

Girl Talk

Powder Puffs of California - Serving the California Gender Community Since 1987

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PPOC has a new, new address! Look again!!!

PPOC/California Dreamin'
P. O. Box 18032
Anaheim Hills, CA
92817-8191

2001: A Transgender Odyssey

Welcome to the true start of the next millennium! The good news is that you will have some place to drag (pun intended) out all those holiday purchases you've made for your *femme* self and try out that new look!

Yes, Virginia, Powder Puffs will meet on January 20th. In order to beat the Postal rate increase, this newsletter had to go out before I could determine the January speaker. However, while the speaker has not been determined as of press time, the time date and place have been set (see below).

Now is a good time to set those New Year Resolutions for your *femme* self.

W h a t s h a l l i t b e ?

Lose weight and fit into that size 6 (fat chance!)

Get out more? (Definitely)

Attend California Dreamin' 2001 (You bet!)

What your resolution might be; remember: the next Powder Puffs meeting is:

Date: Sat. January 20, 2000

Time: 8:00 pm PDT

Place: Placentia Holiday Inn, 118 E. Orangethorpe Ave, Placentia, CA. Take 57 Fwy to Orangethorpe exit. Head east

2001 Transgender Cotillion

Information taken from *Alpha Bits*, Alpha Chapter's newsletter, Dec. 2000

Cotillion Weekend: Thursday February 1st - February 4th, 2001

The 2001 Cotillion: Saturday February 3rd, 2001

Where:

The San Francisco Design Center Galleria
101 Henry Adams Street, San Francisco, CA.

What:

Thursday - Reception Suite at Host Hotel

Thursday - TGSF Show at Diva's Nightclub

Friday - Wine Tasting trip to Napa Valley

Friday - Dinner & Dancing

Saturday - Shopping trip to San Francisco Center

Saturday - The 2001 San Francisco Transgender Cotillion

Sunday - Brunch at the Host Hotel

Contact: Nicole Cook President TGSF
(707) 824-0860

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California Dreamin '00

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dreamin96@aol.com

Cross-dressing bank robber strikes again

Curt Brown
2000 Star Tribune.
December 20, 2000

A cross-dressing bandit stole an undisclosed amount of cash Tuesday afternoon from a Firststar Bank in the St. Paul skyway, then walked past a uniformed police officer who was ringing a Salvation Army bell outside the bank. FBI and St. Paul police officials said the male suspect, who is about 5-foot-5, slender and in his late 30s, might be the same man who robbed a U.S. Bank in the St. Paul skyway on Dec. 12.

"I don't think we've had anyone robbing banks in this kind of attire before," said Paul McCabe, an FBI special agent who said the robber is clearly trying to pass himself off as a woman. In fact, the Firststar teller thought the suspect was a woman when he walked into the bank at 101 E. 5th St. about 1:20 p.m. Tuesday.

In both robberies, the suspect claimed to have a gun, but no one saw a weapon. In the most recent robbery, he showed the teller a red-and-white checked dish towel that he claimed concealed a gun, and he whispered: "This is a robbery."

McCabe said the St. Paul police officer in the skyway was unaware of the robbery when the suspect walked past him carrying a purse filled with the stolen cash.

Woman Fights for Right to Be Mr. Claus

Monday, December 11, 2000
Taken from www.foxnews.com

Donna Underwood wanted a job depicting Saint Nick for the tots in her West Virginia town. Then she found out the mall's hiring policy had a Santa clause.

"The mall said they couldn't have a female Santa," Underwood said Thursday. "They said mythically Santa is a man."

Underwood, 50, of Mount Hope, has filed a sexual discrimination lawsuit

against SantaPlus of St. Peters, Mo., which hired her to play Santa Claus at the Crossroads Mall in Beckley. She said the company fired her after one of the mall's managers complained about having a female Santa.

Underwood said she was the spitting image of a male elf, once she donned the Santa suit and put on the white beard and wig.

"I lowered my voice," she said. "I'm already a fairly heavyset person."

Underwood's career in the workshop was brief. She only got her big break a year ago, about this time of year, when a gender-correct Santa didn't show up for work. She was working at a T-shirt shop at the time, but filled in one day for the ailing elf.

