

Discovering Your Femme Voice



Presidents Podium

Picnic, "We" lost

The annual picnic was held at Sheila D's and a great time was had by all. The weather cleared up enough to hold the annual ????? CGS/Chi Chapter volley ball game. Two teams were made up, each team comprised of members and non-members of both groups. The team designated as the CG's (CGS) team took the lead and promptly gathered 10 points, Chi's (Chi) then brought the score to 10-6 but fell by the wayside and the CG's trounced the Chi's. The second game went a little faster, mainly because it started raining and we didn't want to get wet. I ended up on the wet ground looking up when I slid into 3rd (oop's wrong game) and the CG's took the second game as well.

Comment was made that the Chi's were slower due to the hair on their arms compared to the CG's team. However that was not a valid assumption since the teams were mixed at random, so there!!!!

Next

The August meeting was held at the Rainforest Cafe..... Nah, just kidding...Actually, we should call it the Monsoon Cafe. The worst storm of the year hit during the meeting with constant lightening and rain in amounts to cause major flooding of many area streets. Kiki called and couldn't find her garage. Our program, Mary Ann called and was unable to get out of her lower level parking garage due to flooding. Actually, for those who missed the pool party, this was a chance to step outside for a second and have the same effect.

(Continued on page 3)



Miranda Writes....

September Program: Discovering Your Femme Voice

We are fortunate to have Laura Winstin at our next meeting to help us "discover our femme voice." Laura is a professional voice coach and owner of The Actor's Voice, a studio for theatrical voice and acting. She has a Master of Fine Arts from DePaul and had been in theater for about 20 years, directing and acting, with credits in New York and Chicago. She is currently finishing up a Master's degree in education, with the goal of incorporating arts into education. She has worked for several years with transgendered clients teaching vocal modulation and inflection.

A woman's voice can be sultry, rich, breathy, expressive, emotional, sweet, not-so-sweet, or any combination of the above. But equally important in conveying her feminine image is her inflection and mannerisms. A woman speaks with her whole body, not just with her voice.

So... Do you look like Demi Moore but sound like Sly Stallone? Is your femme voice a cross between Monty Python and Minnie Mouse? Do you waver between a ridiculous falsetto and a rusty hinge squeak? Have you given up altogether on trying to sound more womanly? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then this program is for you!

(Continued on page 4)



CHRISTINE'S CUTE COMMENTS

FREE BRAS! FREE PANTIES!

And while we're at it, free Willy, too, before they make another sequel. Now that I have your attention, I want to inform you of a financial proposal that the executive board approved in a meeting on August 26. Although we currently have money in the checking account, the board wanted to take measures to insure that we continue having money in the checking account. To put it bluntly, if it weren't for the fact that we made some money from the 'Holiday en Femme', our checking account would probably be at zero now - nothing more, nothing less. Therefore, you will be asked to vote on the following proposal at the September meeting:

1) Increase meeting fees according to the following schedule:

Newcomers (first meeting)	\$5
Newcomers (2nd & 3rd meeting)	\$10
Newcomer couples (first meeting)	\$7
Members	\$10
Member couples	\$15
Non-members	\$15
Non-member couples	\$20

2) Increase annual dues to \$24

For the average member, this proposal means that the meeting fee stays the same and the annual dues go up \$4. One reason why I would like to have the dues at \$24 is to make it easier to pro-rate for anyone who joins in the middle of the year. As for charging newcomers a meeting fee, the board discussed this at some length and decided that asking \$5 or \$7 will not prevent a newcomer from coming to a meeting. If a newcomer decides not to attend a meeting, it's because she's terrified, and not because we're asking for 5 or 7 dollars. The meeting fee for member couples is being increased under this proposal. Currently, spouses attend for free and only the member pays the \$10 meeting fee. Now, we are effectively asking spouses for a \$5 meeting fee. As for non-members, it is hoped that these fees will encourage them to become members.

