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Prez Stuff by Denise Peters

Clothes-Clothes every where but nothing to wear.

Last month's meeting looked as though we had invaded a warehouse clearance sale for Penney's or was it Victoria's Secret??? Nevertheless, it seemed everyone enjoyed the program and I have never seen so many clothes at a meeting before.

Music plays on.....

On April 24th, the couples group met at Linda and Jim's. A new first was achieved there, when 10 couples showed up. Our hosts were hard put to find enough chairs for all. A box of questions were passed around the room, Hot Potato style, and when the music stopped, the "lucky" holder choose one and had to answer it. Well, there were a lot of interesting questions and some really revealing answers.

Kudos

The artwork for the Spring Fling, in the adjacent column, was designed by none other than Amanda Richards. I wonder if she wears a baret?

(Continued on page 3)

Programs

May 15, Spring Fling, Dinner/Dance June 19, Talk about the old times. July 24, Garden Party Luau August, Picnic October, Halloween Karaoke party. November, Turkey on the house





May Program Notes

For May, I have good news, and great news! The good news is that Abby has nothing to do with your program this month. The great news is that Amanda does!!! May is Spring Fling month. It's the prom you always wanted to go to, but never did. So get out that party outfit, dust off your dancing pumps, and strut your stuff at the Chi-Chapter Spring Fling. Our musical entertainment is provided by our most talented sister, Amanda, and her friend Angela. Following their presentation we'll have dancing till dawn, or whenever. If you haven't got your tickets yet, be sure and call in.

We welcome the following new members; Geri, Kari & ga, Mauren, and Elaine.



Amanda Lynn's Notes

Last evening (4/26) I received an e-mail announcing "The Gender Fair, An Affair to Regender" (an interactive forum on gender identity and gender expression issues). It took place on May 1st at the Egan Urban Center in downtown Chicago.

Now I'm not an activist or in-your-face type of person, but I do take pride in doing outreach and personally educating people about all facets of gender whenever I get a window of opportunity to do so. I attended an event like the Gender Fair last year and found it very interesting and fruitful for my understanding of the many variants on the gender continuum. There were a few other Tri-Ess members in attendance. Because of a wedding in the family, I could not attend this year's event.

One thing that stood out in my mind was the list of groups that co-sponsored the event. Tri-Ess was excluded. I repeat. Tri-Ess was NOT on the list. One of the largest chapters of this national network of crossdressers was NOT represented! Yet, are we not concerned with gender identity and gender expression issues?

I wondered about why we were not on the list. What do YOU think the reason is and are you willing to do something about it? Let's talk.

Here's the list...

Co-Sponsored by: Chicago Gender Society, Chicagoland Bisexual Network, Chicago Radical Faeries, Church of the Open Door, First Unitarian Society of Chicago, FORGE, Generation Q, Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Horizons Community Services, Howard Brown Health Center, Illinois Federation

nity Services, Howard Brown Health Center, Illinois Federation for Human Rights, It's Time, Illinois, LesBiGay Radio/AM1240, New Health Foundation, Parents and Friends of the Transgendered Community, Queer Nation, United Methodist Church, Resurrection MCC, TransGenesis,

Transsexual Menace, Richard M. Daley, Mayor, Clarence N. Wood, Chairperson CCHR,

Mary F. Morten, Director/Liaison. ACGLI, Laura Rissover, Chair ACGLI.

...but not Chi-Chapter of Tri-Ess.

* * * * *

Spring Fling Update: Angela and I have been practicing diligently for the Spring Fling concert, and have prepared a 'Boston Pops' type program of varied works sure to delight all you ladies. We are two professional musicians who perform together on a weekly basis and enjoy inspiring audiences with some wild tactics on a couple of amazing synthesizers. You won't believe your ears. Be sure you have your reservation in.

ABBY'S ROAD

Well girls, its time for another chapter in the adventures I call "ABBY'S ROAD". This past month has been quite memorable.

Abby has recently started venturing out in public when she's away from home. It has

been a long, slow, tentative, and scary process. The thing that worries me most is running into someone I know, who might recognize me. As many of you know, Terri and I live in a small rural town in Illinois of about 3000 people, so Abby needs to be far away when she ventures out.