She applied for a Santa job this year and was hired by SantaPlus.

"I like kids," she said. "I like to see their faces when they list what they want."

But her stint again only lasted one day, Nov. 11, and then she was fired.

"I was upset," she said. "It's the first time I've ever been fired from any job. It's kind of embarrassing. Everybody knew about it."

Underwood said SantaPlus let her work as a lesser, helper elf at the mall's Santa display, but she quit after a few days because it wasn't the same.

Underwood's lawyer, Cynthia Evans of Charleston, filed the lawsuit in Raleigh County Circuit Court against SantaPlus and company district manager Donna Hamby. The lawsuit accuses them of sex discrimination and seeks reinstatement, back pay and unspecified damages.

Evans said SantaPlus knew Underwood was a woman when she was hired. Nor Sewell, director of administration for SantaPlus, declined to comment on the lawsuit. Cathy Shumate-Housh, marketing director of the Crossroads Mall, also declined to comment.

Underwood said the male Santas now working at the mall don't have the right stuff to play the jolly old elf. They're too young for the role and they don't act like Santa. "They don't have a good 'Ho, ho, ho,'" she said.

New Female-to-Male Transgender Support Group

Submitted by Shirley Bushnell

- Who:** L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
- What:** The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's Mental Health Services Department currently is planning a new support group, the FTM (Female-to-Male) Trans Coming Out Group, for female-to-male transgender people dealing with "coming out" issues. Facilitators require that interested parties contact them prior to attending the first meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to begin in January 2001.
- Purpose:** The new group will provide support and information for persons born female who are seeking to discover, explore and discuss issues related to masculinity, gender identity, female-to-male transgender people and coming out.
- Where:** ~~The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's Village at Ed Gould Plaza, 1125 N. McCadden Pl., (one block east of Highland, just north of Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles).~~
- Time:** Meetings will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings and are tentatively scheduled to begin in January 2001.
- To Join:** Interested persons must call 323/860-5863. Ask for Daniel Gould or Dennis Sondker.
- Special Notes:** The FTM Trans Coming Out Group will be a "closed" group and not a drop-in group. Regular attendance will be expected of members.

Winn-Dixie Crossdresser Files Sex Discrimination Suit

NTAC Calls for Boycott of 'Image' Concious Retailer

<http://ntac.org/winndixie.html>

National Transgender Advocacy Coalition

Submitted by Shirley Bushnell

Imagine your place of employment notifies you that you're being fired. When you ask their reason, the reply is, "we didn't like what you wore at home the other night." Far-fetched? Not in the eyes of Peter Oiler. And not in the eyes of Winn-Dixie, Inc. - the sixth largest supermarket chain in the nation. Peter Oiler, an 21 year employee with Winn-Dixie's suburban New

Orleans distribution center, was fired for being a crossdresser.

The retailer claims that having Oiler, a truck driver with a good employment record on the job, was "bad for Winn-Dixie's image," said Eric Ferrero, ACLU's attorney of note on the case. It wasn't because of his violating company regulations, wearing female attire at work, or acting effeminately in the workplace. It was simply because he was honest with his supervisor; honest about wearing women's attire away from the workplace.

Two years ago, Oiler had griped to his boss about rumors that he was gay. During a review this past year, the supervisor inquired as to why that bothered him so much. Peter Oiler matter-of-factly answered: "Because I'm not gay. I'm transgendered." After the supervisor contacted the corporate office, he asked Oiler for his resignation; mentioning it "was bad for the corporate image." Oiler refused to resign, and two months later, he was fired. Thus the 45-year old, married, heterosexual male finds himself the center of a federal lawsuit brought against the retailer. Last month, Peter Oiler filed a federal lawsuit claiming sex discrimination. The basis for the complaint is that female employees of Winn Dixie wore men's clothes off duty without consequence. But the company fired him "because he failed to conform to the corporation's stereotyped notions of how a man ought to look and act."

"I never expected Winn-Dixie to approve of my personal life or to punish me for it," said Oiler. "I just never thought it had any bearing on how I do my job." "Performance was not an issue," stated Courtney Sharp, a transgender activist from New Orleans. "Crossdressing was."

