



TGIC, BUTTERFLY, EON

TRANSGENDERIST INDEPENDANCE CLUB-CALL (518)436-4513 OR
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BUTTERFLY and EON-EXPRESSING OUR NATURE A COLLABORATION
of NEW YORK STATE GROUPS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

89

CLUB NEWS

Here I am again. It's newsletter time. The biggest thing that has happened to our little group in quite some time is now history. On October 7th TGIC held it's first **COMING OUT** party. It took place at the Albany Motor Inn in Albany, N.Y. Thirty-one people signed up to participate and with the exception of a couple due to some unforeseen circumstances everyone was able to attend. The evening kicked off at 5:30pm. with everyone meeting for cocktails in the Admiral's Room. This was followed at 6:45 with a make-over and wig seminar put on by the talented folks from Jean Paul's. This lasted about an hour and when they were through we recieved an open invitation to come to their establishment for make-overs and wig anytime by making an appointment. Dinner followed right after the demos and it was very good. After dinner the group's live-in DJ Jennifer provided the musical entertainment for the evening. The "Inn" provided a hospitality room so that there weren't any bathroom confrontations. Everyone who attended said that they had a great time. The staff at the "Inn" were most cooperative in all of my dealings with them. The evening broke up anytime between midnight and for a few hangers on 5:30A.M. At 10:00 am. Sunday everyone who stayed at the Inn and a few of the gang who came back in all met for breakfast in the dining room. We were able to have about fifteen folks for breakfast.

I would like to thank Pam for all the work she did to get this event off the ground. It was a first for TGIC and also a testing of the waters if you will, to see if our group here in Albany could support such an endeavor. Thanks again Pam, it appears that

we can. The plans for our next event are being formed up already. In fact we discussed at the dinner the night of the 7th. If anyone wishes to help or has any ideas for events in the future let us know. Our initial goal is to sponsor at least four of these get togethers each year. They, as of now anyway, will be known as the **TGIC COMING OUT WEEKEND'S**. The next one is being planned for the third week in January. As soon as I get the details I'll forward them to you all. For any of you who missed the party, you missed a great, reasonably priced, fun time. Ask anyone who attended. We hope that the next couple of weekends are even larger and more fun. They can be with your support.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- 11/04/89 TGIC WIVES/MATE SUPPORT GROUP
- 11/11/89 TGIC party @ Club 145
- 11/17/89 TGIC party @ Loft
- 11/23/89 RAP GROUP CANCELLED-TURKEY DAY
- 12/02/89 TGIC WIVES/MATE SUPPORT GROUP
- 12/09/89 TGIC party @ Club 145
- 12/22/89 TGIC party @ Loft
- 12/28/89 RAP GROUP CANCELLED-X-MASS WK.



A FIRST TIMER'S VIEWS

The following is a letter from Marsha describing her first night out with our group. Marsha has since joined our group and is quite active. Marsha has been a regular participant in our rap group sessions, our parties and our mate support group.

My first time out in public was also my first time at the Club 145. I went there with a great deal of hope and fear. When I left home that evening I could not explain my feelings to my wife. She accompanied me that night and is very supportive of me. I am writing this not only to all of you but to her as well. It might just begin to unravel some of the feelings that I had that evening.

It all started when my wife told me that she had written to TGIC for information about the group. She did this without asking or telling me what she had done. That actually made me quite happy. I then recieved a letter from Dawn followed by a phone call shortly thereafter. After talking to Dawn I was surprised to find out how relaxed I was talking about my crossdressing. I had never been able to talk to anyone except my wife about it before. After the call I was looking forward to the Saturday night party. This would be my first opportunity to actually meet another crossdresser face to face. I must admit that it was very comforting to have the support of my wife at this time and her company on the upcoming Saturday evening.

All the rest of that week and including Saturday I couldn't believe how calm I felt. That is not like me at all. Sure I was extremely excited but it was also very reassuring that I was now not "the only one". Even the problem of not being able to dress at home (my children do not know of my crossdressing) could not get me down. I just dressed on the way to the club. I even drove while dressed, another first for that evening. My only fear and biggest worry was having to walk into the club. I had pictured a large, crowded room, filled with alot of smoke and noisy people. What I found was just the opposite. The room was quiet with a handful of people there. I was also

not the only newcomer there that evening. The whole atmosphere was very relaxing and ready made for conversation. It made for a very comfortable and enjoyable evening.