Last month, Terri had to have some tests done at a hospital in Chicago. It was going to be an overnight trip for her. She suggested that if I would take a day off from work and come in with her, after her tests were over Abby and Terri could have a "girls day in the city" together.

(WOW!! IS THIS GIRL TERRIFIC OR WHAT?) Lets see now. 200 miles from home and a city of six million people. That should work just fine.

It was a beautiful day, sunny and 70 degrees. We planned shopping, sightseeing, and to top it off we would meet Shelley and Linda for dinner at a Chicago Jazz club. Terri was done at the hospital by 10:00 am, and by 11:00 am the girls were strolling down Michigan Avenue. I wore a navy and white print top and skirt, a navy blazer, and low heel pumps. As we crossed the bridge over the Chicago River, we were whistled at by a guy enjoying the scenery. We flashed our best smiles back and as we passes he volunteered that he always whistles at the prettiest ladies. Way to go, girl!!

Terri hadn't eaten all day because of her tests, so she wanted to get some lunch. She picked out this little Mexican place on the north edge of the loop. It was just before noon, and the downtown lunch rush was about to commence. The restaurant was one of these that squeezes as many tables in as possible, and it filled up quickly. Lunch went fine, and if anyone read me, they didn't say anything. Terri decided she needed to use the ladies room, and asked me if I would take care of the bill with the waitress while she was gone. I said sure. As soon as Terri stood up I heard a loud femine voice come over my shoulder shouting "Terri, what are you doing here?"

Terri looked past my shoulder, and seeing the person who shouted at her, went "Hi! What a surprise!" and proceeded past me to visit with whomever this was. I, on the other hand, had turned into a popsicle. I couldn't move a muscle. I was petrified. As I sat there waiting for all hell to break loose, I contemplated the possibilities. Door number one would be one of our close friends from back home, in which case I was in big trouble. Door number two would be an old friend of Terri's from long ago whom I wouldn't know. I couldn't come up with a door number three.

It seemed like I sat there forever waiting to see which door was going to greet me. I couldn't turn around, couldn't get up,

(Continued on page 3)

Back to Page 1

(Continued from page 2) Abby

couldn't do anything. Finally, Terri leaned into me and whispered "Don't turn around. F______ is sitting at the table right behind you. Try to get out quietly after you pay the bill. I have to go to the ladies room" Door number one. In spades!!

was one of our close R friends from our theater company back home. She was sitting between me and the exit, and I was on my own. Finally the waitress returned with my change, and I steeled myself to make the exit. My plan was to walk over to the bar area on the other side of the restaurant before turning to the door. My big fear was that I would trip in my heels and cause a big commotion, and I never trip in heels. Well, I made it safely out and waited for Terri outside. After she came out we hustled on down to Marshall Fields and Carsons to lose ourselves in the crowds. Then we were finally able to laugh about it. Shelley and Linda enjoyed hearing about it later that evening.

We have now developed some contingency plans in case we have similar adventures in the future. Did this set me back on public excursions? Nope. When we came in for the April Tri-Ess meeting, we spent some time shopping in Woodfield Mall before coming to the hotel. I still haven't used the dressing rooms to try anything on yet, but that's my goal for my next excursion out. I'll let you know how it turns out. ABBY

(Continued from page 1) Denise

Winners

CGS recently held their officer elections, Olivia, IL-2849, was re-elected President and Sherry, IL-4352, was elected officer at large. Dorothy Powers is the new Secretary but will continue as editor of the Primrose.

Busy

Our own Sara is VERY busy, she has been doing the printing of this rag (Tribune) since January and recently began as printer for the CGS Primrose. I now have the duty to persuade her to print up the next Tri-Ess membership supplement, only 1600 copies.....Please send Sara a card once in a while.....

WEB stuff....

If you haven't yet, please check out Pamela A's web site. She has the most up to date listing of places and things happening in the Chicago area. You can find here at http://members.aol.com/ pamelatv/ or just go to the member link section of the CHI home page.

Speaking..

Of the web, we just completed our first month of sending the newsletter out by e-mail. Several groups have signed on as well as one member so far.

April Meeting Who was There?

