

# Our Sorority

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ISSUE THIRTEEN

JANUARY, 1986

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EDITOR'S NOTES

by BETTY ANN LIND

Our sorority is now seven years old. And I am back to being Editor and Publisher while Pam Haynes works at the press to get this issue out to you and our sisters. Lisa B. has just returned from Colorado and is on vacation as she starts her new life as a new woman.

Our motif for this issue is in keeping with being seven years old, and I have focused upon articles rather than group information because I have not had a chance to contact all our leaders.

It has been a very busy six months since we last posted OUR SORORITY. I have returned from my tenth year at Fantasia Fair after having volunteered to serve as the coordinator for FANTASIA FAIR 1986! Our own Ariadne Kane has decided that it is time that she go back to college to get her certification as a therapist. So we shall be doing the Fair together to share the work load, like good little girls do.

I am not at all certain as to how this new job will impact Our Sorority or my club affairs. It is my hope that I will be able to do it all despite my other life-style and its demands.

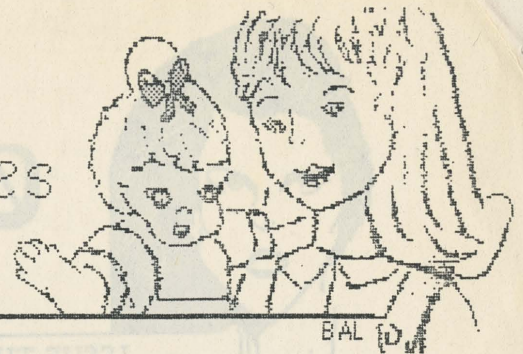
Just think... seven years old! When I was seven I was living with my great aunt in Evanston while my mother stayed at home to take care of her father, who had been very ill for three years. When my mother left me in my great aunt's care she was unaware of Betty Ann, but my great aunt had discovered my little secret. I was five going on six then and I adored playing with the little girls, who named me after our paper doll collection characters: Betty & Ann. When my mother left me in the care of my great aunt it was to be for just that summer only and so my aunt decided that the best "cure" for my dressing up was to let me be a girl all summer long! It was an absolutely beautiful summer! And when the school year began I was still there and she was stuck with a little girl the neighbors to see going off to school. Her housekeeper was a Polish Catholic lady so off I went to a Catholic Girl's school! It was a wondrous two years as a little girl at play and at school. I shall never forget my great aunty's "cure"! I think we were both very sad when my mother discovered the truth and I was forced out of my beloved dresses to attend an all boys school, as another "cure" that didn't work.

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## Many Little Kindnesses



My great aunt Katherine was named after the German princess who became the 18th Century Czarina of Russia, Katherine the Great. She was by birth a German aristocrat also, but in her heart she was a WASP with her feet planted firmly between the 19th and 20th Century. She believed in "white man's burden" and her Christian duty to rid mankind of liquor and civilize him to accept the natural rights of women. She belonged passionately to the Women's Christian Temperance Union and served in the ranks of the suffragette movement. Her basic sensibilities were Victorian, although she was "thoroughly modern" with no old debts to the past and ran her own business with the Puritan Ethic.

She was awesome to a five year old boy; like a golden haired Valkyrie out of a Wagnerian opera, completely in charge. When she determined that the "cure" for my "lets pretend" was to "let the punishment fit the crime" and therefore: "... In this household, and for all the world to know; relative, friend, or stranger, you are expected to be a German princess. A young lady, who in her heart knows that when she grows up she will be God's greatest creation, a woman of quality."

She did not allow me to "escape" either in manners or mannerisms. She did not spank, humiliate, or tease me. She willed that since it was my duty to be a girl, I would simply do what was required and expected of one. "Remember, that even a princess must curtsy towards someone."

I know that in her mind I was a child. But, I can never remember her treating me as if I were childish. I do not think she was comfortable with children, even her own which were "old" like my mother. In example, I can remember that she believed that she should dress from success in suits made by Schiaparelli or King, "... who are women, and therefore know what is correct for a smart woman to wear." And then to my utter amazement she took me to buy my own clothes from Saks Fifth Avenue where my mother had bought those sissy boys clothes that I hated so much. There, in the girl's shop she announced: "I will tell you what you need. You will select them for yourself and then you will tell me why you picked what you did so that I can see for myself how you think. But, I must warn you that when you select something you will wear it even if it foolish to others until it wears out, no matter how sick you feel about your choice. This is the only way that you can acquire taste."