We hope that the increased funds that this proposal provides will enable us to have something for emergencies (if the hotel closed tomorrow, could we afford a more expensive one?), as well as money for programs (wouldn't it be nice to occasionally get a paid speaker or to occasionally hire professional entertainment for our meetings?). The board approved this proposal unanimously. We hope the membership will agree to pass it.

In other news, last month's rain storms prevented Mary Ann Foster from appearing at our meeting as planned. Instead, we heard from several members about their own spiritual journeys and how searching for your feminine soul is a spiritual journey. I would like to thank everyone who shared their experiences with us. The big news of the night, for those who hadn't already heard it, was the passing of an ordinance by the Evanston City Council to prohibit gender discrimination. We have to thank "It's Time, Illinois", for that. If you don't belong to "It's Time, Illinois", I urge you to do so. At least give them a donation to help them continue their work. They hope to get the Chicago City Council to approve an ordinance similar to



August MEETING RECAP..... by Kiki

The following were brave enough to paddle their way to the meeting: Miranda, Paula, Barbara, Lois, Alicia, Andrea, Naomi & Rachel, Laura, Gloria, Ruby & Ann, Sheila D, Barbara Diane & Barbara, Marcia, Pamela, Lori, Amanda, Christine, Lee, Denise & Kim, Janet, Dee Dee, Allannah, Jackie, Sunny, Wende, Toni, Vickie, Pamela, Vanessa, Tiffany, Debbie, Shelley, Jamie, Fay, Rachel & Kate, Kimberly, Laura, Andrea, Criss, Velma, Christina Jennifer & Carolyn, Diana, Lisa Anne, Julie Ann, Valery Jean & Claudia, Sandee AND NEW MEMBER Sara. However, I did not make it, I don't know how to swim.....and I might have lost my hair. Once is enough.

Bye.

Evanston's and have already put the bug in Mayor Daley's ear. If you can help "It's Time, Illinois" in any way, please see Miranda. On a related note, if you missed the August meeting, you should try to read the editorial page of the Chicago Tribune from August 16, 1997. There, you will find a letter to the editor that Miranda wrote in response to the Tribune's reporting of the Evanston City Council meeting where the gender ordinance was passed. It is a wonderful letter well worth your time.

Finally, here is a summary of the club's financial dealings for the past month:

EXPENSES:

NEWSLETTER PRINTING	\$150.00
N/L POSTAGE	\$ 65.00
MEETING ROOM	\$365.00
MEETING ROOM FOOD	\$ 53.00
TOTAL	\$771.60

INCOME:

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$136.07
DUES	\$ 56.00
MEETING ROOM DUES	\$ 490.00
ADVERTISING FEES	\$ 86.00
TOTAL	\$768.07

ASSETS:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$2,455.43
PETTY CASH	\$ 221.00
PALS ACCOUNT	\$ 313.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,989.43

Magic in Evanston

by Miranda Stevens

There was definitely something different in the air that night, an intangible quality that is just on the edge of consciousness, one that you cannot quite put into words. Was it something out of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*? Were all of the players enchanted? Whatever it was, it was drama of the highest degree. Magical is the only way I can describe it.

You've heard about the historic vote of the Evanston City Council. For those of us who were there on that balmy evening in July, it was a highly emotional experience. Until a few months ago, most of the aldermen had probably never even heard the term "transgendered." But that night, they spoke about the discrimination we faced, the hardships of being differently gendered, and about the need to guarantee us fair and equal treatment under the law. Who would have imagined that we would be listening to politicians make such speeches?

Joe Kent, Chair of the Human Services Committee, gave a most beautiful speech. The depth of compassion that he poured into his words, and the understanding of our basic humanity that he conveyed so eloquently, moved several of us to tears, myself included. He said that Evanston had a chance to take a leadership role with passage of this ordinance, and that there are not many chances like this for the Council to make such a decisive difference in individual's lives. "Council cannot take away the pain of transgender individuals or do anything about the confusion they feel as they go through life. One thing the Council can do is provide protection in Evanston." He even promised his support as we seek recognition in other communities.

