



# The EON Accord

SEPTEMBER 1993, Volume 2, no.3

## Choosing Avalon

by Charliss Dolge

There are two books that merit the attention of transgendered people. One is The Mists of Avalon, by Marion Zimmer Bradley. This is a retelling of the Arthurian legend from the perspective of the women of the legend.

Avalon is an island, kept secure from the negative influences of the world by the mists that surround it. The beauty of Avalon and its community of women can be revealed and appreciated only by the women whose spiritual vision enables them to part the mists that conceal it from the rest of the world. What is significant about Avalon, and the nature of those who are able to come and go from it, is that it represents eternal truth, unchanging in the midst of turmoil and discord in the world which surrounds it.

The second book which longs to speak to us is A Return To Love, written by Marianne Williamson, and it is her introduction to this book that is our selection for the EXCERPTS section in this issue of "The Accord."

Like Avalon, Love is ancient and timeless, the real source and motivator that sets in motion all things longed for, but mistakenly sought out in the very place where they cannot be found — the

world of turmoil and discord which has been set in motion by Love's opposite which is fear.

Both books are in our EON library, and they may also be found in any well-stocked book store. Let us pay attention to the message of our EXCERPTS selection and see if we can relate it to the conflicts in our individual worlds.

Can we look turmoil and discord directly in the eye, admit to it? That is the first step. Are we willing to allow for the possibility of an alternative to this? That we can choose to do. Next, we will need some assistance, some guidance and direction from a source that is not committed or in allegiance to the world of turmoil and discord. As we become receptive to *this kind of help* coming into our lives, we will be choosing Avalon, and eventually we too may learn how to part the mists. We may be truly free to live in the world as we are as individuals and not as others would have us be, which is more like them. Wherever we are, Avalon will be there. It will be within us, and therefore anyone who stands before us will also have the opportunity to be free, for what we choose for ourselves, Avalon, is what we will have to offer others.

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# Support Group Schedule

EON offices and meeting rooms are open every Saturday evening from 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM. A light buffet is available with coffee and other non-alcoholic beverages. The cost of this meeting is \$5.00 per person.

Attendance is limited to support group members (crossdressers, transgenderists and transsexuals) except where noted. Meetings are organized as follows:

## FIRST SATURDAY of the month:

**An unstructured social evening.** Relax with your support group friends; share experiences and practical advice. This is an opportunity to be supportive of each other in an informal setting.

## SECOND SATURDAY of the month:

**A moderated discussion group** is included in this meeting. Bring your topic with you and explore it with others in a non-interruptive and meaningful way. An opportunity to allow each person to be attentive to her own voice and needs, as well as those of others. Any relevant topic is safe and welcome — whatever you need to explore in a non-judgmental setting. The discussion segment of this meeting is limited to one hour beginning at 8:00 PM.

## THIRD SATURDAY of the month:

**An unstructured social evening that may include family members and significant others.** This is an opportunity to introduce others to your support group environment and your friends. They will be warmly received and assured of any assistance they may need from others to feel more at home with your own feminine reality.

## FOURTH SATURDAY of the month:

**An open social evening for support group members, prospective members, friends, and others** who may have a desire to learn more about, and to interact with, our transgender community. This evening begins at 8:00 PM and ends at 11:00.

Especially in times  
of darkness,  
that is the time  
to love,  
that an act  
of love  
might tip  
the balance.

*Aeschylus*

Also, please note...

FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month:

**Board of Directors,**  
*Expressing Our Nature, Inc.*  
7:00 PM

Contact a board member if you have an idea or a topic that you would like the Board to put on its agenda.

## OFFICE HOURS:

**Monday & Wednesday — 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

Support group members are welcome to use the facility individually or in small groups during these hours. The video and book library will be available; the dressing/makeover room can be reserved for a \$5.00 fee. Membership interviews for newcomers are also held on these days.

Call ahead if you wish to use the facility on these days or evenings. Board members and volunteer workers are often in the offices at other times as well; please feel free to call if you need to talk with someone or would like to use the facility at these other times.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

The current support group schedule was set up by EON, Inc. board members and others who are active within the support group. Please let us know if there are other types of programs that you would like to have for Saturday night meetings. Also, you may want to have a week night meeting of some kind, or perhaps you have an idea for a special event.