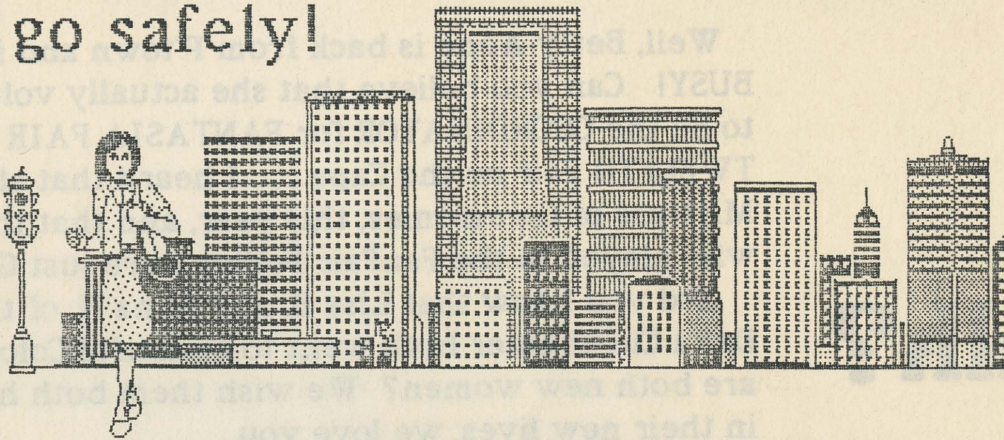
When she thought that I needed comforting she had Franciszka, her Polish housekeeper, who viewed the whole matter of my girlish life as a joke noting with a knowledgeable smile that she knew of a boy just like me who grew up to be a great soldier. She then promptly took me out and had my ears pierced! To her the house was divided into two parts; the front and the upstairs belonged to the "Empress" but the rest was Poland! Therefore, the arrangement was that when I was in "Germany" I was Miss Betty Ann, and when I was in "Poland" I was Beta. This was an awful pun, which suited her delight. And it was Franciszka who determined what to do with a little boy, whom everybody thought was a girl, when school started. Give the child to the nuns. I do not know how it was arranged, my great aunt would only shrug when I asked her many years later and Franciszka laughed . . . .

One day I asked my great aunt what the difference was between a man and a woman. "Remember this. A man may conquer with his strength, but a woman rules with her head and her heart through the art of many little kindnesses."

I can still remember that moment when I realized that although she, my mother, and Franciszka were all very different, they were all women because they knew the "art of many little kindnesses".



go safely!



Little Miss High Heels has just completed an exciting evening of playing "Dress Up" in her own home and it is the wee hours of the morning. Everything has been so very exciting and her magic mirror has told her that she looks just perfect in Spanish Heels, smoke taut nylons, black leather skirt, and pink Angora sweater. Tossing her Shirley Temple curls she decides that the "magic moment has arrived". It is two A. M. in the morning and everyone is asleep, so all she has to do is play "let's pretend" and mince down to the corner mail box to mail a letter. How wonderfully inventive! Every woman mails a letter. So she throws on her lovely little red wool car coat, grabs a purse to match her shoes, checks in the magic mirror, and with letter in hand she is suddenly all a thrill in the morning chill click clicking on her way to the mail box on the hill! At the mail box she daintily drops in her letter with a thrill of joy, for who could think that such a pretty little Miss was a boy? Then she hears the crunch of wheels, sees the flashing lights, and hears a deep masculine voice ask with concerned authority: "Are you alright, MISS?"

Little Miss High Heels has just traveled into the RED LIGHT ZONE. For no ordinary woman would be out in the wee hours alone wandering down a dark street unless she was in trouble. If she had not been in trouble, she was now!

SO WHEN YOU PLAY AT DRESS UP DON'T GO WHERE A WOMAN WOULD NOT GO. THAT IS A RED LIGHT.

Miss Arian Hetero has had a wonderful time doing her thing at the Money Mall and as a special treat she has decided to visit that lovely corner Cheers where she had lunch today. It was so lonely, and out of the way, just the perfect way to end a wonderful day. So purse in hand she properly exits her car and soon is in the corner bar restaurant seated at the same little booth that she was in earlier in the day. The waitress serves her politely, but has a strange look of concern on her face. As soon as the waitress leaves Miss Arian Hetero, who swears that if she is ever approached by a man she will deck him, hears a deep masculine voice inquire: "Do you live nearby, baby doll?" Oh, pitty pat, where is she at? She has just entered the YELLOW LIGHT ZONE! If she had been raised properly as a little girl she would have known that some places which are safe for a woman in the afternoon become dangerous at night. Miss Arian Hetero had entered a "pick-up bar" and an ordinary man had found her pretty enough to try and pick her up. Who can blame him? She had entered a yellow light area, which was turning red, and she had ended up in a situation which she had avoided with dread.