After we left my wife asked if everything was allright with me. She said it looked as if something was bothering me. I was surprised because I had had a great time. After we talked it over we dicovered the reason for her concern. Since this was the first time out for me, I had found out that I was very self conscience. I was worried about how I looked, moved, and sat. I did not really notice what or who was around me. Even though I was very happy and satisfied on the inside my outside showed something else altogether. That is a problem that I have always had. I have just started showing my emotions to others. Another thing was that I am not one to be able to mingle right off the bat. Once I get to know people I'm fine. If I may, I am asking all of you for your understanding as I may need your help in figuring all of this out. I am looking forward to becoming an active participant in our group.

It has taken me many years to finally go public and it feels wonderful. It really helps to know that I now have the support of a wonderful wife and of many others like myself. You can now see why that first Saturday night was "The First Day of The Rest of My Life".

Marsha



"So you'd like to get into my pants. . . . Want to wear my bra and my lipstick too?"

Do any of you remember our outing to "An Evening at La Cage" that I spoke about in our last newsletter? Apparently we were quite a hit with at least one of the local critics who was there. The following article appeared in the Metroland a few weeks ago.

▶ Grab Bag

TWO OUT OF THREE AIN'T BAD

By David Allan

WHEN THEY ASK ME ABOUT MY most memorable Grab Bag weekend, I'll have to tell about the three-day August troika of **Ringo Starr**, *An Evening at La Cage Aux Folles* and **Steve and Eydie**.

First, the *La Cage* show—which really was a drag. Someone named **Lou Paciocco** brought his "World Famous" production to the Starlite and he'd better not come back to town. All I have to tell you is that each of the female impersonators lip-synched to records! What we heard were the actual songs of **Judy and Dolly** and **Aretha**, pantomimed by men in costume. This wasn't a female-impersonation show, this was *Puttin' on the Hits!* Even the fun of seeing what the impersonator really looked like was—with one exception—denied us. The best part of the evening was provided by four male members of the audience who came cross-dressed for the non-occasion and were more fun to watch than anything on the stage.

The interesting fact was that six of us were present not four as the article states. Was this critic who is supposed to be a trained observer blind or did two of us just do a good job. I don't really think it matters all that much but I'll take it as a feather in our caps. We were able to go out in public, have a great time, and spread some good p.r. around.

WOMAN WANTS TO CHANGE SEX AGAIN

This was the headline in the Times Union, Albany's largest newspaper this past month. The Associated Press story follows.

SEDALIA, Mo.— A respected pediatrician is causing a stir with the disclosure of her sex-change surgery 3.

to become a woman 11 years ago, and her desire now to change back to a man.

"I was born male and I was raised male, and I feel like that's the way I'll feel most contented," said Dr. Janis Ashley, one of Sedalia's two practicing pediatricians.

Ashley, 38, has refused to talk to reporters after she disclosed in an interview published in the *Sedalia Democrat* that she was a man until her 1978 sex-change operation—and wanted to be a man once again.

The disclosures surprised Ashley's patients but many have rallied around her. But some residents of Sedalia, a town of 21,000 people in central Missouri, are making fun of the physician.

Ashley apologized to the town and said she wanted to continue her practice in Sedalia.

"This topic has the potential to be a flare point...I'm sorry for that and for giving this town or any part of the community any unwanted notoriety," she said.

Ashley has a 4-year old adopted son, Michael, and said he might be confused about her changing sexuality. She is taking male hormones and said she would not undergo reconstructive surgery right away.

"I tell Michael I am his mommy and I will always be his mommy, but I'm also his daddy," Ashley said. "I am his mother, his parent-whatever you call it-(but) that emotional attachment will be the same."

Ashley was married before deciding at age 25 to become a woman. The marriage ended in divorce.



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Store

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TV WIFE'S BILL OF RIGHTS

The following was taken from A Rose News and was done by Helen T. the wife of a tv. I enjoyed it and learned a few things from it. I hope it will benefit some of you also.

My husband is a transvestite. I love him enough to accept that portion of his personality with very few reservations. In many years of marriage, nothing in my husband's practice of crossdressing has undermined my love for him as a man, or my acceptance of this facet of his personality. However, from my experiences as the "TV Wife", and observations of other married TVs and their wives among our friends, I would like to pass on a few suggestions. These tips are based on more or less prevalent problems which can throw a marital relationship involving TVism off balance. Some of the points I will make are drawn from admittedly minor irritations or annoyances; others are based on conflicts which can bear the seeds of destruction into a TV's marriage. I call these points; "The TV Wife's Bill of Rights".

1. DON'T CALL ME ROOMMATE! I have no wish to be your roommate, or your "Sister" or your "Girlfriend". I am your WIFE and I want to be treated as your wife, no matter how you may be dressed at any given time.