I will never forget when Gene Feldman answered another alderman's suggestion that employment discrimination be dropped from the bill, saying, "That would cut the heart out of the ordinance. To deny protection against discrimination in employment would be to undercut the very purpose of this amendment." He spoke straight from the heart, with such genuine passion that everyone was touched by it. He said, "If even one person is discriminated against on that basis, it's too much." Earlier this year, I met with Jesse Jackson, Jr. who said something very similar. He said, "As long as one person is denied their human rights, none of us can be truly free." The new law in Evanston will certainly help us gain that freedom.

Arthur Newman compared the significance of Evanston's vote with Supreme Court Justice Brennan's historic civil rights decisions. Noting that this vote was on the first meeting after Justice Brennan's death, Newman said, "Council has a chance to do the decent thing for people who live in society and deserve full protection under the law." Dennis Drummer summed it up when he said that we're just asking for the same thing that everyone else has.

To the People of Evanston: Thank you. You have done a great thing and a brave thing. Certainly this is an important step for Evanston. Imagine... to be the first in Illinois to extend protection to all gender-different people. Thinking about the population of Evanston, the numbers in this group could be in the thousands. You will never see that number, however. Even with the protection of the law, the severe social stigma of being "different" will keep most of us from ever venturing out of doors.

Before any people can be free, they need to reach a certain level of pride in themselves. My brothers and sisters will need to be able to stand with dignity and say, "Yes, I'm a transgendered person, and I am proud of it." Evanston has given us a reason to be proud! They have given us a degree of legitimacy that we've had in only a handful of places in the world, and never had in Illinois.

(Continued from page 1) Presidents Podium

Holiday Enfemme

The 1997 Holiday EnFemme has been canceled following an emergency telephone board meeting. This was due to a problem which presented itself regarding the hotel where the Holiday was all set to be held and the fact that it is too late to make any changes.

Next year the Holiday will be in Minneapolis MN the week of November 7, just one week prior to the Fall Harvest. Will there be a package deal available????

Treasury

I have turned the treasury over to Christine and got her up and running with the bank account software. The current status of the Chi-Chapter funds are OK, but we are just treading water each month and at this rate we will not be able to have special programs etc. This was mainly due to a slight increase in the meeting room rate and postage costs for the newsletter. On August 26th a board meeting was held and the present and proposed budgets were presented and discussed. At the September business meeting a vote will be taken on the proposed changes in Dues and fees.

The National board voted a \$1 increase to the National dues effective 1/1/98 but if you want to renew for two years, it will only be \$30 per year rather than the \$36.

Elections

Yeap, it's that time again, In October we will be having nominations for the board. If anyone is interested in running for office, please feel free to send in an article about yourself so we can print it here in the newsletter. Any Full member may run for office and/or nominate some else for office, you may also nominate yourself. You need not be here in person in October to be nominated, but if you can not accept in person you will need to authorize someone to accept for you.

Then in November we will have the elections. If you will not be present for the November meeting, you can obtain an absentee ballot in October.

Denise

It is very fitting that Evanston was the first in Illinois to acknowledge our basic human rights. They were the first to acknowledge gay rights. But let me assure you that it will not be the last. We have already spoken with our contact on the Chicago Human Relations Commission, and we will be on their agenda in September. We plan to tell them about our experience in Evanston, about the support that we found within the Evanston Human Relations Commission and City Council, about the elegant simplicity with which the City Code was amended.

And I plan to tell about the wonderful friends that I found in Evanston. For me, that was the most moving part of this whole experience.

I don't think any of us who attended the City Council meeting in July could have been untouched by it. Certainly, none of us in the transgendered community expected to find such understanding and support in Evanston. It was a surprise and a remarkable, magical experience. And I am sure that the Mayor and City Council will never again look at gender in the same light that they did two months ago.

(Continued from page 1)

A Spiritual Evening

Those of you who made it out to the August meeting, though the torrential downpour and that spectacular light show in the sky, know that our speaker for the evening, Mary Ann Foster, was flooded out, and could not get there. I saw Mary Ann at Sheila D.'s picnic the next day, and invited her to present her program at our November meeting. It should be a good contrast to the elections that will also be held that night.