Lois, WI-1485, Patrice, WI-2423, Dawn, IL-4362, Naomi, IL-1164 & Rachel, IL-9007, Laura, IL-1186, Gloria, IL-1191, Carole, IL-1672, Sheila D. IL-1991, Barbara Lee, IL-2206, Barbara Diane, L-2299 & Barbara, IL-9118, Marcia, IL-2566, Pamela, IL-3196, Rose, IL-3220, Amanda, IL-3432, Christine, IL-3445 & Cheryl, IL-9521, Edie, IL-3474, Sandy, IL-3557, Carol, IL-3616, Janet, IL-3684, Dee Dee, IL-3708, Norma, IL-3956 & Joyce, IL-9200, Karen, IL-4052, Pamela, IL-4229. Loraine, IL-4275, Debbie, IL-4328-B & Laurie Ann, IL-9478, Shelley, IL-4356-H & Linda, IL-9479, Nicole, IL-4579, Wallie, IL-4606, Diana, IL-4655, Julie Ann, IL-4627, Pam, IL-4836-M, Collette, IL-4770, Cindy, MN-5057 & Denise, MN-9610, Nancy, IL-4837 & Judy, IL-9646, Rori, IL-9289, Amy, IL-4866, Abby, IL-4953 & Terri, IL-9563, Elaine, IL-5126, Monica Anne, WI-5076, Dana, WI-5104, Denise, IL-3493 & Kim, IL-9195, Sara, IL-4690, Amanda, IL-4496

New members; Geri, Nikki, Keri & Helga

First Timers; Jennifer, Diane, Donna, Donna, Donna, Sarah, Veronica, Christy, Sally

Vendors; Sally from Mary Kay, Luci, IL–9553, from Skyscraper Heels.

Visiting from GGG, in Milwaukee; Colleen O'Brien, Julie Hart, Sandi Lee.

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P.A.L.S. UNCONDITIONALLY

April 17th P.A.L.S. Meeting

We are excited to have had one newcomer in our group this month. A big WELCOME to Helga!

As usual our P.A.L.S. meeting was a success. Some of us had some major breakthroughs, which will take us down another turn on our journey. Although I thoroughly believe in having fun, P.A.L.S. is there for support above all. If someone has had an emotional month, we encourage him or her to share those experiences. If we vent and process our experiences and feelings instead of bottle them up, we will surely grow and continue forward on our journey. We are there for unconditional love and support and all conversations are kept confidential within P.A.L.S.

A big THANKS to Terri and Abby for their hard work on the Clothing Resale which benefits our S.P.I.C.E fund. *P.A.L.S. Meetings are held every third Saturday of the month at 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM before the Tri-ESS general meeting begins.* (Except for May & July)

P.A.L.S. FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE BEST EXERCISE FOR THE HEART IS REACHING DOWN TO LIFT UP ANOTHER

COUPLES CORNER

The April 24th Couples meeting was held at Jim & Linda's house. We had a great turnout of 20 people, which included four newcomer couples. A big WELCOME to Denise & Lloyd, Helga & Mike, Joan & Bob, and Judy & Bob! Needless to say we scrounged up every chair including the lawn chairs. Our theme was Communication and we all played a game called Hot Questions. It is played like Hot Potato except a basket of questions is passed while music is playing. The person who is holding the basket at the time the music stops must pick a question and answer it. Some of the questions made us laugh a lot and some made us think a lot. Afterward we had a great time munching and mingling.

The Couples Meetings are held every fourth Saturday of the month at 7:00PM. A different couple volunteers their home for the evening. Our next meeting will be May 22nd at Kim and Denise's house.

COUPLES FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"TO LOVE MEANS TO EMBRACE AND AT THE SAME TIME TO WITHSTAND MANY, MANY ENDINGS, AND MANY, MANY, BEGINNINGS---ALL IN THE SAME RELATIONSHIIP."
-CLARISSA PINKOLA ESTES

Linda

LET'S TALK OUTREACH

Recently Shelley, Lori and I were invited to present an outreach program at Elgin Community College by Barbra Getz to her Sociology class. There were about 20-25 students in the class and of course Shelley and I went in hoping we would have a receptive and kind group facing us. But on our car ride to the college we both set aside our nervousness and decided to just be ourselves. We both believed that if we spoke from our hearts and accepted people for however they chose to process this information we would pass on, then surely we had to succeed.