2. NEVER LET ME FORGET THAT YOU ARE MY HUSBAND! Nothing will make me feel more insecure in our marriage, and in my own femininity, than for you to be carried away by some mystical "GIRL WITHIN" and forget you are a man and my husband.

3. DON'T COMPETE WITH ME! When we are out in public and you are "dressed", I do not mind that you have a good time with the femininity you've

achieved, but I bitterly resent any competitive comparisons you might make between your femininity and my appearance. If others are so rude as to make comparisons, I want you to be on my side.

4. DON'T ABBREVIATE ME! I and other females are complete persons. Whoever thought up such abbreviations as RG (real girl) or GG (genetic girl) certainly must have a deep seated contempt for women. Unless you want to make me doubt my own femininity by your actions or attitude toward me, I need no abbreviated reminder that I am a real girl. How would you like it if I called you a RB (real boy) or GB (genetic boy)?

5. DON'T TELL ME TVism IS NORMAL! While I might on occasion, express misgivings about your dressing up as a woman, I threw the word "normal" out of my vocabulary years ago when I found out that it no longer had any real meaning in a world where no two people are exactly alike. So, let's leave such words as "normal" and "abnormal" to the psychiatrists, the psychologists, and the social workers who spend their lives pigeon-holing human beings.

6. DON'T SPEAK TO ME ABOUT HORMONES! Whether you cite them as an excuse for your being a TV, or by talking wistfully of them as a means of making your anatomy "more feminine". I like your body the way it is and I don't want you to suddenly to start sprouting breasts. And, in case you have not kept up with the medical literature, estrogens can greatly reduce your sex drive which, thank God, still contributes to our marriage.

7. DON'T TELL THE CHILDREN YOU'RE THEIR AUNTIE! If they happen to see you "dressed", they know you pretty well and won't be the least bit fooled. Let me do any explaining which has to be done, if such a situation ever arises.

cont. pg. 5.

Undercover Wear

Carla Fay Rector

479-7616



8. TRY LOUNGING AROUND THE HOUSE IN MALE CLOTHES! I don't mind you donning a pretty gown or negligee now and then, but a steady diet of it tends to get monotonous.

9. DON'T ALWAYS EXPECT ME TO HELP YOU DRESS! It takes me time to look my feminine best when we go out. I don't mind helping you with last minute touches, but I don't have the time to supervise every detail of your transformation.

10. LISTEN TO MY ADVICE! When I make suggestions on your make-up, hairdo, or deportment, I'm only trying to help. I want you to look your best, whether you're dressed as a woman or a man.

11. DON'T WEAR MY CLOTHES WITHOUT MY PERMISSION! You have your own feminine clothing, and when I'm planning on wearing an outfit of my own, I hate to find it stretched out of shape, or otherwise unwearable before it is laundered or dry cleaned.

12. PLAY FAIR WITH ME WHEN IT COMES TO OUR SOCIAL LIFE! I don't object to your TV friends or going to TV social occasions with you, but I expect you to accept my circle of friends and attend their parties with me without complaint.

13. STICK TO THE BUDGET! When you buy your feminine clothing or accessories, stick to your own budget just as you expect me to stick to mine. Let's talk it over before either of us buys something "extravagant".

14. PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR MALE CLOTHING! I am tired of picking up your suits, shirts, slacks, underwear, and socks from the corners where you dump them, and I wonder why you treat your feminine clothes so much better.

15. STOP MAKING EXCUSES FOR BEING A TV! If I can manage to live with your transvestism, you should be able to bear up under it quite well. You might be surprised to know that (from a wife's point of view) a lot worse monsters live in this world than TVs, and I'm glad you are not a drunkard, junkie, or compulsive gambler; any of these problems make you pale into insignificance by comparison. All I really ask of you is that you relax, be yourself, and **BE IN LOVE WITH ME.**

Thanks again Helen T.

KATHY'S VIEWS

Wives, friends, and others, that's where I fit in. I am the wife of a crossdresser. My husband's femme name is Marsha and we became members of TGIC in April.

Although I knew of my husband's desire to dress up in women's clothes for years, I guess I didn't take it seriously until April. That's when we both went to the 145 Club for the first time. I guess I had always thought that he was the only man with these feelings. That meant that I was the only wife who had to put up with them. On that April night I met many other crossdressers and **ANOTHER WIFE.** I then discovered that many of the things that I thought, felt and feared were shared by another female. And what a relief that was!

At the next mate support group meeting we were able to sit down and talk at greater length and more openly than ever before. We were even able to laugh and joke with our spouses about their crossdressing.

Because of other commitments, I've only attended one mate support group, but look forward to attending others in the near future. I need someone who can understand me, someone who has been where I've been to talk to. As much as my husband tries, he really can't be that person. Even though he's willing to listen, and very patient and tries to understand.

