



COORDINATOR'S REPORT

FANTASIA FAIR 1987



GENERAL

116 participants attended Fantasia Fair in 1987, eleven more than the 105 who attended it in 1986. 42 participants, including 22 who were married, replied to our questionnaire. At least 13 of them were attending the Fair for the first time; whereas another 29 had come in previous years - 8 once, 5 twice, and the rest three or more times (two of them had attended all the previous fairs). The ages reported by those who answered the questionnaire ranged from 32 to 70 (9 of them in their thirties, 13 in their forties, 10 in their fifties, 7 in their sixties, and 2 in their seventies).

As in 1986, the great majority of the participants were more than pleased with the Fair. Their replies included the following: "Fair getting better and better organized"; "Liked concept, organisation and programme which became more exciting each day; gave confidence to enjoy new life style"; "Best show on the road!!"; "Best Fair I have ever attended"; "Much improved on 1986"; "Very well organized and executed"; and "another super experience". Naturally, we hope to do as well, or even better, in 1988.

The number cited in () after the title of each program or service represents a rough average, on a 1 (below average) to 5 (excellent) scale, noted by those who evaluated the program or service. This average rating is provided to help provide a balance for the critical remarks which are cited. For example, the most critical comments were directed at the Fan/Fair Follies while as a program it received an overall average of 5.

I. PRE-FAIR

With reference to our plans initiated in 1986 to improve the financial planning system of the Fair, we have made some progress in this regard. Betty Ann presented the first pre-Fair 1988 Budget to the Board Meeting in Provincetown this Spring.

A. Advertizing (4)

This year we have already mailed out over seven thousand brochures about the Fair to potential participants. We have also sent a minimum of 25 copies to each group in the USA, Canada, and Europe. Thirty or more photographs of the 1987 Fair will also appear in the next issue of *Our Sorority*. Most Group Newsletters Advertise The Fair.

B. FF Brochure & Registration Form (3.5)

With regard to the preparation of pre-Fair booklets and materials, most respondents to the questionnaire were satisfied with the brochures and registration forms of the 1987 Fair. However, we were not. In order to permit participants to keep a copy of registration guidelines the basic brochure and the registration guidelines were merged into a single document. Administratively the resulting brochure has worked well but it has been more costly to mail.

C. Correspondence (4.3)

Comments by participants on their pre-Fair correspondence were almost all favorable or very favorable. One of them said that "Everything worked as promised. There were no pre-Fair questions that weren't addressed". As requested in the 1986 evaluation we changed the format of our receipts and began the policy of informing participants in advance about their room assignments. The rush of late registrations hampered this "room assignment by mail" process.

D. Participants Guide (4.8)

The Participants Guide, which first appeared in 1986, was also very favorably received in 1987. Comments included: 'It seems to us is one of the best points of the new organization'; 'Hard to imagine improvement'; and 'Super!' (twice).

There have been suggestions to reduce the size of the Guide to the size of the Directory as a means of saving money and making it "purse size". Other recommendations requested changes in format and contents. Some changes will be made, but in all likelihood the size will remain the same. Much of the Guide's size is dictated by advertizing, photos, and content requirements.

II. FF REGISTRATION

A. At Fair Registration Process (Friday, Pilgrim House) (4)

Participants of the 1987 Fair were generally pleased with the registration procedures. One of them suggested that there was a back-up during a peak period, and that registration might be split into A-L and M-Z groups. 'Possibly transport might be available to take new patrons and luggage to hotel'. We did try this but scheduling broke into free time of participant volunteers and a "free" taxi service would be too expensive. We plan to improve the system used when Betty Ann serves as Registrar at times other than the main registration process.

B. Registration Handouts (4.3)

Most of the participants were also very well satisfied with all the literature and papers which were handed out to them.

C. Orientation Program (4)

Comments on this program were mixed. One participant thought that it was 'better this year (Oct '87) than previous ('86)'. Others however remarked that 'first timers were on their own'; 'new participants need more personal help'; 'open coffee bar for newcomers'; 'would be good to hold this at location where parking is available'; 'too long, some information unnecessary since already in printed material and suggest leaders be introduced and available for people to talk to informally'. We do need some sort of "big sister-little sister" program. The major problem is that we do live in a post literate society, but we shall try to keep the time and repetition to a minimum.

III. FF EVENTS.

A. Open House Cocktail Party (Friday, Gene Greene's) (3.5)

Most of the participants commented that the party was too crowded. One however remarked that the tight space encouraged conversation. The possibility of finding another venue for the cocktail party in 1988 is being addressed.