In spite of it all, we did have a very feminine evening of sharing our feelings and our spiritual experiences. We started off with the basic premise that seeking one's feminine soul and uncovering one's true being is really a spiritual journey. I want to thank everyone who participated in the discussion, especially Vanessa, Lori, Julie Ann, and Amanda for allowing us a little glimpse into their inner selves.

I also want to apologize to Debbie. As I was scrounging around, trying to figure out how to do the program without Mary Ann, I asked Debbie whether she would like to help me out. Debbie had originally suggested a program on religion. The program on spirituality was my attempt to accommodate as well as not offend anyone. Debbie's response to me was that spirituality is not the same thing at all; it is just an excuse for people not to deal with religion. I guess I was taken by surprise by her reply. I blew her off by saying something like, "Well never mind then. I don't want to deal with that right now."

I'm sorry, Debbie. That was rude of me, and I hurt your feelings. I certainly didn't mean to offend, especially when it pertains to such an important aspect of your life. Everyone's beliefs are equally valid.

I always thought that religion was a codified set of rituals which helped people deal with their spirituality in a socially accepted way. I also thought that spirituality was the broader concept, with formalized religion being only one of many ways that people could relate to a higher power. That is why your response surprised me. So please accept my apologies.

Get Your Costume Ready Now!

October is our annual Halloween Costume Party. Remember the pumpkin decorating contest last year? Well, this year, we will be having all sorts of fun and games. And of course the highlight of the event will be the fabulous costume contest. Will you be scary, alluring, grotesque, or just too darn cute for words. Don't get caught without anything to wear. Start planning your outfit now!

Remainder of '97

The November program will be elections and Mary Ann Foster (if there are no more weather disasters).

In December, our annual holiday ball, Puttin' on the Ritz, once again returns to the Ramada O'Hare. Besides a wonderful formal dinner, we've booked members of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, the highlight of Be All '97, to thrill us once again with their fabulous show. And we've lined up George, our favorite DJ, to keep us dancing the night away. Make your reservations at the Ramada early to guarantee a room.

See you in September!

Miranda



December 20, 1997 Puttin' On The Ritz

The
Chi Chapter
Christmas Dinner/Dance
**Ramada O'Hare
Rosemont**

Full details and prices will be forthcoming during the upcoming months.

For those of you who wish to make early **tower room** reservations, our guaranteed price is \$78
Call the Ramada at (847) 827-5131
Mention Chi Chapter/Tri-Ess

Couples Group

The couples group met at Dawns & Candaces home on August 23rd. With 7 couples present, a great discussion was held. Don't miss the next one on **Saturday, September 27th**. We will announce the location at the meeting 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 6:00pm on July 19th just prior to the regular meeting. Present were; Kate, Kim, Carolyn, Claudia, Joyce.

September meeting schedule September 20

4:00 pm Changing rooms open #117 & # 120
6:30 pm Changing rooms close
6:30 pm PALS & Newcomers groups meet
8:30 pm Meeting begins

Location of the meeting will be our normal room just off the South parking lot.

RORI

PROPOSED DUES SCHEDULE CHANGE

PRESENT: (2 years)
1 year non-couple : \$20 + \$36 = \$56.00 (\$112.00)
1 year couple: \$20 + \$48 = \$68.00 (\$136.00)

PROPOSED:
1 year non-couple \$24 + \$36 = \$60.00
1 year couple \$24 + \$48 = \$72.00
2 year non-couple \$48 + \$60 = \$108.00
2 year couple \$48 + \$80 = \$120.00

Chi Chapter/TriEss

P.O.Box 40
Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

Officers

President: Denise Peters
VP/Program: Miranda Stevens
VP/Membership: Candace Mahne
Secretary: Kiki [REDACTED]
Treasurer: Christine [REDACTED]

Committees

Newcomers: Amanda
Dee Dee [REDACTED]
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://member.aol.com/chitriess/trisss/chimain.htm>