Once you have the desire and the idea for something new, are you then ready to help create the program, the meeting, or the event?

If you want to influence the movement and direction of your support group, you must take responsibility for making your ideas a reality. Every one encourages you to speak out.

# National & Regional Calendar

## PARADISE IN THE POCONOS

Sept. 16 - 19 Pennsylvania  
 Contact: Creative Design Services  
 P.O. Box 61263  
 King of Prussia, PA 19406

## NEW WOMAN CONFERENCE

(For post-operative transsexuals and their female partners.)

Sept. 23 - 26 Russian River, California  
 Contact: New Woman Conference  
 P.O. Box 67  
 South Berwick, Maine 03908

## SOUTHERN COMFORT CONFERENCE

Sept. 29 - Oct. 3 Atlanta, Georgia  
 Contact: So. Eastern Regional Conference, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 33296  
 Decatur, Georgia 30033

## 7TH ANNUAL MARDI GRAS IN THE MUSKOKAS

October 1 - 3 Mississauga, CANADA  
 Contact: Monarch Social Club  
 Mississauga "A"  
 P.O. Box 386  
 Mississauga, Ontario  
 CANADA L5A3A1

## 19TH ANNUAL FANTASIA FAIR

October 15 - 25 Provincetown, Massachusetts  
 Contact: Outreach Institute  
 405 Western Avenue  
 Suite 345  
 South Portland, Maine 04106

## BI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HARRY BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ASSOC.

October 21 - 23 NYC, New York  
 Contact: HBIGDA  
 1515 El Camino Real  
 Palo Alto, California 94306

## HOLIDAY EN FEMME

Nov. 10 -14 Los Angeles, California  
 Contact: Tri-Ess  
 P.O. Box 194  
 Tulare, California 93275

## RIVERSIDE GALA WEEKEND

Nov. 19 - 21 Erie, Pennsylvania  
 Contact: Erie Sisters CD Club  
 2115 W. 8th Street  
 Suite 261  
 Erie, Pennsylvania 16505

## Accord escorts

- shopping
- dining out
- museum visits
- evenings at the symphony

... is a service for support group members who would enjoy the companionship and support of fellow group members who are experienced in *en femme* activities. There are a number of stores and restaurants where group members are known and appreciated, and this is helpful to those who are just venturing out. Call us, or let us know at meeting time, if you would like to participate in this program.

# Excerpts

## **THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:** Choosing Love Instead of Fear

*Our September EXCERPTS section offers you Marianne Williamson's introduction to her book, A Return to Love.*

When we were born, we were programmed perfectly. We had a natural tendency to focus on love. Our imaginations were creative and flourishing, and we knew how to use them. We were connected to a world much richer than the one we connect to now, a world full of enchantment and a sense of the miraculous.

So what happened? Why is it that we reached a certain age, looked around, and the enchantment was gone?

Because we were taught to focus elsewhere. We were taught to think unnaturally. We were taught a very bad philosophy, a way of looking at the world that contradicts who we are.

We were taught to think thoughts like competition struggle, sickness, finite resources, limitation, guilt, bad, death, scarcity, and loss. We began to think these things, and so we began to know them. We were taught that things like grades, being good enough, money, and doing things the right way, are more important than love. We were taught that we're separate from other people, that we have to compete to get ahead, that we're not quite good enough the way we are. We were taught to see the world the way that others had come to see it. It's as though, as soon as we got here, we were given a sleeping pill. The thinking of the world, which is not based on love, began pounding in our ears the moment we hit shore.

Love is what we were born with. Fear is what we learned here. The spiritual journey is the relinquishment, or unlearning, of fear and the acceptance of love back into our hearts. Love is the essential existential fact. It is our ultimate reality and our purpose on earth. To be consciously aware of it, to experience love in ourselves and others, is the meaning of life.

