

Chi Chapter Tribune

Vol# XXXVII June, 1998
Issue # 6

JULY'S MEETING IS IN THE GARDEN



Happenings by Rachel [REDACTED]

I'm glad to be back after a short sebaticle. (Actually I missed the last 2 newsletter deadlines. A true crossdresser...always taking too long to get ready!) So here is all the poop on upcoming events.

Ahhh! Summer is here at last! To celebrate this joyous time of year I have concocted a little game I call "Beach Blanket Bingo". Frankie and Annette won't be there, but I hope you will be. I don't want to give away too much, but this will be a full audience participation type thang that will hopefully allow us to have some laughs while getting to know each other better.

July's meeting is beginning to look like a blockbuster event. It is, of course, the joint CGS/CHi Chapter Garden Party. The event is to be a formal garden party held on private, secluded, totally safe property in West Chicago. There will be tents, fine food and drink, and music. (You just knew there was a reason you bought that Scarlet O'Hara dress!) Since it will be a cooperative event between CGS and Chi Chapter, it will be a great opportunity to make new friends and catch up with the ladies of CGS. More detailed information about the events and tickets are on the last page, but plan on attending. This promises to be an event like none held before in the Chicagoland area.

In August we will try once again to have counselor Mark Werle speak to the chapter about self-acceptance, relationships, and other topics. I really look forward to having Mark with us. Unfortunately a serious illness in his family has kept him away thus far, but he has told me that he is eager to visit us and to get to know Chi Chapter.

Well, that's all for now. Remember, this is your chapter. I gladly accept all program ideas. Love to all.

Rachel [REDACTED]

Presidents Podium

July

We will NOT meet at the Holiday Inn Express in July. Instead Chi Chapter will be co-hosting with CGS the 'Summer Place Garden Party' in West Chicago on July 18th. Full details can be found on the rear page. The June meeting IS AT the Holiday Inn.

Spring Fling

Our Spring Fling was a great success with 65 attendees. I had planned on 70 with the hotel, they always want to know how many meals to have. Of course we had to pay for these 70 meals....that is one reason we like to have advanced reservations. It worked great with only one person with no reservation.

In July we will need reservations for the Garden Party, please call the hotline and let us know if you're coming. A map will be in the next issue.

Newsletters

Chi Chapter currently sends out the Chi Tribune to 61 other gender groups around the world. Many of the groups also send us their newsletters in exchange. I try to bring the current ones to the meetings for all to look thru or take if you wish. The others are available in the library which is currently occupying several cartons in my storage area. I will shortly be printing an up to date list of items available in the library.

The latest group to exchange with us is the *TOUCHSTONE* group in Devon England. They have a wonderful 24 pager in full color. (Let's see, if we tried it on a copy machine at \$1.10 per page for 8 pages X 230 copies= \$1760.00. Nope...) Touchstone printed a copy of the Chi Trib front page to

(Continued on page 2)



DRESSING-UP ACCORDING TO KIKI

Why do I dress up?

Why? The obvious reason I do is because I enjoy it! Many times I've called it "Creative Excitement" because I was able to get "the excitement" from looking at Kiki in the mirror. I certainly do not want to be a woman but I sure enjoy looking at Kiki when she is looking her best and/or sexiest. Many times I would see a particularly attractive gal then try to buy what she was wearing and duplicate the way she looked. In a way I always considered it a self-defense mechanism of some sort. Instead of being driven nuts by a good-looking woman and my mind saying, "I WANT A WOMAN!" when none was available, I could get dressed up and somehow-or-other satisfy myself by becoming in my mind that which turned me on. And that is not to imply that I was not able to have a good-looking woman, I've had my share.

Then after the initial "excitement" abates, or perhaps the next time I would get dressed, the reason for dressing changed to a challenge of how good I could look, or how well I could walk, or how fashionable I could be. The challenge could be any number of things that present a problem in acting and passing as a woman.

Then there is curiosity factor, which raises its interesting head. Can I turn a man on? What's it like to be hit on by a man? What's it like to dance slow with a man rather than just moving around each other about 2 feet apart? What's it like to have date with a man? What is the female experience like?