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) has thrown its full support behind the efforts to have Peter Oiler reinstated. NTAC sees an individual's freedom to express themselves in their personal lives as a basic human right. Transgenders face enough discrimination when transitioning in the workplace: having someone terminated for this reason when it is completely unrelated to their job is outrageous.

NTAC calls for Winn-Dixie, Inc. to reconsider their actions; which go far beyond an employer's normal sphere of influence, to dictating how an individual should live their personal life away from the workplace. To that point, NTAC is calling for a boycott of all Winn-Dixie Stores in the nation; and has plans for protests in some strategic Winn-Dixie locations. Additionally, NTAC encourages everyone to take a proactive stance by writing Winn-Dixie's corporate offices and expressing your displeasure over the unfair termination.

Read more about what is happening in this case from this site. www.shameonwinndixie.com

Editor's note: The opinions expressed are solely of the authors and do not necessarily represent that of PPOC - *Cyndi*

Please join us for our Eleventh California Dreamin' Conference. The elegant 25-story Golden Gate Holiday Inn will serve as host for our event. The hotel is conveniently located at the corner of Van Ness Avenue and California Street in downtown San Francisco. The beginning of the California Street Cable Car is just a few steps from the hotel. The room rate is \$110, single or double, with most rooms providing spectacular bay or city views.

California Dreamin' is proudly brought to you by a consortium of northern and southern California transgender organizations. The emphasis of the event is education and entertainment. Our program manager is providing a schedule of seminars and workshops from basic how-to information for our first time guests to cutting edge presentations on legal, medical, family and partner relationships, and a special workshop for spouses and significant others. Everyone is welcome no matter where you fit on the gender spectrum.

The daytime is devoted to our seminars while the evenings have been set aside for rest and relaxation. The program committee has put together a package of optional events which include a three hour hands-on makeover workshop led by reknowned artist Jon Davis, a Thursday night dinner at the world famous Westin St. Francis Hotel followed by a magic performance at the Squished Eye Theatre.

Event registration is separate from hotel registration and charges. Beyond the basic registration packages there is an opportunity to participate in these optional events. Tickets for these options are available through the registration process. Be sure and order what optional events you would like to attend because we expect to sell them out in advance.

San Francisco is the one of the more cosmopolitan cities in the United States and a most tolerant city to boot. Feel free to express your feminine or masculine side as you explore the wonders this great city has to offer.

Preliminary Schedule

*Optional Events require separate ticket purchase
All activities are tentative and subject to change*

WEDNESDAY

Early Evening Staff Reception

THURSDAY

9 am - 4 pm Morning Registration Open
Seminars, Optional Shopping and Sightseeing
Noon No Host Lunch
Afternoon Seminars, No-Host Tours
Evening Welcoming Reception
Option - Dinner at the Westin St. Francis Hotel + Magic Show at the Squished Eye Ball Theatre

FRIDAY

9 am - 4 pm Morning Registration Open
Seminars, Vendor Mall Opens
Noon Option - Jon Davis Makeover Workshop
Afternoon Luncheon
Evening Seminars, No-host tours
Cocktails and Dinner

SATURDAY

9 am - 4 pm Morning Registration Open
Noon Seminars, Vendor Mall Open
Afternoon Luncheon - Keynote Speaker
Evening Seminars
Cocktails and Banquet with Entertainment

SUNDAY

7 am - 11 am Morning Farewell Brunch
11 am - Golden Gateway Railroad Museum (No-Host Option)

PPOC

**PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE 11TH ANNUAL
CALIFORNIA**

DREAMIN'

APRIL 26 - 29, 2001

**At the Golden Gateway
Holiday Inn In
Beautiful**

San Francisco, CA

This year's event is sponsored by PPOC
and co-hosted by:

TGSF - San Francisco

The Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) - Concord

The Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) - San
Jose

For Registration Information Contact:

PPOC/CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

P.O. BOX 18032

ANAHEIM HILLS, CA 92817

Or Call (714) 281-0271 [Leave
Message]

E-Mail - Dianedr@flash.net or,
PPOC2@aol.com

FAX Registration No.
(714) 281-0371

For Secure On-Line Registration
visit our website:

<http://www.flash.net/~dhome/cadreamin>

**EARLY BIRD (BEFORE 03/05/01) EVENT
RATE SCHEDULE - CIRCLE CHOICES**

Schedule	Singles Rate	Couples Rate
Full Event (2 days of seminars & 5 meals)	\$225	\$425
Friday and Saturday ONLY (2 days seminars, 4 meal)	\$210	\$375
Single day (Friday or Saturday and 4 meals)	\$110	\$200
Single day (seminars ONLY)	\$55	\$100
Saturday banquet and show only	\$55	\$100

**ON-SITE REGISTRATION PRICES
EFFECTIVE 03/06/01**

Schedule	Singles Rate	Couples Rate
Full Event (2 days of seminars & 5 meals)	\$275	\$475
Friday and Saturday ONLY (2 days seminars, 4 meal)	\$230	\$425
Single day (Friday or Saturday and 2 meals)	\$130	\$225
Single day (seminars ONLY)	\$55	\$100

**OPTIONAL EVENTS
(PRICES ARE PER PERSON)**

Schedule	Price
Jon Davis Makeover Workshop - 3-hour event LIMITED TO TWELVE (12) PERSONS	\$60
Haunted Theatre + Dinner at the Westin St. Francis Hotel (Thursday, April 26) Includes Transportation (LIMITED TO TWENTY FIVE (25) PERSONS	\$85

Total Payment Due \$ _____

The event is presented for the benefit and enjoyment of registered participants only. Un registered and casual observers in the workshops/seminars and banquet areas are not welcome.

Roommates: Sorry, but we don't offer roommate matching services.

REFUND POLICY: Full refunds, less a \$25 handling fee, will be made to those who cancel their reservations via letter, postmarked on or before 03/06/00. Cancellations after 03/06/00 and up to 03/31/00 will have refunds based on a formula determined by the California Dreamin' Organizing Committee with each case reviewed on its individual circumstances. Absolutely no refunds after April 5, 2001.

**REGISTRATION FOR CALIFORNIA
DREAMIN' '01**

MAILING NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE (Optional): _____

BADGE NAME _____
PARTNER' BADGE NAME _____

EARLY BIRD CONFERENCE RATE - In order to obtain the Early Bird conference rate, registration forms must be postmarked by March 5, 2001. All registrations received after March 6th are subject to On-Site Registration Pricing

Payment Method:
 Check Money Order
 Visa MasterCard American Express
 Discover

Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Signature: _____
(Required for Credit Card Payment)

PLEASE MAIL THE COMPLETED FORM TO:

PPOC/CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'
PO. BOX 18032
ANAHEIM HILLS, CA 92817-8032

Telephone Registration No.: (714) 281-0271
FAX Registration No.: (714) 281-0371
Via Internet: <http://www.flash.net/~dhome/cadreamin>

REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE

Full Registration: Wednesday & Thursday reception social, Friday luncheon & dinner, Saturday luncheon, Saturday banquet & show, Sunday brunch. All workshops and seminars.
Friday - Sunday: Friday luncheon & dinner, Saturday luncheon, Saturday banquet & show, Sunday brunch. All workshops and seminars.

Saturday - Sunday: Saturday luncheon, Saturday banquet & show, Sunday brunch. All workshops and seminars.

Saturday only: Saturday luncheon, Saturday banquet & show. All workshops and seminars.

Hotel Accommodations

Attendees are responsible for securing and paying for their hotel rooms. The Golden Gateway Holiday Inn is offering California Dreamin' participants the special room rate of \$110.00 per night (single or double). In order to receive the special room rate you must tell them you are part of California Dreamin' 2001. Room rates do not include applicable state and local taxes.

Accommodations are held until 6:00 pm on arrival date unless guaranteed by a major credit card or deposit for the first nights lodging.

**IMPORTANT HOTEL RESERVATION
INFORMATION AND DEADLINE**

The Golden Gateway Holiday Inn has allocated a block of rooms for California Dreamin, however, rooms not reserved by participants prior to April 5, 2001, will be released to the general public on April 6th. Accommodations will then be on a space available basis at regular room rates.

For hotel reservations call (415) 441-4000

Golden Gateway Holiday Inn
1500 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94109

Air Travel: San Francisco is served by all the major airlines

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