Meaning doesn't lie in things. Meaning lies in us. When we attach value to things that aren't love — the money, the car, the house, the prestige — we are loving things that can't love us back. We are searching for meaning in the meaningless. Money, of itself, means nothing. Material things, of themselves, mean nothing. It's not that they're bad. It's that they're nothing.

We came here to co-create with God by extending love. Life spent with any other purpose in mind is meaningless, contrary to our nature, and ultimately painful. It's as though we've been lost in a dark, parallel universe where things are loved more than people. We overvalue what we perceive with our physical senses, and undervalue what we know to be true in our hearts.

Love isn't seen with the physical eyes or heard with the physical ears. The physical senses can't perceive it; it's perceived through another kind of vision. Metaphysicians call it the Third Eye, esoteric Christians call it the vision of the Holy Spirit, and others call it the Higher Self. Regardless of what it's called, love requires a different kind of "seeing" than we're used to — a different kind of knowing or thinking. Love is the intuitive knowledge of our hearts. It's a "world beyond" that we all secretly long for. An ancient memory of this love haunts all of us all the time, and beckons us to return.

Love isn't material. It's energy. It's the feeling in a room, a situation, a person. Money can't buy it. Sex doesn't guarantee it. It has nothing at all to do with the physical world, but it can be expressed nonetheless. We experience it as kindness, giving, mercy, compassion, peace, joy, acceptance, non-judgment, joining, and intimacy.

Fear is our shared lovelessness, our individual and collective hells. It's a world that seems to press on us from within and without, giving constant false testimony to the meaninglessness of love. When fear is expressed, we recognize it as anger, abuse, disease, pain, greed, addiction, selfishness, obsession, corruption, violence, and war.

Love is within us. It cannot be destroyed, but can only be hidden. The world we knew as children is still buried within our minds. I once read a delightful book called The Mists of Avalon. The mists of Avalon are a mythical allusion to the tales of King Arthur. Avalon is a magical island that is hidden behind huge impenetrable mists. Unless the mists part, there is no way to navigate your way to the island. But unless you believe the island is there, the mists won't part.

Avalon symbolizes a world beyond the world we see with our physical eyes. It represents a miraculous sense of things, the enchanted realm that we knew as children. Our childlike self is the deepest level of our being. It is who we really are and what is real doesn't go away. The truth doesn't stop being the truth just because we're not looking at it. Love merely becomes clouded over, or surrounded by mental mists.

Avalon is the world we knew when we were still connected to our softness, our innocence, our spirit. It's actually the same world we see now, but informed by love, interpreted gently, with hope and faith and a sense of wonder. It's easily retrieved, because perception is a choice. The mists part when we believe that Avalon is behind them.

And that's what a miracle is: a parting of the mists, a shift in perception, a return to love.

*from A RETURN TO LOVE,  
by Marianne Williamson*

## Leadership and Space

by *Charliss Dolge*

Our support group leaders can do much to facilitate the process that will take us to the realization of our goals and objectives.

Our objectives are as much *principles* as they are *particulars*. If we practice our principle beliefs we will realize our particular goals.

Our over-arching principle is that *everyone counts and that everyone has the potential for making a difference in the world*. We see this as true for support group members, their families, friends, employers, and on a larger scale — all others.

Within the EON environment, this principle can be employed via an attitude that is consistent with it. Support group members should have their individuality acknowledged as well as what we all have in common.

Our diversity connects us with the world, and in the absence of competition, judgement, and fear, the process of personal and world growth will be facilitated.

Achievement, effectiveness, and growth; appreciation, affirmation, and love; these things cannot be demanded by those of us who choose leadership, but the process that brings them about can be created and facilitated by the leaders.

If we define the things that we want to see happen as *content*, and where they happen as *context*, then our responsibility is to create the context. Imagine an empty space. It may be physical or spiritual. That is context. It is empty in the sense that there are not any judgements in it, and therefore it is free and things that are desired have the room to happen. As leaders, we create this.

As the space begins to acquire content, a process is also beginning. Our responsibility is now to stay aware

of what is happening, to guide or facilitate the process toward our objectives.

Remember our over-arching principle and objective: *Everyone counts and every life can make a difference*. EON, and other spaces in the world, can be a better place to live in, for us and for all other people.