I would hope to meet more wives, friends, and others at future meetings. Don't forget the next one is being held on Saturday, November 04. It will get underway between 7:30 and 8:00pm. Maybe we will have more things in common than you think.

KATHY D.

TRANSPIRE

INTO THE NINETIES: TGIC is going strong and is healthier than ever! But where are we going? (Some might say to hell in a handbasket—Oh well!)

All of us remember the days of hiding in the closet. Days of wondering if we were really strange because we knew of no one else who felt like we do. Then as we grow to accept ourselves and looked around we found that there is a whole network of gen-

der people out there, with many similar but distinctively different perspectives on life. There were services for our community, publications, literature, shops, concerned professionals who are ready to help, and local support groups all over the world. We are definitely NOT alone.

Unfortunately, New York state has seen alot of turnover in these support groups in recent months. Gone or just barely hanging on are groups like EON in Syracuse, TVA in Rochester, and BUTTERFLY in Binghamton. This I find odd on one count but understandable on another level. Many times I have seen the lack of a definite leader, a person willing to take personal risks to head a club, foreshadow it's downfall. Many times a group leader who is afraid of losing CONTROL of their group's direction fails to groom anyone else for the eventual leadership positions. When the present leader or founder then leaves the area or burns out, no one is left to fill the void and the club dissolves. Sometimes personal differences or petty bickering lead to a breakup. When this happens, who loses?

TGIC is fortunate to have a number of concerned leaders which have ensured an orderly transition in leadership, which has guarenteed our future success and continuation. As December approaches however, we are faced with what is going to be our first elections. The positions on the slate and the current incumbent include, President-Dawn C., Vice-President-Danielle W., Secretary-Dane C., Treasurer-Tamie C. (Dawn's wife), Director for TS Affairs-Helen F., IFGE Representative-Winnie B. These people currently hold Board positions as well as Jennifer W. and Susan M. Other positions currently open are Activities and Program director. All incumbents will be running for re-election but we still need everyone out there who would like to be a leader to let us know. There's lots to do with a club our size. Other nominations will be accepted by mail or in person during the month of November. Elections will be held at our public meeting in December. Please plan to attend.

Recently we have been approached by people in a number of other areas who are interested in starting a group in their local area. Areas of concern for possible affiliation are Springfield, Ma., Poughkeepsie, NY., Syracuse, NY., Central Vermont and recently we have learned about a new group called Crosssports of Buffalo, NY. These are people who presently come to Albany as members or guests of TGIC. These areas have not been selected at random nor are they the focus of any ongoing or proposed expansion plans.....In each area mentioned, at least TWO individuals have independantly and without knowledge of each other contacted TGIC or one of our contact people and expressed interest in our help starting a local group. This sort of dedication, love, and ambition needs our support. Can we give it?

In conclusion, it's odd that the afore mentioned groups should be inactive and/or non respondent as recent times here in Albany have seen a plentitude of people reaching out for support, understanding, help, reaching out to know there are others like themselves, in short, a hug. Lets not forget that the reason these clubs were started in the first place, the reason we joined and others join is to be accepted for who and what we are. Lets not forget that there are others coming behind us, and others in other areas who need services that a club like TGIC can offer. Lets look at our obligation to return some of the love and understanding that we have recieved, at least enough to try to help keep our clubs strong, lead others into a fuller life of self acceptance through our big sister program, help them become active and informed of club activities, and lets help others in other areas organize to get their groups going.

Jennifer [REDACTED]
Outreach Chairperson
TGIC

GENDER DINNERS WITH JENNIFER

Every second Sunday, Jennifer will be hostessing, at her apartment, a gender dinner. If you would like to join us for a home cooked meal (Yes, she can cook too) we will be asking for a donation to cover the food and a little help in cleaning up afterwards. After dinner we will include a feature presentation from the extensive TGIC library. We will get under way November 12, 1989 and that Sunday's menu will include: New England Pot Roast, Potatoes, Veggies of Choice, Tossed Salad and more!!! Yes Barbara we will have Dove Bars for dessert! Bring your appetite and we will see you about 4:00P.M.

SHOPPING

Some new places to shop:

Merry-Go-Round Crossgates Mall
Especially wonderful and helpful people, and the manager is beautiful.

The Wild Pair Crossgates Mall
Very helpful Some large size shoes

Wig Town North Haven Shopping Ctr.
North Haven Conn.
Over 2000 wigs in stock!!!!
(203)239-2480 ask for Edee

Pamela Jodiene's Alterations and Tailoring Boutique
203 Columbia Turnpike
Rensselaer, N.Y. 12144
(518)479-4252
(518)477-9000
Very Helpful and will make custom clothes for you.