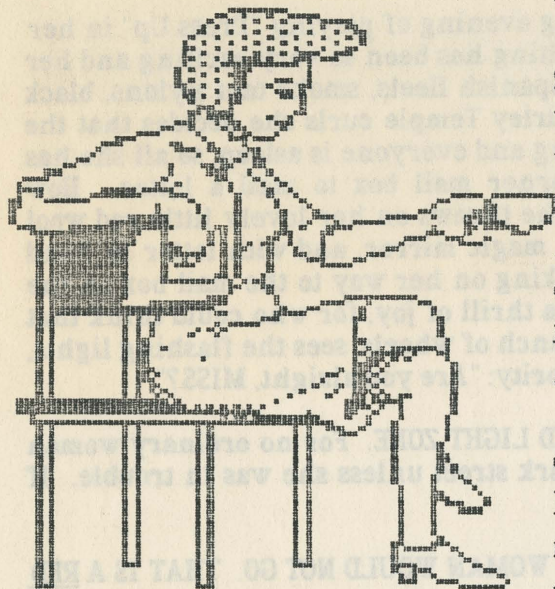
WOMEN ARE AWARE THAT CERTAIN PLACES ARE SAFE AT CERTAIN TIMES AND CAN BECOME QUITE UNSAFE AT OTHERS. IF YOU ARE GOING OUT AS A WOMAN, BE AWARE OF YELLOW LIGHT AREAS.

So listen to your mother, my child, do not go where ordinary women do not go. Be aware that places, and clothes, change as the day passes by. If you are not at all sure; first go out as boyself, to see how women dress and congregate secure in areas bathed with a GREEN LIGHT so pure.

No matter how modern the Miss, she knows that there are areas RED, YELLOW, and GREEN and she constantly uses her good judgment to avoid areas in either yellow or red. IF YOU ARE GOING OUT AS A WOMAN, MY CHILD, KEEP THESE COLORS IN YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD . . .



# Can We Talk?



Well, Betty Anne is back from P'town and is SHE BUSY! Can you believe that she actually volunteered to be the COORDINATOR for FANTASIA FAIR 1986, the TWELFTH Fair on the Cape . . . I heard that she was the Mistress of Ceremonies, this year, and that the girls who played in the FanFair Follies were just GREAT!

Did you know that Lisa B. and Mina N. of the Delta Chi Chapter both went to beautiful Colorado and are both new women? We wish them both happiness in their new lives, we love you . . .

We finally heard from Kathy Stevens . . . There is a group in Baltimore for both TV's and TS's; However, the group is called MY CHOICE and that implies where their heart is, girls . . .

Roberta L. is having a wonderful time with the Adelphi Chapter of the Washington-Baltimore Chapter of the GGA. Rumor has it that they are running a fashion beauty course, enjoying a neat social hour, and then going on the TOWN . . .

The Paradise Club were the hostesses for a lovely cocktail party for the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, & Therapists at AASECT's recent convention in Cleveland. I think that we all owe love and kisses to Lindsey M. and her wonderful ladies . . .

I just read the last issue of the TAPESTRY and it is absolutely the best publication in the Paraculture (if Merissa will forgive me for using that word). It brings back memories of the old TRANSVESTIA, in terms of quality, but it is orientated to help everybody! Write to TAPESTRY, P. O. Box 19, Wayland Massachusetts 01778 . . . Send \$30 (\$40 for First Class Mail) for a year's subscription . . .

Rumor has it that Trans Ro Mar, the new New York key club for us has already closed its doors and is out of business . . . This has been the fourth club of its kind to close in the Big Apple . . . It was a great idea! . . .

I really must go now. Mommy mustn't know I am wearing sis's dress or daddy's wig . . .

OH, YES . . .

# Happy 1986!

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR DONATIONS

SANDY M.  
"HD"  
JANE D.  
D. KAY

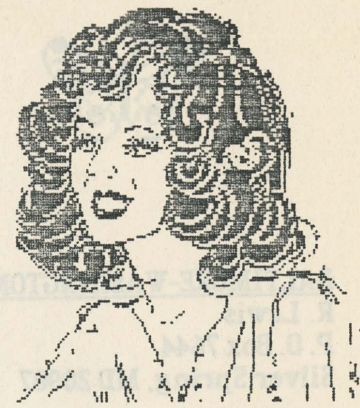
MICHELLE  
NANCY C.  
JME  
W. THOMAS

MAUREEN T.  
WINNIE B.  
BAKER  
PAM HAYNES





W h y ?