Then there is the good feeling that comes when the "excitement" is gone or at least dormant, the curiosity is somewhat experienced, and the challenge of being able to look not only passable but to be a decent looking woman in our own eye is met. The beautiful pleasure that comes from looking and acting like an attractive woman in our own eye and becoming the very thing that attracts us.

When I'm all dressed up looking great and sexy, sometimes I've thought that perhaps I'm a dirty old man trapped in the body of a beautiful female. (Hee hee.)

Transgendered. What in the world does that mean? Does it mean that we are born with one gender and we want to be the other gender? In usage, it seems to mean anyone who is a cross-dresser, a transvestite, a Drag Queen, or a transsexual. Men and woman are all transgendered to various degrees and switch back and forth between many of the so-called gender characteristics of male and female every day. We don't have the wear the clothes of the opposite sex to do it.

In the last few years medicine has come up with more information on how we are developed in the Uterus.. We all

(Continued from page 1)

introduce us to their members. Another English group *The NORTHERN CONCORD* has a nice quarterly issue of approx 70 bpund pages, the English must have some real low prices on printing and etc. The FPE Group in Sweden has a monthly

A Rose News	Tempe	Az*
Alpha	Los Angeles	Ca*
Alpha Omega	Sheffield Lake	Oh*
Alpha Rho	Salt Lake City	Ut*
Alpha Tau	Georgetown	Tx
Alpha Zeta	Tempe	Az*
Beta Gamma	Minneapolis	Mn*
C.L.C.C.	Minneapolis	Mn*
The Canadian Cdc/Wildside	Toronto	Ontario
CGS	Chicago	Il*
Chi Delta Mu	River Edge	Nj*
Chi Epsilon Sigma	Baltimore	Md
Chic	Long Beach	Ca*
CIGA	Galesburg	Il*
Cornbury Society	Vancouver	Canada*
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The Emerald City	Seattle	Wa*
Epsilon Mu Gamma	Three Bridges	Nj
ETVC	San Francisco	Ca*
Phi Chapter	Albuquerque	Nm*
Gamma Chi Beta	Punta Gorda	Fl
Gemini Gender Group	Milwaukee	Wi*
I.F.G.E.	Waltham	Ma
IXE	Indianapolis	In*
Iowa ArtistryCedar	Rapids	Ia*
Kappa Beta	Charlotte	Nc*
Kansas City CD's & Friends	Overland Park	Ks
Lambda Mu	Moline	MI
Lambda Chi Lambda	Ilion	Ny
LI Fem Expression	Lake Ronkonkoma	Ny
M.F.G.E.	St Paul	Mn*
Mu Beta	Castroville	Ca
The Northern Concord	England*	
Nu Phi Chi	Amherst	Ny
NW Gender Alliance	Portland	Or*
Paradise ClubParma		Oh*
Phi Epsilon Mu	Winter Park	Fl*
Phi Pi Epsilon	Sweden*	
Kappa Beta	Charlotte	Nc*
P P O C	Yorba Linda	Ca*
Rainbow Gender Assoc.	San Jose	Ca
Renaissance News	Wayne	Pa*
Rogue Valley Girls	Grants Pass	Or
River City Gender Alliance	Omaha	Ne*
Seahorse Club Of Victoria	Australia*	
Sigma Epsilon	Roswell	Ga*
Sigma Mu	Springfield	Mo*
Sigma Nu Rho	Rahway	Nj*
Sigma Rho Delta	Raleigh	Nc*
Tau Chi	Houston	Tx*
Tau Gamma	Raleigh	Nc
Tau Upsilon	Tucson	Az
Metroplex CD Club	Irving	Tx*
Theta Upsilon Gamma	Las Vegas	Nv*
Tiffany Club Of New	England	Woborn Ma*
T.O.N.I. Ltd	Portage	In*
Touchstone (Swg)	Devon	England*
Transpitt	Pittsburgh	Pa
Tri Chi	Fresno	Ca
Xpressions	Toronto, Ontario	

NOTE:

(Continued on page 4)

A CROSSDRESSER'S GUIDE TO STEPPING OUT

By Janyne C

Well aside from the obvious, which is don't call women chicks. There are some methods that can be used that are different from the traditional ones we have been using for all these years.