When we are clear about our context, then we can focus on content. Each one of us has her own ideas, and we should find out what these are. Once others are willing to tell us what they think would make EON and other spaces in the world a better place to live in, then we need to get a sense of actually how important these things are to them. In other words, are they willing to take responsibility for making these things happen?

Most people would like to, but they don't see how this is possible. Some things, usually the really important things, are often seen as just too good to be true, or too big for them. People are often demoralized by their experiences of not counting for much and the common belief that making a difference is unrealistic.

As a group, we have intentional context; our context is different than the original one in which the person with the idea became demoralized. While she will have to take responsibility and do her part, the group will also be doing its part, taking up its responsibility.

This is what we need to communicate. *We begin this communicating in attitudinal ways that are general and responsive overall* without needing to be directed at any particular issue or idea. It just is. After a time, support group members achieve a more supple attitude and begin to step away from past fears and rigidities.

As we achieve within EON, we experience the reinforcement we all need in order to continue, and this new sense of Self will extend outward into the other spaces of our world. We will all have acquired the courage of our convictions and the evidence of the veracity of our individuality.

## Both Real and Vibrant

by *Julia Gibson*

I'll never forget my first week of working as a woman. I imagine my twenty-two years as a black line running through time, except that the last quarter inch of it reveals a beautiful and vibrant color during this particular week.

I see the black line as the legal and social designation called "David" and as David's conformity to this designation. However, this conformity is deceptive. The black line is simply a mask for the vibrant color that is "Julia." Finally, it has emerged into its own.

Looking back, I see all the preparation it took for this first week to occur. It was much more than just taking inventory of dresses, skirts, and blouses, and seeing what was appropriate for the job interview and the hoped-for opportunity to live and work and be accepted as Julia. A "first week" doesn't just happen.

Being in a support group sets the stage for Julia to come into a real life of her own. Especially a support

group such as EON where support, whether it be educational, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, or practical, always focuses on the challenge to grow with that support. Much of the "support" that I received in the past, no matter how well intended, was focused on making me a better, stronger, and more passable conformist. Most importantly, the people at EON — my supporters — have never thrown the challenge at me and then turned their backs. They stay there with me as I work through what it is that I need to do in order to be a fulfilled and effective human being. In my case — being Julia.

In future Accord issues, I hope to write more of my experiences in my new life. Right now, I just want to acknowledge the support that I have received and how it has worked for me. Also, to perhaps inspire others in the support group to take advantage of what is available to them if they but want it badly enough.

Thank you all! My friends at EON, and the associations and friendships that they have created as an organization and as individuals. The networking, both within and outside of EON, has helped to make my life more *real and vibrant*.

## Dresses, High Heels, and Tax Exempt

If you'll notice, the box on our back page states that EON is a 501(c)(3) corporation, which means that our organization is now exempt from Federal income taxes. It also means that any charitable donations made to EON may be deducted from the taxable income of the giver. So, the next time you sign up for United Way giving at your place of employment, you may designate EON as the recipient.

A lot of work was involved in preparing our application to the United States Government for this particular status. We were more than just a little pleased, and perhaps flattered, that our request was granted in relatively quick time compared to what other more mainstream organizations have experienced.

This is, of course, a serious advance for a community which has many people who still lead anxious and secretive lives, afraid that were they discovered to be crossdressers, society would send them to the camps.

So, now, if this worst fear ever actualizes while you are out *en femme* sometime, say at a women's clothing store or at the symphony, you can just reach into your purse and present the sales clerk or the usher with an EON identity card that reads: *This transgendered person is recognized by the Federal Government as a valuable human being and has membership in an organization that has an official status that you don't have.* So there! With God, in whom we trust, and the Federal Government on our side, how can we fail?

Seriously though, folks, it's beginning to look more and more like many of us will have fewer and fewer "outside" reasons to be fearful about disclosing our transgender nature. So it will be nitty-gritty time. The reasons for fear and secrecy will be where they have always been, within our own minds. So try coming out just a little bit more. See what it is like to be yourself out in the world and to breathe deeply and freely. We will be with you. And just in case you meet someone who hasn't been updated, tuck your card into your purse. As Carla Malden would say, "Don't leave home without it."