B. Ladies Night (Saturday, Provincetown Inn) (4.5)

Comments on the Ladies Night were mostly very favorable. These included: 'excellent facility - perhaps more events could be held there'; and 'better in '87 than '86. Less favorable comments were: 'much too long'; 'too slow'; 'seating should be better organized'; 'cut jokes to 15-20 minutes'; and 'possibly trying to introduce everyone was a bit ambitious'.

C. Whale Watch (Monday, Boat)

Although left off the evaluation form, there was an advisory from the girls that the housemothers should alert them to the fact that the Atlantic Ocean is cold and wintry in the Fall, and not a place to wear skirts and high heels.

D. Town & Gown (Monday, Universalist Church)

1. Program (4.5)

The program was mostly very favorably commented upon. It was said that: 'program format/content was a good change from prior years'; 'glad to have town involvement in program'; and 'good interaction between panel and audience'. Program will be moved upstairs into the main church if possible. Less favorable were the following: 'wants better relation with townspeople. Sitting supper arrangement favors formation of only FF participants or only townspeople groups'; and 'possibly a gap/interval between meal and slide show for mingling with townsfolk would be welcome'.

2. Pathy-Allen's Slide Show (4.4)

Comments were generally favorable. More critical ones were the following: 'preferred one in 1986. Should have some kind of core-subject to make it more interesting'; and, 'I liked it but many people don't understand what her show is saying'. Also: 'space problem; better upstairs in church'; 'difficulty seeing screen: remove tables, rearrange chairs'; 'need to use new pictures in the program'; and, 'iron out technical problems by trying the set-up in advance'. As the Fair grows in size the technical problems multiply at a faster rate of growth. A move to the main church after the dinner might help by permitting more time for the organization of slide show and panel.

E. Fashion Show (Tuesday, Pilgrim House) (4.7)

Almost all participants who sent reports enjoyed the show. It was said to be: 'excellently organized'; 'great fun for the participants and spectators'; and, 'Eve has the right formula. Don't change it!' Others however commented: 'community attendance always disappointing'; and, 'wish we had a larger audience'. It has been recommended that the fashion show 'girls' who wear accessories bought in Provincetown should invite storekeepers to the show, and perhaps 'plug' or advertize these accessories. Our old friends in town always come, but the girls in the show need to bring in new friends.

F. Outreach Banquet (Wednesday, Mews) (4.4)

Comments by participants were mixed. One of them thought that it was a good program, but would have liked to hear more from the Outreach director about future activities; another found it 'hard to see what points were being made', and it has been suggested that Ariadne use a panel approach with each speaker addressing a different aspect of the Outreach and attitudes of the professional community.

G. Fan/Fair Follies (Thursday, Pilgrim House) (5)

Comments were mostly very favorable, or enthusiastic: 'terrific'; 'most satisfying event of Fair'; 'outstanding program. Clothes marvellous, comedy numbers very good. Sound and light improved a lot this year'; and 'Excellent. Maureen does super job'. Somewhat more critical were: 'The show was great - the pre-production was murder!'; 'we need to improve the timing of rehearsals; maybe we dont need everyone there all the time (How about a sign up time for each person)'; and, 'try to resolve conflicts between rehearsals and other events'. Other comments were: 'too long but still fun'; 'A bit more variety would be welcome. 15 lip-sync acts is a bit much. I really welcomed Nikki, who sang in her natural voice'; and, 'The continuity/coordination between Acts and MC needs work. I was told the MC could not be seen for many of the act introductions'. Maureen has addressed most of these problems in planning for the next show. *Some rated the event as a 6.*

H. Fantasy Ball (Friday, Pilgrim House) (4)

Comments were mixed, as follows: 'wonderful'; 'OK, but I think 1986 was better'; 'a bit disorganized'; 'should be more diversity of prizes'; 'too many winners were with the Fair Board'; 'costumes should be seen. Judging was a

bit over long'; 'unstructured and too short'; 'I don't like rock and roll blasting at me for 3/4 hours'; and 'at last Fair there was dancing after the contest, I missed that in '87'.

I. Coordinator's Video Party (3.5)

10 participants commented on this party, and their replies again were mixed. such as: 'fun'; 'good job well done'; 'we start too late and the projection is mediocre'; 'quality of video was poor'; and, 'be sure final mixing is done BEFORE the tape is played'. Time does not permit editing of tape prior to show. Our location this year may permit better viewing conditions.