CLASSIFIEDS

TGIC will now accept classifieds of a reasonable nature to our community free of charge from any TGIC member, and for a fee of \$5.00 from any non-member for 3 inclusions. Classifieds may be edited or rejected subject to the discretion of the newsletter committee.

GIRLS LIKE US !!!

Several members of TGIC are now taking bookings for parties in NY and NE. Services include a DJ service, Host-

essing, and original Drag comedy and song. For information contact:
(518)432-7092

NEED TO TALK/NEED TO DO?

Contact Jennifer [REDACTED] (518)432-7092
Private peer and couples counseling, Make overs, Wigs and Wig Styling, and boutique.

TGIC BOUTIQUE

Jennifer has moved the boutique to her front room. There are lots of bargains left and a special surprise. Jennifer now stocks wigs from the Its A Wig collection and at considerable savings to Gender Club Members. Contact her at (518)432-7092 or write for a catalog to: P.O. Box 1417 Troy, NY 12181.

TGIC RAP GROUP

The Rap group is looking for someone to take over the weekly running of itself. You don't need to have been a member for a hundred years to help out. If interested please contact Dawn.

TRAVELS

Many of our members have been traveling to other groups in the recent months. To find out more about these groups please contact the following members through the club mail box.
Tiffany Club Sup. Grp....Jennifer
IFGE...Winnie, Jennifer, Helen
Boston Bar Tour...Jennifer, Helen
NYC Bar Tour...Tammy, Barbara, Rachel, Tiffane', Jennifer
Poconoes Weekend...Ginny, Jan
Fantasia Fair...Katherine, Kay
Twenty Club...Helen, Rachel, Tiffane' Vickie, Jennifer

"COMING TOGETHER" Convention

Mar. 27-Apr. 1, '90 in Natick, Massachusetts
Full Event: \$225./person; \$375./couple. Any 3 days: \$185./person, \$295. couple. Discount: 15% up to 10/1/89; 10% up to 1/1/90; 5% up to 3/1/90. Payment: Check or MO to "Coming Together", Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778.
Accommodations: Crowne Plaza, Natick; (508) 653-8800.
Sponsor: International Foundation for Gender Education, Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. (617) 894-8340.
Host: Tiffany Club of New England, Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888

THOUGHTS ON TGIC'S FIRST COMING OUT PARTY

by
Marsha

If you missed the "Coming Out" party that was sponsored by TGIC on Sat. Oct. 7th you missed a great time. It was held at the Albany Motor Inn on route 9W in Albany. The dinner was not only attended by local members but by members from the Utica area and NYC. Members came from some neighboring states as well. Ma., Vt., and New Jersey were also represented. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time just ask those who were still at the bar at 5:00A.M.

The evening started out early for some people, who had rented rooms and checked in around noontime. They were the lucky ones, the rest of had to wait until cocktail hour at 5:30p.m.

The party started off with two demonstrations. Fran, from Jean Paul's brought along wigs. Pam and Joan were the lucky "volunteers" who got to become models for that part of the demonstration. While they were being coiffed, Alex, also from Jean Paul's did a makeover on our own Tiffane'. Both demonstrations went over very well with the group, and a couple of waitresses and our bartender too.

Next up was our meal. Because of the length of the demonstrations it was served about a half hour later than planned. None the less the food was perfect. During the meal there was plenty of good conversation to go around. Old friends caught up on news while alot of new friendships were being formed.

After dinner music was provided by our own Jennifer Wells from Girls Like Us her new DJ and hostess service. Jennifer also provided us with our door prize winning numbers. Thanks for a job well done Jennifer. As the evening wore on and the music played some folks danced, some hung out at the bar with the "real" people and others just continued they're conversations from earlier in the evening. As the evening drew to a close, some folks went back to their rooms, some went home, and everyone else went out to the bar. Some were still there as dawn broke (and as DAWN awoke) the next morning.

The following morning saw a rather large group of us, about 18 people, enjoying breakfast at the Motor Inn's dining room. Quite a few of us came back to dine with the overnights. A few came en femme others didn't. As was the rule of the evening, good conversation was with us at breakfast. Breakfast was almost as enjoyable as the evening before. We all hated to say goodbye and go our separate ways.

All in all we all had a great time. A big thank you to Pam M. for a job well done. Also the staff at the Albany Motor Inn has made us feel very welcome and has invited us to come back. In fact, Pam, I think everyone wants to no when the next event is going to be?

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will feature a couple of views on telling your family, friends, and because some of us have told our children about ourselves our children.