## Yes, But Is It Art?

by Victoria Lynn

Any of you remember when you had coloring books? (Put your hands down. It was a rhetorical question.) Think way back to when you were more interested in eating your crayons than in actually using them. What happened when you brought your coloring book to mom or dad? Did they comment on the fact that you had colored Santa Claus fuschia or the Easter Bunny burnt ochre? No, but they did mention one important *néé* vital aspect of mastering the coloring book. You've got to stay inside the lines!

Think about this. Except for potty training, this may have been your first brush with rules. Society has lots of rules and they all come under the heading of staying inside the lines. In short, all you need to know about surviving as an adult, you can learn from a coloring book.

Do your home work. (Stay inside the school system's lines). Get a job. (Stay inside the economy's lines). Get married. (Stay inside your family's lines). *Wear men's clothing!* (Stay inside the gender lines!) Beginning to see the point?

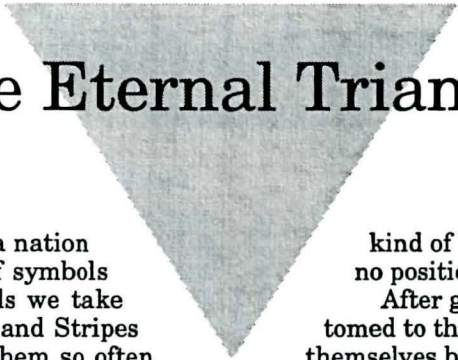
If you are reading this, then you are probably one of those people who hasn't managed to stay inside the lines. Feel bad about it? Probably, or at least you have in the past. Why? Because society takes its lines very seriously and you cross them at your peril. The best way to keep people from crossing lines is to make them feel guilty about it. Now there are certainly some lines that shouldn't be crossed. There's a line for killing people, a line for harming children, and so forth and these lines definitely should not be crossed.

Maybe a better way of putting it is you can cross the lines in your coloring book as long as you don't cross the lines in someone else's coloring book. Remember, your coloring book is your personal space but other coloring books are the personal space of other people. You have no right to intrude unless you've been invited and if so, then etiquette demands that you bring your own crayons. (This is known as "Safe Coloring.")

As far as your own coloring book is concerned, have a ball! Society would like you to keep inside the lines but that gets boring after a while. Besides, what does society really know about coloring? If you think about it, all the great artists and thinkers in the world have become famous, for what? *They went outside the lines!* Some of them, like Einstein and Picasso, went so far as to invent their own coloring books!

In our community, Christine Jorgensen was a famous line-croser. So, too, is Yvonne Cook. (I'll bet they colored the Easter Bunny apricot and Santa's beard orange!) It's people like that who cause unrest! Fortunately for us, people like that also move mountains.

So you crossdressing line-crossers, get out your Crayolas and have at it. Color Batman with the same colors you'd use for Bozo the Clown! Ever wonder what Superman would look like wearing a Barbie outfit? How about GI Joe in a bra and garter belt? (Topical humor folks...) How would you look in a slinky outfit? Ever feel like slipping into a pair of thigh high leather boots? How about a mini skirt? So what if you've never worn "anything like that" before! Go for it because being a crossdresser is no different than anything else that's creative. It is a form of expression and forms of expression only become art when you cross the lines. As for me, I'm going to put on a black leather skirt and a silk blouse. Then I'm going to find my crayons.



# The Eternal Triangle

Have you ever noticed that ours is a nation of symbols? Actually ours is a world of symbols and for the most part, they are symbols we take for granted. Everything from the Stars and Stripes to McDonald's Golden Arches. We see them so often that we don't notice them any more.

We in the crossdressing community (whatever the heck *that* is) really don't have any symbols of our own. Sure we could argue that the "yin-yang" of Taoism is pretty appropriate but we didn't invent it. It is, to coin a phrase, "older than dirt." Still, it is kind of nice. There is one other symbol that you see a lot of lately. The pink triangle. OK, before you get into a huff and say, "Well, that doesn't apply to me, I'm not gay, etc., etc." Just bear with me for a minute. It may apply to you a good deal more than you think.