When we send our sisters a free copy of OUR SORORITY we hope that each sister will note that there is a group in her area which will welcome her as a new sister if she wishes to leave her closet to find a happier environment with many new friends, who share in the same uncomplicated joys of dressing. We regret that such groups are not available everywhere in the Country. In time, perhaps . . . .

Why do we do this?

In the 1960's when Virginia Prince founded the FPE as the first national crossdressing sorority for heterosexual transvestites, there started a chain of chapters across the country which numbered over twenty. Each local chapter was pretty much like the other with "uncomplicated" transvestites growing to realize perhaps how really complicated they were, and watching others as they came and went. But, FPE was a secret society, as were so many other groups which came and went. The poor TV who found out by accident (in a card catalogue in a library, or by word of mouth) that a group existed often was disappointed to learn that group was a thousand miles away. When she wrote to that group, she heard nothing about how to reach a group nearby her, and often as not very little about how to reach a different chapter of her own group. The word was that these other groups were "too open" or they catered to the wrong kind.

Perhaps I am the "wrong kind" and I am too open, because as a human I recognize how very fickle chance is and I know that but for the Grace of God I would never have found my sisters if it had not been for a chapter leader who wrote me, against policy, to advise me of a different group in my area. She cared, and I do to! That is part of the reason . . . .

After thirty years of meeting my sisters I have found the good, the bad, and the beautiful souls in every kind. When I read the third issue of *Transvestia* (which most think is the first) I had already met hundreds of sisters all over the country, who came up to me when I stepped from the stage to shyly confess, often in near tears, that they had never met another sister. They were so sad that there was no one else to share their secret joys. When they saw me, they assumed that because I was a female impersonator, I was gay, that I was not their kind. But, yet they had to share . . . I didn't think of myself as gay, I was a professional entertainer, and it was a job that I liked. Being gay, was just a way, that I saw others live as their choice of lifestyle. When you run away from home at fourteen you learn a great deal about others. I learned, with quiet little talks, that all my sisters (whether straight, transsexual, or gay) were all very much alike when it came to their secret joys of the woman within. That is part of the reason . . . .

When groups formed within the Washington area I went to each: Academy Awards, FPE (RHO), the International Alliance of Male Feminism, and Tri-Ess. And when it was all said and done each group was much the same. . . That is another reason . . . .

What we wanted to do was to give our sisters a better place to go out in public than a lonely dangerous street, or try to "pass" in a Mall when they are alone with only the consent of their uncritical self and a mirror. Perhaps a group can help a person to grow without such trauma and risk. A place where you can go, suitcase in hand, to dress and learn those skills you may need before you venture out into the real world. Or perhaps where you may not need to wander because you have found those who understand you.

These are some of the reasons why we take time to recommend events and groups to our sisters. Perhaps it is because we care for and love you . . . .





# g r o u p s



(JUST TO CITE A FEW)

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON GGA (TV/TS)

R. Lewis 4th Saturday  
P. O. Box 7644  
Silver Spring, MD 20907

DELTA CHI GGA (TV/TS)

S. Machin 1st Saturday  
P. O. Box 11254  
Alexandria, VA 22312

ACADEMY AWARDS OF WASHINGTON, DC (Drag)

c/o B. A. Lind  
P. O. Box 11254  
Alexandria, VA 22312

CHI DELTA MU TRI-ESS (Hetero TV)

Ms. Lynn Frank 2nd Saturday  
P. O. Box 9192  
Morristown, NJ 07960

NEW YORK CHAPTER GGA (TV/TS)

Muriel Olive  
Penthouse B  
157 W. 57th Street, NYC 10019

PHI CHAPTER GGA (TV/TS)

W. Beeman 4th Saturday  
P. O. Box 4128  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GGA (TV/TS)

E. Malley 1st Saturday  
P. O. Box 9034  
Morristown, NJ 07960

JANUS DC, INC. (TS ONLY)

J. Baker 4th Thursday  
5715 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011

PARADISE CLUB (TV/TS)

Lindsay M.  
P. O. Box 29564  
Parma, OH 44129

TIFFANY CLUB (TV/TS)

Merissa S. Lynn  
P. O. Box 19  
Wayland, MA 01778

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER GGA (TV/TS)

Wendy J. Gwynne  
P. O. Box 744  
Branford, CT 06405

BOULTON & PARK CULTURAL SOCIETY

Mary Francis Williams  
P. O. Box 169652  
San Antonio, TX 78280-3252

CHI CHAPTER TRI-ESS (TV Hetero Only)

Deanna Johns  
P. O. Box 2055  
Des Plaines, IL 60018-8055

TRANSPITT (TV/TS)