Great Lakes Gender Leadership council

Activities calendar

SEPTEMBER 1997

Week of September 7-13

- Sun 9/7 Lesbian Avengers invite all to , "A Day 'Out' at Six Flags Great America" in Gurnee IL. Meet at the double-decker carousel 10 am-12 noon.
- Tues 9/9 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee (708-863-7714)
Program: Fall Fashion Show
- Sat 9/13 **Dinner/Show Outing to "Tommy Gun's Garage". Pre-paid reservations required. (\$36 or \$41). Call Rori (708) 383-8338. Must RSVP by Sept. 3.**
- Sat 9/13 6:30 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting. Call (414) 297-9328.
- Sat 9/13 TONI Social, tour of Whiting Winery, call (219) 650-2142 for details.
- Sat 9/13 2:00 p.m. FORGE, Ann Sather's on Belmont. Topic: What your father never taught you. Call C. Michael Munson (414-278-6031)

Week of September 14-20

- Tues 9/16 Femme Night Out, Zum Deutschen Eck Restaurant, 2924 N. Southport, Chicago
- Wed 9/17 8:30 p.m. CGS Social, Temptations, 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park
- Sat 9/20 8:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Tri-S, (630-262-8707). Program: Discovering Your Femme Voice with Laura Winstin

Week of September 21-27

- Tues 9/23 8:30 p.m. CGS social, Hunters, Elk Grove Village. Call CGS (708) 863-7714
- Sat 9/27 7:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Couples Group, Joliet (630-262-8707)
- Sat 9/27 7:00 p.m. TONI, Merrillville, IN. Call 219-650-2142 for location and program
- Sat 9/27 7:00 p.m. CGS/TS Support Group, Transformations, (708) 383-8338.
- Sat 9/27 7:30 p.m. ITI Celebration- Evanston (708) 535-1506

Week of September 28-October 4

- Wed 10/1 9:00 p.m. South Side Girls, Clubhouse Players, 13126 S. Western, Blue Island. (708) 389-6688.
- Thurs 10/2 7:30 p.m. It's Time, Illinois, 146 N. Oak Park Ave. Call (708) 535-1506

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In Omaha, Nebraska

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For further information contact:

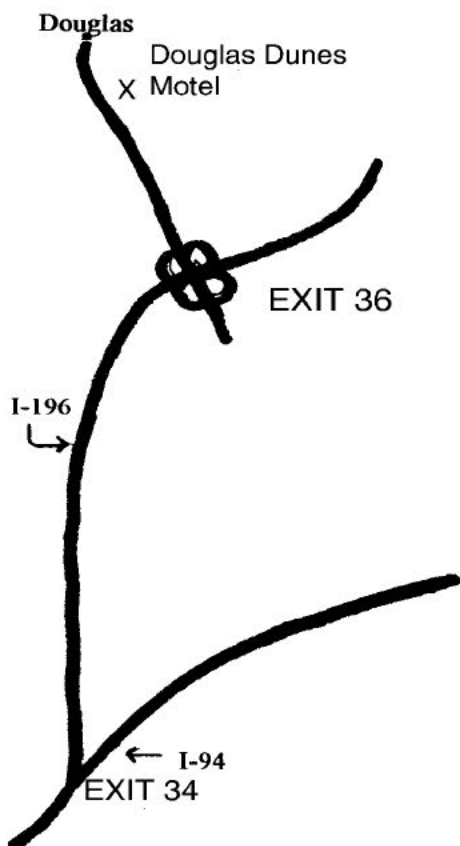
Fall Harvest '97
PO Box 24408
Omaha Nebraska 68124

Douglas Dunes Weekend

The annual Douglas Dunes, Michigan Get-A-Way will be held Oct 17-19th.

Instructions for driving to the Dunes are simple. Take I-94 or I-90 out of Chicago, thru Indiana to Michigan. Get off I-94 at exit #34 (I-196), go North to exit #36. Turn left at this exit and you will find the Douglas Dunes Motel on your right in less than a mile.

For reservations, call the Dunes at (616) 857-1401, tell them you are registering for the Foster/IME weekend. Just \$100.00, including room and many meals included.



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