About sixty years or so ago, the National Socialist German Democratic Workers Party (*aka* Nazis) took it upon themselves to decided that a large segment of the Earth's population was undesirable, or for that matter, unnecessary. Within this group were of course, Jews, political troublemakers, habitual criminals, incompetents, gypsies, priests and, you guessed it, homosexuals. Still doesn't apply to you? Read on...

Picture this, a sunny summer day in Munich (nice city, good beer). The year is 1938. The invasion of Poland is a year away and no one has bombed any major city in Europe into rubble...yet. You're sitting in your home with a few friends. All of you are crossdressers and each is dressed up in his/her Sunday best for a nice afternoon of "girl talk." Suddenly, the door bursts open and your worst nightmare is about to come true. Several large, unfriendly lads in black leather trench coats barge into the room and inform you that you are all under arrest. The charge? "Why, you're homosexuals, of course."

You stand, straighten your skirt and announce that, "*Au contraire*" you are all fine, upstanding heterosexuals with families, wives, etc. and studies have shown that most crossdressers are not in fact gay. Your accuser takes careful note of your argument and then, while laughing, knocks several of your teeth loose.

You see, he is a creature of habit and fond of sweeping generalizations. He is of the opinion that if you wear "men's clothes" you're "OK." If you wear "women's clothes" you're (pick one) a) queer, b) a degenerate, c) sick, d) all of the above. So, off you go to the local police station.

Presuming, of course that you have survived this long, you later find yourself standing at the main gate of one of the Reich's charming little country spas. Places with names like Dachau (nice village, beautiful flower festival). In the preceding days (or weeks, or months) someone has been kind enough to sew some adorable little pink triangles on your uniform blouse. They don't go with the color scheme and this is not the

kind of blouse you had in mind, but you're in no position to argue.

After getting processed and becoming accustomed to the routine, several options will present themselves but none will be particularly good. You can starve to death, be worked to death, die of some disease, or dive onto an electric fence and get it over with. In any case, it probably won't matter as some thug in a uniform will probably shoot you or beat you to death long before that. Why? Because you're wearing this little pink triangle which, as far as you and the sociologists are concerned, doesn't apply to you anyway!

The point of this history lesson is that symbols work both ways. On the one hand they can be a source of pride. On the other hand, a stigma. The gay community has taken the stigma away from the pink triangle and turned it into a source of pride, a rallying sign and a means to pay homage to those who fell when the triangle was created. Many crossdressers, even those who are not gay, take pride in wearing the triangle to show support for those that are, or simply to help promote understanding of all alternative lifestyles.

We've recently heard a lot about gay people in the military and the back pedaling that President Clinton seems to be doing on the issue. If you think this has nothing to do with you, walk into a recruiter's office and tell him you wear women's clothing. You may not get a pink triangle sewn to your uniform but the mentality is still there. It's either gay or straight, folks. Except for West Point uniforms, there are no shades of gray in the Army.

If you think the mentality of Munich in the '30's couldn't exist in the United States today, cut out some pink triangles, sew them to your suit and wear them to work. Want to lay odds on how many minutes go by before you get a comment? How about odds on how long you last before they let you go? Try mowing the lawn in a skirt some day. You won't even have to sew triangles on it. Your neighbors will get the message and soon, you'll get theirs.

So the next time you see someone wearing a little pink triangle be they a crossdresser, gay, straight, or whatever, try to acknowledge them. If you can't, at least acknowledge the debt you owe them. And while you're at it, acknowledge all the people who entered the gates of government sponsored hell wearing a little pink triangle. Although you may not have one sewn to your shirt, you wear one on your heart. You can wear one on your blouse or dress if you want to, but ladies, take a moment to thank God that *you don't have to*.



by Victoria Lynn

# Adjustments

by Anne Harper

From the time we are born, we learn how to relate, communicate and interact with others. We have various techniques at our disposal to learn these necessary things. We are taught by our parents what is expected from us with messages delivered verbally and by example. We continually test these messages as we learn what is appropriate and accepted behavior. If we add the influence from society to those family instructions, we develop a life image that we assume will make us happy and successful. This is the normal course of events and works fine as long as the life image that is produced is congruent with identity of the individual. Yet that expected life script will create conflict if there are aspects of the individual that are incompatible, such as different sexual or gender orientation.