The way most crossdressers meet a woman is to get as manly as they can and hang out with guys and eventually meet a girl. The other way is to get fixed up with one. This is usually set up by a well-meaning friend or relative who does not know you crossdress.

What then happens is the crossdresser likes this woman and she likes him. So he throws away \$12,512 worth of clothes, so that he can have her over for dinner. She respects him because he doesn't try to bed her on the first date. He tells her he has old fashioned values about his purity and he respects her too much to become intimate too early, and she buys all this. What he's really doing is letting his leg hair grow. When the leg hair is long enough to be seen by the naked eye, he will be all over her like a sweater with static cling. The relationship (they slept together so we can call it a relationship) is progressing well, he has given up crossdressing, and is growing a mustache, she is getting her upper lip waxed to remove hers. This thing could be serious, it feels good to him and he thinks about her constantly, but he is also starting to think about her clothes.

Now she is a size 4 to 6 dress and a 4 1/2 shoe, he is a 14 in both, but he tries on her undies one day when she's out, and splits the sides out. She is livid at the poor quality of her panties and vows to get that sales girl fired. He knows he should tell her, but what the hell that sales girl probably has a live in boy friend who has a job any way, and a little unemployment never hurt anyone. So he just shines it on and picks up a couple of pairs of panties in his size, and a nice pair of silky panty hose, and if he's got hose he needs shoes.

Now everyone knows how hard shoe shopping can be unless your dressed so some mail order buying needs to be done so as to get enough to wear to go shopping (trust me this makes sense). Then one day he is sleeping late and hears the scream from hell, it rips the wall paper off, it tears a hole in his heart, and he just knows that she found the white satin panties with the red hearts and lace cupid arrows on them that he has carefully been keeping in the pocket of his camel hair sport jacket. "Who is she, you son of a bitch" she screams, and he thinks, good she doesn't think they are mine.

It doesn't matter what she or he thinks for that matter this relationship is now history, and he has looked up his old crossdressing buddies and is busy telling them how crossdressing has ruined this relationship made in heaven.

If this kind of dating and relating is working for you, don't let me stop you from pursuing it further, I mean what the hell, if it works keep it up. Any relationship that can handle a little deceit isn't worth cheating on anyway, is it?

So now he wants to meet a nice girl who will accept his crossdressing, and he is even willing to forgive the fact that most of her clothes are leather and she charges him a \$100 an hour to date her. Hey she has values, he can even forgive being called her sissy maid, or some other term of endearment like slut dancer or something else just as cute as a button.

So he gives up on ever finding a nice woman who can just accept him as he is. Well guess what, he has just taken the first step to meeting her. He has surrendered to the fact that he is a crossdresser, and will always be one, even if it means living alone.

Now about meeting these women let me suggest a way, something a little different, a little daring, a little scary. Honestly, there we said it the H word, now can we talk about it.

The old relationships that crossdressing ruined, were really ruined by keeping secrets, by not being honest. We don't know how to tell a potential girl friend that on Saturdays we are ladies so we don't and one Saturday the relationship blows up in our faces, scattering mascara into the heavens.

So, if we can't tell our lovers how can we be honest? Well, try meeting

them as a crossdresser!! Wow, how in the hell do you do that for suggestions, do something out side of the crossdresser circles, and do it dressed. Take a class, attend a lecture series, volunteer at a hospital, (not as a patient silly) sure they will read you and it may be tough for a while, but keep doing it and be nice and keep smiling. You will in a short time make friends, and I can almost guarantee they will be women friends, the men won't come near you, trust me on this.

After you have earned the trust of these ladies you may be elevated to the status of a girl friend. Now I want to tell you, it's an honor to be a girl friend and if nothing further ever comes out of your friendship being a girlfriend is a reward in and of it's self. As a girl friend you will become privy to all sorts of things and you will get a chance to help your girlfriend sometime, she will of course know you are a guy (girls are really smart about this) and the chance just might come up for her to meet the masculine side some day. And she might see in you a man who is also the girl friend she likes so much.