J. Kite Fly (Saturday, Outdoors)

Although the Kite Fly was accidentally omitted from the evaluation form this year, it should be pointed out that it was an economic disaster. We will, however, try it again in 1988, at the same fee as in 1987.

K. Awards Banquet (Saturday, Townhouse) (4.5)

Again, comments were mixed, including : '1986 better because of place and guest speaker'. 'shorter program was an improvement over previous years'; 'only thing I think would be nice is that more awards go to more people, even token ones we all like a pat on the back once in a while'; and, 'not a very good facility for a Banquet'. The size of the Fair on Saturday was over 125 counting guests. This is the principal problem, lack of restaurants able to seat more than 100,

L. Recommended New Events or Activities

Suggestions included: 'Developing Confidence and Self Esteem as a T.V. "in Passing" Techniques that help a T.V. Pass'; 'up to date on health, TS histories; legal, especially on places legal to CD'; 'someone from Town who can tell positives and negatives of impact'; 'Why not ask Rachel, Mariette, Muriel, some of the wives, Monica Jay to talk about the women's eye view of our paraculture? Pluses and minuses'. and, 'Coming Out- who to tell and when'. Other participants suggested that the following might be invited as speakers: June Reinisch - Kinsey Institute (new book); John Money (anything); Robert Staller (Sex and Gender); and, Hugo Beigel (Hypnotherapy of TVs). One participant volunteered to organize a horseback outing (not sidesaddle) on the beach, at sunset.

IV. SEMINARS

A. On The Town (Saturday, Mews) (4)

26 participants' comments were favorable or very favorable. It was described as 'good, especially for first timers'; and was said to have 'improved a lot, especially re public participation'.

B. Legal (Tuesday, Ocean's Inn) (4)

19 participants commented favorably, or very favorably, on the seminar. It was called 'very positive and helpful'; 'well done - informative'; and, 'Naomi does a good job - she has varied the two sessions'.

C. Sociological (Wednesday, Town House) (4.2)

19 replies to the questionnaire were almost all very favorable. One was 'Dr. Abbass should be invited back every year!!' And another, 'Blunt, honest program. We need to hear more of this type of candid, non- sugarcoated information from trained professionals'. And a third, 'Panel idea was very profitable. Excellent discussion which could have gone on and on'. It was also called a 'highlight seminar'.

D. Lifestyles (Thursday, Town House) (3.8)

Comments were mostly favorable. The most common observation was that the moderator failed to allow a more equitable distribution of time between panelists so that they could tell their own stories rather than face interpretation by moderator.

E. To Have & To Hold (Friday, Franco's) (3.8)

Comments were mixed. Favorable ones were: 'Good common sense -nothing new'; and, 'honest and well-informed'. Less favorable ones were: 'learned nothing'; 'good presentation but limited in scope'; and 'a GG for this would have been more interesting'.

F. Health Aspects (Saturday, Oceans) (4.5)

(Although this event was scheduled for Ocean's Inn it was moved to Pilgrim House because of conflict in scheduling with Entre Nous by Oceans Inn.) Comments on this seminar were generally more favorable. It was said to be the 'best health program; informative'; and, 'an excellent combination of speakers with Gladys & Shelia. "Sheila's talk was just crammed with info" and one of the best programs I have attended'. One participant 'wants more serious information on hormones, cosmetics surgery and prothesis implants, etc.'

G. Recommended New Seminars

'A special seminar for those considering a role change, TS surgery etc. - pros and cons'. A participant offered to give a short talk at the Partners and Couples luncheon, before discussion -called 'Conscious Intimacy for Couples - How to achieve it'

V. FF WORKSHOPS

A. Beauty Fair (Church) (3)

Comments on the Beauty Fair were more critical than favorable. These included: 'bit thin'; 'insufficient time'; and, 'nice for weekenders, but not needed by rest of us'. More favorable and constructive were the following: 'Much was superb (Rachel, Muriel Olive)'; 'good venue'; 'Book and handouts good. Another book for next year might be "Looking Terrific" by Emily Cho"; 'I liked receiving the "Color me Beautiful" book'; and, 'I know Donna tried hard but it just didn't click. Probably the worst run event? 'Still needs better organization and presenters' 'Donna knows her business but there needs to be a better format,' we also need more Donnas - How about dividing the group into 6 - 8 smaller groups of 8 to 10 people. Have 6 - 8 stations and schedule 10 minutes at each, followed by a 'free for all' of 10 - 20 minutes after every one gets to visit each station. (This event is very important to first timers - maybe we need 2 beauty fairs - The Basic especially for the novices, and \Advanced-covering only one or two topics but in more depth).