The book Coming Out Within, by Craig O' Neill and Kathleen Ritter addresses the conflict that is caused when a homosexual person realizes that their innermost requirements are not part of the life image they see being lived by the majority of society. This conflict is handled in a number of ways. Some ignore this atypical aspect of their individuality and try to fool themselves along with everyone else by attempting to live a life that will never bring fulfillment. This lack of fulfillment is manifest in their lives by a sense that something is missing or doesn't fit. Conversely others address their difference by disconnecting from the mainstream, abandoning their learned life image, becoming alienated from family and friends. This solution creates an intense sense of loss that originates from the incompatibility of the of the expected life image and the honest response to their difference.

The authors suggest a series of steps to confront this conflict of needs. First is to allow a grieving period that acknowledges the loss of that established life image. This loss originates from realizing that what is normal for the rest of society is not available. After the acceptance of this difference, there is a need to belong to special community of friends that are of the same orientation. This compensates for the loss of the stereotypical life image and creates a sense of self worth based on their individuality. After a while, the individual can return to the larger community to interact as their true selves because the adjustment has been made that eliminates the original conflict.

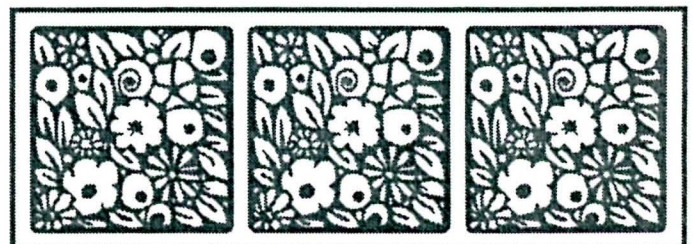
The crossdresser creates a special way of handling the apparent incompatibility of their crossdressing and the lives we see the rest of society living. We compartmentalize. We create complex rules and behaviors that allow us to maintain our roles in society and then once in a while we break away to become another person. We work hard at keeping these roles separate and distinct. Many times our males persona is very active with a busy career or typically masculine hobbies. We then are able to shift to this feminine aspect that is complete with 5" heels and make-up

applied with a spatula. We become two people in order to remain a part of society and still feel acceptable. There is no sense of loss because we are able to maintain our learned life image as a man and still express the feminine when we change personas. For many of us this actually works and is enough to satisfy the inner need to crossdress.

There are some of us that require a bigger range of expression of our feminine selves. We want to be able to declare our feminine nature to the world. In order to do this we work diligently on our presentation. We grow our nails and hair, and shave just about everything else. We explore the use of hormones and try electrolysis on our beards. We get used to regular public appearances by frequenting shopping malls and restaurants. We become less concerned about passing by being more comfortable with ourselves. We are able to declare our feminine nature to society as crossdressed males who just happen to be pretty.

Yet even with all this long sought after progress, we experience a conflict. This happens to be the same conflict mentioned in Coming Out Within. We can no longer reconcile this new found freedom of expression with our old established life image. We have to accept that with our individuality comes a different life expectation. We have to let go of what we may have been trying to achieve all our lives. We must grieve the loss of what most think of as a normal lifestyle. It means that our closest relationships will change, that our career expectations will be altered, and our interaction with society will be different.

We need to create a life image that is consistent with our difference. It is this adjustment that becomes the hardest. It wasn't learning how to walk on high heels or applying eyeliner straight. Those things we wanted to learn. Yet when it comes to learning this more congruent life image, we resist to the last minute. We try desperately to hold on and to reconcile all these different aspects. We remember when we were able to juggle all sorts of things when we were in the closet. That seemed to work. But now we have run out of tricks, we have to resolve these conflicts, we have to become whole. So we make the adjustments and slowly realize we will one day accomplish a congruent life that will be fulfilling and complete.