This special lady who accepted you as the woman you presented your self as will probably accept you as the man you also present your self as. She will be curious about you, she will be fascinated with your gender/genders, she still will call you she, or by your feminine name, and you will still always be sisters at your soul level.

There is a chance you will be allowed to express as people in love, not in the traditional masculine over feminine roles but as equals, she will never forget that you are also a lady, and you won't forget that she is one too.

The worst that can happen in all this is that you get the chance to take a chance and make a friend as a woman, be a woman in the world, be a person.

The best that can happen is you just might meet a girlfriend and become involved. Trust me ladies, I know a couple who met just this way, it works for them, just fine.

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Editor's Notes

The Article appearing on page 3 originally appeared in Alpha Chapter newsletter, *Alpha Bits*, 1995

(Continued from page 2) Kiki

have X (female) chromosomes in our bodies, and start our lives as a female egg. The Y (male) chromosome must then try to change the egg from female to male. Some Y's do a better job than others, because of a critical gene called TDF which forms the male testes.

If the Y chromosome doesn't have enough of this gene, the testes are not formed properly and vital hormones are not sent to the brain. These hormones are needed at critical times in development to properly form the male identity. This is called "Gender Mapping" and certainly explains why some of us have more female or male characteristics than others.

However, it does not explain why some of us dress-up yet do not want to become woman, nor does it explain why some women have more male characteristics than other women and some want to become men.

I have one gender and its more male than female. I do like to imitate the female in certain ways but my basic gender is male and always will be. So I'm Transgender Imaged, or Trans Imaged. This obviously means that I want to look and act like the opposite sex rather than be the opposite sex. Transgendered seems to mean we are one sex/gender and want to become the opposite sex/gender.

Cross-dressing can become addictive. Perhaps we work as our male selves and immediately upon coming home, assuming its possible, we get dressed as a girl and it feels good and very comfortable. Then somehow or other we convince ourselves that being a female would be the answer to all our problems in life. Perhaps you have joined a support group or found support on the Internet where you can be directed to professional counseling and start hormones. The mind is an unfathomable thing and can be convinced of a lot of things that are not true as long as you want them to be true. Unless you are a guy that looks almost female to begin with and has a lot more female gender characteristics than male, forget about the operation. You'll be much happier in the long run remaining a genetic male and dressing as a female when you want to as long as it doesn't interfere with your survival. Survival to me means, friends, family and a job.

I have known a few guys who have gone on hormones and to shrinks and eventually had the operation. They became addicted to dressing-up and should no more have had the operation than Mike Tyson! And their so-called doctors were advising them to have the change! Criminal to say the least. I've also known a few who have made the transition to female reasonably well and even married. Unfortunately in one case, it meant moving away and having nothing to do with the friends that were developed over the transition years and living in fear that she will be discovered. Strangely enough, many that went through counseling, hormones and have had the operation, never had any attraction for men in the first place, never dated men while cross-dressed as near as I could tell, and after the transition, ended up having a lesbian relationship. Hey, if there're happy, more power to 'em.

But, why don't the shrinks require that to become a female you should at least be attracted to men and as part of their transition require that they experiment in sex with men? If men do not turn them on, forget it! Go back to being a cross-dresser. Be normal as least somewhat normal. Real normal sucks.

It seems that shrinks will advice you to do almost anything as long as you want to do it bad enough regardless of its practicality.

There is a very attractive cross-dresser on the Internet who after a few years of going out in public and passing, thought he wanted to become a woman. He went to counseling, took hormones, quit his job and began living as a woman with some guy he/she was in love with. He had saved his money up for the transition and was prepared for the operation. After three months of putting on make-up, the waist cincher, and working hard to look his best every morning and also thinking that with the operation, he would never be able to have kids of his own, he quit cold turkey! Now he is happily married, living in Texas, has a couple kids, and maintains one of best sites on the WWW for the Transgendered. BTW, he only dresses occasionally now.

I don't have gender dysphoria either. Dysphoria is an emotional state characterized by anxiety, depression and restlessness. When I get dressed-up I feel good so why is dressing up sometimes referred to as gender dysphoria? Maybe its because when you are dressed in drab, you have dysphoria and when dressed as female, you have euphoria. If that's the case, it should be called gender euphoria/dysphoria. A better name would be just plain old gender euphoria. Euphoria: a feeling of great happiness or well being.