B. Fashion & Beauty Course Program (Different Ducks) (4.6)

Comments were invariably favorable, and sometimes enthusiastic. Examples were: 'Good presentation; could Paula do Beauty Fair?'; 'Paula does a super job'; 'Very good. Always find something new to learn'; 'I still like, need and enjoy the Video sessions'; 'Paula was absolutely wonderful, especially her attention to body language'; and, 'it is so good that maybe it has become too popular'.

C. Speech Course (Fairbanks) (4.5)

Two comments were both favorable and informative, namely, 'very educational and entertaining'; and, 'a very worthwhile and valuable course, presented with great skill'.

D. Personal Development (Fairbanks) (4.3)

Two comments were very favorable, namely, 'Niela was wonderful! Both sessions were very helpful'; and, 'excellent'. Another participant rated Session I '4', but could not make it to Session II.

E. Partners Couples Workshop (Fairbanks) (Not held.)

Seven participants sent comments. One commented that the workshop might be improved by asking previous couples to write a recommendation; another suggested an outline at registration or check-in, or with registration information.

F. Partners Morning Coffee Program (Hargood) (4.3)

Comments were mostly very favorable, including: 'Well done. Louise did a nice job I appreciated having 'guests' (Monica, Virginia, Ari) at our last coffees'; 'enjoyed speaker. Program is well balanced'; and, 'Thanks to visiting dignitaries, we had very interesting discussions'.

G. Partners Therapy Workshop (Fairbanks) (4)

Three participants rated the workshop favorably. One of these said: 'Make it clear that this is not for couples, but for the "significant others". This was not clear to some couples, including myself'; and another said, 'Good to talk under Niela's guidance, although we "old timers" need the new blood of newcomers to stimulate us'

H. Recommended New Workshops

Seven participants recommended the introduction of new workshops, including the following: 'more with people like Niela - possibly topics open'; 'historical, educational, with a reading list. Or perhaps something like; 'crossdressing in literature and history'; '1.- modelling techniques; 2.- ball-room dancing'; 'dealing with children' and/or 'dealing with parents'; 'books and films'; and 1.- clothes workshop - what, and how to wear; 2.- Color me Beautiful workshop; 3.- Dance workshop'

VI. PROFESSIONAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Muriel Olive's Femme Fashions (4.3)

30 comments by participants on this were almost all favorable or very favorable. These included: 'well staffed and looked as if it were well stocked'; 'Always has good merchandise and she's very good as make-up counselor'; 'easy location to the street area'. Two comments were: 'Could use more regular hours (meaning more help); and, 'Good to see Muriel coming in on Paula's classes, but where was she at Beauty Fair?'

B. Mariette's Photo Studio (4.5)

17 participants commented favorably or very favorably on this. It was said to be 'better this year'; 'the new location seemed to help'; and 'good photography - much needed'. It was suggested that Mariette needed an assistant, or a time-table.

C. The Photo Service (3)

11 participants commented, mostly unfavorably, on the Photo Service. 'Get a new developer that won't scam us'. Other comments were: 'Idea of displaying pictures for sale outside Pilgrim House didn't materialise'; 'Set up working schedule for time at registration or during orientation'; and, 'If we don't have a firm understanding and commitment SEALED IN CONCRETE including pricing - FORGET IT!'

D. Niela Miller's Individual Therapy (4.4)

Three participants commented favorably on this, and it was described as being 'excellent'.

E. The Fantasia Fair Newsletter (3.5)

31 participants rated this between Fair and Very Good. Comments were; 'Super! - like the "scheduled" on one page!'; and, 'best yet'. Less favorable were: 'distribution too irregular'; 'not enough copies'; 'did not receive on time-ly basis'; and, 'Editor was always under deadline pressure/ strain. Could someone have assisted?'

F. House Counselor's House Party (4)

Opinions on the parties were as follows.

Elephant Walk: 'ours were great, because they were attended by all'; 'very productive and participative in my inn. 'better this year'; and, 'should be open to all and announced'.

Painted Lady: 'enjoyed the party'.

Angel's Landing: 'none at Angel's Landing'.

Hargood House: 'very good'; OK ... maybe needed a lounge which Hargood doesn't have'.