When we arrived, Barbra introduced us to the class and Lori began a synopsis of her transgender role and her feelings. She also gave the group some background on the transgender spectrum and how each cross-dresser is traveling his/her journey at a different place on that spectrum. Shelley took her turn explaining her experience of her transgender role and her marriage. And finally I talked about my experience as a spouse of a cross-dresser.

After each of us finished speaking, the floor was open for questions from the class. Barbra had asked each student to prepare three questions to ask us. Within a two-hour period, we had experienced a very open and relaxed group asking a wide variety of questions. Some were serious and some made us laugh. Some of the students came up to us to talk after the question period and gave us some very positive feedback. They agreed with me that it takes a lot of courage to "come out" as a cross-dresser and present this expression of Self to a non-accepting society. Barbra quoted a student as saying, "I was apprehensive at first sight of the cross-dressers, but once I asked them questions and heard them speak I felt comfortable and saw past what they were wearing." The students were also impressed with my presence at the outreach from spouses' point of view. They felt I brought a human quality to the forum that helped them connect with the transgender issues.

I would like to see more spouses and significant others get involved with the outreach programs at the colleges. These college students are the people to shape our society through the knowledge and understanding we provide. Most people have negative feelings because of ignorance about the transgender community. They can't see past the external appearance into the heart and soul of these real people who want only to express themselves as God created them. Unconditional love and acceptance means seeing past the outer appearance which sometimes seems very different and strange. Accepting people as they are may mean society might have to change or even admit they may need to be more open minded. Admit that we are all the same and no one is better than another, just created a little differently. Can you imagine what the world would be like if everyone loved each other unconditionally? Would the student gunmen in Colorado have become so enraged with anger if their peers accepted them unconditionally? Where does prejudice and hatred end and love begin? From within each and every one of us!

Linda

"FOR ONE HUMAN BEING TO LOVE ANOTHER; THAT IS PERHAPS THE MOST DIFFICULT OF ALL OUR TASKS, THE ULTIMATE, THE LAST TEST AND PROOF, THE WORK FOR WHICH ALL OTHER WORK IS BUT PREPARATION." –Rainer Maria Rilke

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Chapter Web Sites

Alpha's (Los Angeles CA) http://www.3dcom.com/tg/a1pha/alpha.htm

Alpha Omega's (Cleveland OH) http://www.triess-alphaomega.org

Alpha Tau's (Austin TX) http://www.ange1fire.com/tx/atau

Alpha Zeta (Phoenix, AZ) http://tri-ess.org/alpha za.htm

Beta Gamma's (Minneapolis MN) Out of service

Chi Delta Mu (New York City NY) http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/7396/

Chi Epsilon Sigma's (Baltimore MD) http://members.tripod.com/-Chesapeake-Tri-Ess

Judy Daniels http://www.angelfire.com/ok/judytriess/index.htmI

Kappa Beta's (Charlotte NQ http://www.kappabeta.m-g

Lambda Mu's (Lansing MI) http://www.1ambdamu.com

Nu Phi Chi /Buffalo Belies (Buffalo NY) http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Village/3339/

> Phi Epsilon Mu (Orlando FL) http://www.hofizon-usa.com/misc/fem.htm

Pi Theta Chapter's (Southern MN- Northern IA) http://www.mwpcdir.com/ptg.htm1

Sigma Epsilon Chapter (Atlanta GA) http://pages.prodigy.com/kerricd/sigep.htm

Sigma Mu (Springfield MO) http://members.trjpod.com/-Sigma Mu/

Sigma Rho Delta's (Raleigh/Durham NQ http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/6299

Tau Gamma's (Greensboro/Winston-Salem NQ http://www.geocities.com/-tau gamma

Tau Omega's (Ardmore OK) http://www.geocities.coni/Wellesicy/Garden/2258/

> Tau Upsilon's (Fucson AZ) http://members.aol.com/tauupsilon

Theta Upsilon Gamma's (Las Vega NV) http://www.geocities.com/westhollywood/park/I 880

Tri Chi's (Fresno CA) http://www.psnw.com/-huckfitm/ index.html Tri-Ess International http://www.firstnethou.com/brenda/tri-ess.htm