As far as developing my "femininity" is concerned, I certainly don't have to get dressed up as a female to do that. I can do it every day in every way. If I'm working on my "femininity" as Kiki, I'm only trying to work on the challenge of acting female. (On the Internet it would mean looking as sexy as possible.) They say today's woman can change between what is considered feminine to put it simply, nurturing and artistic, and masculine, being aggressive and tough, without batting an eye. I know guys who can do the same thing. So I think these so-called experts are all wet when they say we are transgendered, have gender dysphoria, or dress-up because we are developing our femininity. What we are working on is our female image.

To sum up, some of us dress up because of:

The "excitement",
The challenge,
The curiosity,

The good feeling from becoming what attracts us! (And the better you can look, the better it is.) And last but far from least,
The fantasy of being different than you really are, of being like Alice In Wonderland so to speak, going through the mirror and becoming someone else.

And ask yourself this question, why does an actor act? Because he enjoys being someone else for a little while! Could that be added to the list of why we dress up?

Granted, I didn't start dressing up until my mid-forties but for those that started at an early age, I believe that only some minor changes would make it fit. The basic reasons remain the same.

Transgendered should be called Transimaged.
Gender Dysphoria should be called Gender Euphoria/Dysphoria, or Gender Euphoria.
"Developing my femininity" should be called "developing my feminine image".

At least that's the way I see it.

Kiki

Great Lakes Gender Leadership Council Activities Calendar MAY-JUNE 1998

Wed 10-14th BE-ALL, Pittsburgh PA

Fri 6/12 8:00 p.m. Rapture Dance Party

Sat 6/13 7:00 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. 414-297-9328

Tue 6/16 Femme Nite Out, Founder's Hill Brewing Co, Downer's Grove call Fay, 630- [REDACTED]

Sat 6/20 8:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Meeting Elmhurst 630-262-8707

Sat 6/27 6:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Couples Group

Sat 6/27 T.O.N.I. Meeting Times/location unknown please call 219-650-2142 or E-Mail: [REDACTED]@aol.com

July 1998

Sat 7/11 7:00 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. 414-297-9328

Tue 7/14 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust...

July 15-19 S.P.I.C.E. Atlanta E-Mail: spice@tri-ess.com

July 18 Chi Chapter/CGS Formal summer picnic gala

PLAN AHEAD

Sept 24-27th Paradise in the Poconos, Poconos PA E-Mail poco@cdspub.com

Oct 2-5th Southern Comfort, Atlanta GA

Oct 19-26th Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA

Nov 5-8 Fall Harvest, Minneapolis

Nov 8-13 Holiday at Sea, Dignity Cruise #10, Cruises, Inc 1-800-621-6699

1999 Holiday Enfemme, Houston, TX

1999 Fall Harvest, Milwaukee, WI

Rachel AD

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July 18th 1998 Regular Meeting Night

Rain or Shine

At Julie Ann's home in West Chicago

Located 1 mile East of Rt 59 on Geneva Road (Washington St.) in West Chicago

Catered Buffet - Tents - Changing facilities
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All Tickets are reserved and must be purchased or reserved by phone by July 17

There will be NO 'at the door' tickets sold

Tickets available at Rachel's Wigs and Transformations

Total cost per person \$30.00

TO: Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess
PO Box 40
Wood Dale IL 60191-0040

DON'T MAIL AFTER July 10th, IT MAY NOT ARRIVE IN
TIME. In that case, please call in your reservation to the hotline
630-262-8707, leave your name and number of tickets desired.

Enclosed is my paid reservation for _____ person(s), for the 'Summer Place Garden Party' on Saturday
evening, July 18 1998. I am enclosing a check or money order payable to Chi/Tri-Ess in the amount of
\$ _____ Tickets will be retained at the door.

