring a completed application, a smile and your talent routine. The top ten contestants from the auditions will be selected for the Cotillion. All contestants must be current members of ETVC and must agree to public appearances if they win.

Further rehearsals will be held December 15, January 5 and January 11.

Diane Richwine
& Stephanie [REDACTED]

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Final 1990 Survey Results

Members who don't make it to ETVC socials most often said that it was the timing of the events that made it difficult for them to attend, according to final results of ETVC's 1990 membership survey.

A little less than half of the survey respondents said they rarely or never came to events. Allowed to give multiple answers, about 34 percent said that they could not come because events were at inconvenient times. Our two main events, socials and educational seminars, are respectively held on Thursday nights and Saturday afternoons. Miscellaneous reasons for not attending added up to a combined 37 percent. Other reasons included distance (24%), the person was in the closet (17%), there was no place to change (17%), they were too busy (10%) and they had no transportation (5%)

In the last newsletter preliminary results of the survey found that the majority of our members are straight TV's in their mid- 40's with high education levels who dress about 13 times a month. These results were based on 62 responses. Final results included 78 responses and showed little change from those reported two months ago. Because of the small sample size all results should be viewed with caution.

Besides previously reported demographics, the survey also sought member opinion on various aspects of ETVC functions. The survey found that with a few exceptions, members rated features of our socials, educational seminars and the newsletter as very good on a scale that included excellent, very good, good, fair and poor.

However, respondents showed some dissatisfaction with the music and themes of our socials. The new social committee is working hard to improve this situation. Those of you who have attended recent socials have undoubtedly noticed some changes in these events that are a direct response to your concerns.

There were also some complaints about the photos/graphics of the newsletter. Additionally, in a write-in section of the survey many people said they wanted to see more practical information about crossdressing (makeup, fashion, etc.) and wished to see more articles by professional counselors and therapists. Keep an eye on the newsletter over the next few months as we try to fulfill these requests.

For those of you who participated, thank you. This information is invaluable to our club's leadership as they try to make ETVC into the kind of organization that YOU want it to be.

Cindy R. Martin

ETVC offers the following informational listings:

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BIRTHDAY GIRLS (and guys)

Each month there will be a prize for a Birthday Girl at our social.

November

Barbara T., Cacy L., Christy C., Dale C., Denise W., Esther S., Janelle D, Jennifer N., Kathleen H., Stephanie E., Susan M., Zia

December

Allan P., Belinda, Cami Lyn, Carla J., Cecile Anne, Cheryl B., Cinthia B., Diane R., Edwina, Ellen S., Franchesca, Janice G., Janis R., Kay G., Nancy Ann, Nancy K., Nancy P., Paula G., Robin T., Susie P., Tyrell S.

SERVING THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

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Walnut Creek, CA 94595

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This bill defines a disability as a physical or mental condition that "substantially limits" an individual in a "major life activity" such as working, walking, etc., and makes it illegal to discriminate against disabled persons.

It specifically excluded TS's and TV's among others because transvestism and transsexuality were not considered disabilities just by themselves. This may appear to be another stab against the transgendered community but in the long run may work to our benefit.

Why would transsexuality and transvestism be considered a "disability" at all? Here is what Senator Alan Cranston said on the subject in an address opposing an amendment to another bill on August 2, 1988.

"Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to the pending amendment that would exclude from coverage under the Fair Housing Act a particular mental disorder, in this case, transvestism...Mr. President, in this case the Senator for North Carolina (Jesse Helms) has singled out for exclusion a disability that is considered by the American Psychiatric Association to be a mental disorder."

Cranston, while well-meaning, obviously is under the impression, thanks to the APA, that the transgendered are in need of discrimination laws to protect them because of a mental disability.

What we are not is mentally ill. We do what we do because of personal preference, not because of an illness. What we do hurts no one. It is bad enough that the APA has us listed incorrectly in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III) but allowing Congress to assign us this designation would cause the "mental illness" designation to stick.

Like the supporters of the gay rights and feminist movements, we need to take affirmative action. We need to have removed from the DSM-III and other psychiatric books and journals the linkage between the terms transsexual, transvestite, crossdresser and the diagnosis of mental illness. Then, through our own gender movement, we need to make sure we are not discriminated against by either forcing enforcement of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or by getting other laws passed. Discrimination against our minority is the actual issue here. The issue is not whether we should be considered disabled.

Not long ago homosexuality was a "mental illness" but with the help of the gay rights movement psychiatry began to understand that their choice of sex partners was a matter of personal preference. Today, our aim, through a gender movement, must be to get psychiatry to understand that we do what we do because of personal preference also.

Cynthia Howard

Cynthia Howard is founder and coordinator of the Gender Alternatives League (GAL), an organization that seeks to promote freedom of gender expression.



Presenting IFGE's 5th Annual

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For Information and Registration:
The International Foundation for Gender Education
P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778
1-617-██████████
Offices: 6 Cushing St, Watham, MA

Host Organization:
Gender Identity Center of Colorado
Box 11563, 3715 32nd Ave.
Denver, Colorado 80211
1-303-██████████

**International Foundation for Gender Education,
TV/TS Tapestry Journal**

Serving the Crossdressing/Transsexual Community since 1978

I.F.G.E. is a non-profit tax-exempt organization working cooperatively with and in support of organizations serving the CD/TS Community through representation, communications, conventions, referrals, outreach, and public education.

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J2CP Information Services provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning gender dysphoria syndrome, transsexualism and transvestism. This information package is available at a cost of \$25.00 to cover research, printing postage and secretarial services. Additionally, J2CP Information Services will attempt to provide referrals to reputable counselors, psycho-therapists, or gender programs, and peer counseling groups near your home.

Certified checks or Money Orders should be made payable to J2CP Information Services. Please specify whether you are male-to-female, female-to-male, or transvestite when writing. If transsexual, please provide your place of birth.

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Beauty Tip:

Does your make-up melt by the end of the night? Here's an idea from Miss Timmi Ryan, Empress XI of the ISE: spray your finished face with hair spray! It really works to set your make-up. Use common sense and keep your eyes and mouth closed while giving your face a SHORT spray.

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