# EON Library

## NEW TITLES: Books...periodicals...videos

### TRANSGENDER STUDIES

#### **The Other Side** *by Nan Goldin*

A collection of photos of transgendered people who became friends of the photographer. An unusual and beautiful display of pictures of the people who are exploring new possibilities and transcending old sex and gender conflicts.

#### **Horsexe** *by Catherine Millot*

Essays on transsexuality by a professor of psychoanalysis at the University of Paris. Studies the nature of transsexual desire, its origins and outcomes. An unusual and thought provoking approach to this subject.

#### **Accounting For Transsexualism and Transhomosexuality** *by Brian Tully*

Studies and speculations about transsexual lives that involve long participation with several individual transsexuals who have much to say about themselves. Much of this is based on the pioneering work of the late Dorothy Clare in the area of transhomosexuality.

#### **Stone Butch Blues** *by Leslie Feinberg*

A novel whose female protagonist is transgendered. A plot that begins with coming out in the pre-feminist '60's and continues with the character's life as a man during the 1970's.

### RELATED LITERATURE

#### **Women's Ways of Knowing** *by Belenky, Clinchy, Goldberger, and Tarule*

The development of self, voice and mind in the midst of a culture that conspires to silence the truth and the feelings of women.

#### **Coming Out Within** *by Craig O'Neill and Kathleen Ritter*

Stages of spiritual awakening for gay men and women, a process with parallels to the transgender experience.

#### **Sexual Personae** *by Camille Paglia*

Essays on art and decadence from Nefertiti to Emily Dickinson.

#### **Sex, Art, and American Culture** *by Camille Paglia*

More provocative essays by this thorn-in-the-side of the feminist body, including a scathing critique of Marjorie Garber's book on crossdressing, Vested Interests.

#### **History of Ideas on Women** *by Rosemary Agonito*

From Plato, to Freud, to the United Nations' "Declaration of Women's Rights," thoughts that have shaped our concepts of women.

#### **Looking at Gay and Lesbian Life** *by Diane Raymond and Warren Blumenfeld*

Overview of the issues surrounding homosexuality. A guide to gay history and culture.

#### **How to Change Your Name** *by David Ventura Loeb and David W. Brown*

Provides complete information on how to change your name. Includes all necessary court forms and detailed instructions on how to complete them.



**Expressing Our Nature, Inc.**  
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A 501 (c)(3) Corporation

Expressing Our Nature, Inc. (EON) is a non-profit community service organization for crossdressers, transgenderists, and transsexuals.

Services include:

- peer support group membership;
- regularly scheduled programs and discussions each month;
- weekly class nights;
- special social events for members, family and friends.

EON also maintains offices, meeting rooms and a library which are open to peer support group members at various times throughout the week.

The peer support group is an open group, that is, all are welcome regardless of gender identification or sexual orientation.

EON stresses a holistic and non-discriminatory approach to personal development within the support group.

EON also engages in educational outreach activity aimed at: colleges and universities; groups within the gay/lesbian and women's movement; the social justice community; the media; other occasions and organizations where real communication about the transgender issue is necessary and important.

"The EON Accord" is a monthly publication. Cost of the newsletter is included in the current annual peer support group dues. Articles, news items, reprints and original artwork are welcome. All submissions will be subject to editorial policy.

## Statement Of Philosophy

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### WE BELIEVE IN:

The right of the transgendered person to full participation in and acceptance and affirmation by society as a whole. **This is the Right to Dignity.**

The right of all people subject to oppression to come together in unity and to create mechanisms of support for others of like kind. **This is the Right to Peaceful Community.**

The right of individuals to define themselves as they wish to be and to seek out their personal integrity without hindrance. **This is the Right to Self Love.**

### WE FURTHERMORE BELIEVE:

That persons who are transgendered are endowed, by virtue of their differentness, with a special charisma and unique vocation to transform the perceptions of others and the world itself by being exemplars of tolerance and love.

That our happiness, personal growth, and sense of fulfillment as individuals can only be achieved when we persevere in honestly opening the reality of ourselves to others. EON exists to help create and to promote that courage.