Please print your femme name and last initial _____

Member #(If a member) _____

COST: Per Person \$30.00

1998 Tri-Ess Membership Directory

Publisher
Denise [REDACTED]
IL-3493-P

Profile editor
Kiki [REDACTED]
IL-

Shipping:
Tau Chi Chapter
Houston

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Houston

Dear Sister:

I am happy to present to you the 1998 Tri-Ess Membership directory. It has been a while since we issued a full directory, 3 years to be exact. During this time I have filed, digitized, scanned and sorted all the data numerous times. Data which keeps changing each month. Some of you who were late in paying your dues will find you are not included as I did set the cut off date as of 12/31/97. If you expired before this date and only recently sent in your reinstatement dues, you may not be included here.

I want to mention a few people who helped, Kiki [REDACTED] who kept her keyboard busy recording many of the profiles I would drop on her desk, Dan at Preferred Graphics who endured having me continually change my mind (We can do that, Right?), Francis Fairfax who served as our proof reader and the members of Tau Chi Chapter who ended up mailing the directories out, and of course my wife who lost me to the computer for the last year or so.

As I mentioned, the data changes each month, it is impossible to keep current and much of the data is out of date (Please update). As you read this at least 80 new members have joined and many have left our ranks since this was sent to the printer. As the cost of this publication runs in the thousands of dollars, to print a complete directory each year is fiscally impossible. Therefore we do issue supplements when enough new or updated data is received. If your data is incorrect please fill out the coupon below and mail it to me, along with corrections or updates, you can also send in your E-mail and home page addresses.

To solve the problem of cost, I have put the entire directory on computer and placed it on a CD-ROM. This disk contains everything found here with one exception, the photos are in color. (If they were received that way). The advantage of the CD-ROM is one of cost, and allowing more recent upgrades to be issued. The downside is not everyone has a PC or a CD-ROM drive. In order to finish the CD-ROM project I do need assistance from members who are experienced in Visual Basic 4 or 5 or runtime database catalog programming and those who have knowledge for MAC database catalog programming, please e-mail. Currently I have only ACCESS 97 and FILE MAKER PRO versions available for the next supplement. Another possibility is a web based directory, with secure access to members only.

Enjoy

Denise Peters
Director, Membership Directory

TO: Denise Peters
PO Box 1138
Lake Zurich IL 60047-1138

or E-mail to:
Direct3s@aol.com

FROM: Fem Name _____

Membership #: _____

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- ☐ My profile was missing from the directory
- ☐ My profile was incorrect or out of date
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Profiles: 125 words or less

Photos: Color or B&W, any size up to 8x10 or send on floppy. Suggested scan at 300 dpi and in TIF format.

- ☐ I would like to receive the directory in CD-ROM format when available. (Must have WIN 3.1 or newer)
- ☐ I would like to receive the directory in MAC CD-ROM format when available
- ☐ Please add my E-Mail and/or home page: _____

COMMENTS ON REVERSE

Great Lakes Gender Leadership Council

Activities Calendar

MAY-JUNE 1998

May 1998

Sat 5/2 6:30 p.m. CGS Social, ULTIMATE OZ (Upper Level) 7301 W. Roosevelt, Franklin Park

Thur 5/7 7:30p.m. ITI Meeting - Transformations

Sat 5/9 7:00 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. 414-297-9328

Tue 5/12 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee

Sat 5/16 8:00 p.m. Chi-Chapter Sping Fling

Tue 5/19 Femme Nite Out, Dennis Rodman's Illusion's, 157 W. Ontario Call Kelly 847- [REDACTED]

Wed 20-24th Espirit 98, Seattle Washington

Sat 5/23 T.O.N.I. Meeting Times/location unknown please call 219-650-2142 or E-Mail: toniltd@aol.com

Tue 5/26 8:00 p.m. CGS Social, Temptations

Sat 5/30 6:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Couples Group

June 1998

Sun 6/7 CGS Summer Picnic (Lincoln Park)

Tue 6/9 CGS Business Meeting, Stardust...

Wed 10-14th BE-ALL, Pittsburgh PA

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Oct 2-5th Southern Comfort, Atlanta GA

Oct 19-26th Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA

Nov 5-8 Fall Harvest, Minneapolis

Nov 8-13 Holiday at Sea, Dignity Cruise #10, Cruises, Inc 1-800-621-6699

PLAN AHEAD

1999 Holiday Enfemme, Houston, TX

1999 Fall Harvest, Milwaukee, WI