S. Kirk  
P. O. Box 59406  
Pittsburg, PA 15210

CROSSROADS CHAPTER (TV/TS)

Laura Rose  
P. O. Box 449  
Utica, MI 48087-0449

GENESIS

Attn: Jill  
P. O. Box 954  
Elyria, OH 44036

MY CHOICE

Kathy Stevens 2nd Friday  
1417 McHenry Street  
Baltimore, MD 21223

NORFOLK TS GROUP

Donna Johnston  
P. O. Box 1923  
Norfolk, VA 23501

GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE, 484 Lake Park Avenue, Suite 427, Oakland, CA 94610

GENDERNET, electronic network, (415) 763-5173

OUR SORORITY, B. A. Lind, P. O. Box 11254, Alexandria VA 22312

**NOTICE:** D. Kay, P. O. Box 264, Vergennes, VT 05491, is forming a new group in New England!



# events

## SIXTH ANNUAL TIFFANY SPRING CONVENTION

Provincetown Tuesday, May 27th thru Sunday, June 1st.  
Tiffany, Post Office Box 19  
Wayland, MA 01778

## BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE WEEKEND

June 5 thru June 8. Chicago, Ill.

Sponsored by "THE BIG FOUR"; Paradise, Chi. Tri Ess, Trans-Pitt & Crossroads  
Paradise Club, P. O. Box 29564, Parma, Ohio 44129

## JOYCE DEWHURST'S SPRING 1986 POCONO FANTASY FESTIVAL & NATIONAL CONVENTION

In the POCONO Mountains. May 16 thru 18, 1986

Joyce Dewhurst, 37 50 76th Street, Jackson Heights, N. Y., 11372

## SHANGRI LA ANNUAL SIX DAY OUTING

Biloxi, Mississippi. April 15 thru 20, 1986

Nancy Watson, Box 18202, Irvine, California 92713.

## FANTASIA FAIR

Provincetown. October 17 thru 26th.

Eve Goodwin, P. O. Box 368, Kenmore Station  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

These are all wonderful events  
that you might try to attend.

Although all such events are  
more public than most group  
meetings, there is a certain  
joy in visiting with our sisters  
and breaking free from our  
cocoon.





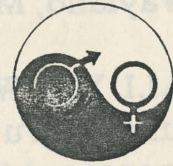
# THE OUTREACH INSTITUTE

PRESENTS

## the 12th ANNUAL FANTASIA FAIR



A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE, LEARN AND EXPLORE  
DIVERSE ASPECTS OF ALTERNATIVE GENDER LIFE STYLES



### FANTASIA FAIR IS FOR:

- LEARNING
- CONFIDENCE
- FUN
- CROSSDRESSERS (TVs)
- TGs
- TSs
- SPOUSES & FRIENDS

### SEMINARS

LEGAL ASPECTS  
HEALTH ISSUES  
SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS  
OUTREACH INSTITUTE

### WORKSHOPS

PERSONAL GROWTH  
GRACE & BODY MOVEMENT  
SPEECH IMPROVEMENT  
CROSS GENDER AWARENESS  
SPOUSES & FRIENDS

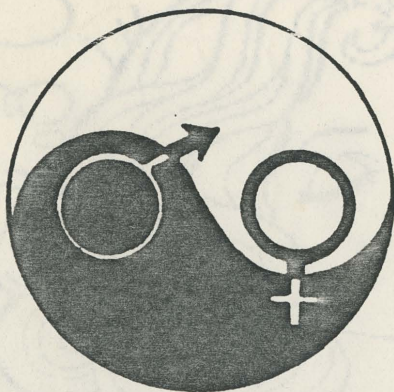
and

### MAJOR EVENTS

FASHION SHOW  
FAN/FAIR FOLLIES  
THE TOWN & GOWN SUPPER  
THE OUTREACH FANTASY BALL  
THE AWARDS BANQUET

WHEN:  
WHERE:

**OCTOBER 17-26, 1986**  
**PROVINCETOWN, MASS.**



For more information contact:

EVE GOODWIN  
BOX 368 KENMORE STATION  
BOSTON, MASS. 02215

### ALSO AVAILABLE:

PHOTO ALBUMS THAT HIGHLIGHT THE EVENTS  
AND ACTIVITIES OF PAST FANTASIA FAIRS

ALBUMS I,II,III (1979-81) \$35  
ALBUMS IV & V (1982-83) \$29  
COMPLETE SET (5 ALBUMS) \$53  
ALBUM VI (1984) \$27

Send remittance with order to:

THE OUTREACH INSTITUTE  
KENMORE STATION BOX 368  
BOSTON, MA 02215