Chicago House: 'excellent'.

Roomers: 'The greatest, particularly the management of Roomers threw for us after the Banquet'.

Oceans Inn: 'Too varied to comment'.

Lady Jane's: 'Too few people at our house to have any'.

G. Scheduling & Communications (4.3)

34 participants commented on this, mostly very favorably. Typical comments were: 'Knew what to do and when to do it throughout. A welcome change.'; 'worked like a finely tuned instrument. It's truly refreshing to see something run this well'; 'made first timer feel very comfortable'; and also, 'some improvement needed re newsletter'.

VII. ACCOMMODATIONS

A. Hargood Apartments (4.8)

10 comments, mostly good-excellent; closet space once rated poor; mirrors twice rated fair.

B. Elephant Walk (4)

6 comments, mostly fair-excellent (once 'host very friendly. Beautifully furnished, very clean'); lighting, mirrors, closet space once rated very poor.

C. Roomers (4.8)

7 comments, mostly fair-excellent, including: 'All excellent. The tops. Andrew went out of his way to give us a great time'. Parking mostly rated fair.

D. Tradewinds (4.5)

2 comments, mostly fair-excellent. Called 'generally excellent few full length mirrors. Some girls did not have bathrooms in their rooms and had to cross the hall'.

E. Chicago House (4.5)

2 comments, mostly fair-excellent; once, lighting, mirrors, bathroom, parking poor.

F. Oceans Inn (3.4)

4 comments, mostly fair-excellent. 'Having the lounge in front makes Oceans a wonderful place to stay and meet friends. I loved it'. Once, mirrors, closet space, parking poor.

G. Painted Lady (3.8)

2 comments, mostly fair-excellent. 'Both hostesses were very sweet. The service was very good and the place was kept very neat and clean'.

H. Lady Jane (4)

1 comment, good-excellent (but lacked central lounge, and never saw hostess).

I. Fairbanks (Staff) (4.5)

2 comments, mostly good-excellent. 'Love it. Would like same set-up next time. It worked well to have meeting room there'.

J. Angel's Landing (Staff) (4)

3 comments, mostly fair-excellent. Once, mirrors, closet space, parking poor. Participants rated the facility lower than the staff.

VIII. MEALS (By Event)

A. Terrace (Open House) (3.5)

Fair-excellent; 'crowded'.

B. Mews (On The Town) (4)

Fair-excellent.

C. Mayflower Room (Ladies Night) (4.5)

Fair-excellent.

D. Church (Town & Gown Dinner) (4)

Fair-excellent; 'outstanding service for location'.

E. Ocean's Inn (Non-fee Seminars) (4)

Fair-excellent.

F. Town House (Fee Seminar) (4)

Fair-excellent.

G. Painted Lady (Sunday Brunch) (4)

Fair-excellent; 'Charming ambiance. Very good brunch';

'slow'; and, 'pay arrangement wasn't clear beforehand (\$5.00 discount)'.

H. Mews (Outreach Banquet) (4.5)

Fair-excellent.

I. Mews (Apres Follies) (4.5)

Fair-excellent; 'The Follies cast ... had to wait in line until all the food was gone ...
the cast should have COME FIRST!"

J. Town House (Awards Banquet) (3.5)

Fair-excellent; 'slow service. Liked '86 better'; 'cocktail service poor'.

K. Franco (To Have & To Hold) (4)

Fair-excellent.

IX. POST FAIR

A. The Survey (4.5)

Mostly rated good-excellent. Commented that: 'Its nice to know someone cares enough to
prepare and send this form out'.

B. The Mailing List Mailing (3.9)

Mostly rated good-excellent; but four participants commented that they would have liked to have
received the questionnaire sooner; or to have filled it out at, or immediately after, the Fair.

Main problem was the lack of "femme" names on mailing list.

X. OVERALL RATING OF FANTASIA FAIR (4.8)

38 participants gave ratings, all of them good-excellent, including; 'fantastic'; 'Fair getting better and better
organized'; 'first Fair. great'; 'Liked concept, organisation and programme which became more exciting each day;
gave confidence to enjoy new life style', enjoyed people and events. Will be back next year'; 'best show on the road!!';
'Betty Ann has made an exceptional organizing job'; 'best Fair I,ve ever attended'; 'much improved on '86'; very well
organized and executed'; and, 'another super experience'.

Thank you for completing your Evaluation Forms, through your evaluations we learn what your Fair was like and
it helps us to build & better Fair each year.