Th-Ess Resources Page http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Stonewall/6801

Tri-Ess Traveling Girls' Directory http://www.mwpcdir.com

G.L.G.L.C . Activities Calendar MAY 1999 - JUNE 1999

May 1999

Tue 5/11 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust Sat 5/8 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328 Sat 5/15 "Spring Fling" Chi Chapter, 708-383-1677 Thur 5/20 SkyScraper Heels 1st Anniversary Party, Golden Flame, Higgins & Nagle, FREE 773-477-8495 Sat 5/22 Chi Chapter Couples Group

June 1999

Tue 6/8 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust
Sat 6/12 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
Sat 6/19 Chi Chapter Meeting, Sat 6/26 T.O.N.I. meeting, call 219-650-2142 for details
Sat 6/26 Chi Chapter Couples Group

UPCOMING

June 2 –6 17th Annual Be All, Cleveland, Ohio July 14-18 S.P.I.C.E., Minneapolis, Minn July 24 Chi/CGS Garden Party, West Chicago July 24 Tri-Ess National Board meeting, Elmhurst Nov 10-14 Holiday En-Femme, Houston, Texas Nov 11-14 Fall Harvest, Milwaukee, 414-297-9328

SECOND ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY HAWAUAN STYLE

When: July 24th Saturday Time: 4:00 p.m. to Midnight

Julie Ann's Johnson's beautiful home and grounds will be open at 4:00 p.m. We will be having two service bars available for our cocktail hour serving soft drinks, wine, and beer and wonderful hor-d'oeuvres. We are planning a buffet "Hawaiian Style" dinner to start at 6:00 p.m. with Hawaiian ham, sweet and sour shish-ka-bobs Hawaiian style and all the extras plus desserts for your dinning pleasures.

Following dinner you will be entertained by fabulous Hawaiian dancers who will perform traditional Hawaiian dances and may even ask you to join in the fun. We will have a DJ at you service during the cocktail hour, dinner and afterwards for dancing.

We are looking forward to this wonderful event co-sponsored by Chicago Gender Society and Tri-Ess Chi Chapter.

We are requesting that this event maintain on a semi formal basis so please no shorts or t-shirts. Tickets will be available through both Tri-Ess and CGS and this will be a pre-sold ticket event only.

 $Ticket\ prices\ are\ as\ follows: \$40.00\ prior\ to\ July\ 10^{th}\ and\ \$45.00\ up\ to\ July\ 22^{nd}.\ No\ tickets\ will\ be\ available\ after\ July\ 22^{nd}.$

"COME KICK OFF YOUR HEELS WITH SKYSCRAPER"

We're having our 1st Anniversary Party on May 20th,'99 at The Golden Flame (Ruby Room) 6417 W. Higgins Ave. in Chicago. Free admission and a free raffle ticket, more can be purchased. Just our way of giving back, to the community for supporting us this year. I'll be giving some great prizes, like a corset, shoulder length leather gloves, ankle boots, platforms, heels, and many more great surprises. At the Tri Ess Meeting in April, I'll be passing out free tickets, otherwise you'll have to come in to the store, to pick up your ticket......cash bar of course.....live entertainment........... have seven girls, from four different clubs, that will entertain you.....see you there!

LUCI of Skyscraper Heels

So please, come dance the night away with us.....doors open at 7:30p.m....till 1:00a.m.



July 15-18, 1999 Minneapolis, MN

(918) 343-1953 (Mary Jane)
Or E-mail
Spice@tri-ess.com
Ino also avaiable at the Chi Chapter web page

Dancing, Dining, Entertainment and the chance to win a 13" color Television.

Spring Fling TICKETS

Also available at Transformations and Rachels Wigs Tickets for the raffle are available separately, \$1 each, 6 for \$5, 15 for \$10

Do Not mail after May 8.

If you plan on attending and can't get it mailed in time, please call the hotline and leave us a message, that will serve as your reservation, however, reservations and non-prepaid tickets are \$40 each and we can not guarantee seating..

Photos by Absolutely Picture Perfect, Inc.

ГО: Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess PO Box 40 Wood Dale IL 60191-0040	For more information: call the "helpline" at 708-383-1677
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