

Chi Chapter Tribune

Vol# XXXVII January 1998
Issue # 1

Happy New Year 1998

Happenings

by Rachel James

Hello all. I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. I wish everyone much happiness and success in the new year and I hope everyone is as excited about the upcoming year for our chapter as I am. Speaking of success, a special congrats to Dawn on the recognition she received at Puttin' on the Ritz. You are truly a special person Dawn and Chi Chapter is blessed with your presence.

Now for the upcoming events. At January's meeting we have an author and gender activist coming to speak. Rikki Ann Wilchins will join us to speak about her new book "Read My Lips". Having started to read this book, I am sure we are in for an interesting and thought-provoking evening. The book examines, among other topics, how society, academia and the medical professions label and limit the the individuals that comprise the broad spectrum of the transgender community.

The February meeting will mark our 1st Annual Queen of Hearts Pageant. A panel of judges will select the contestant exhibiting the best combination of inner and outer beauty to be our 1st Queen of Hearts. Sign-ups for judges and contestants will be held at the January meeting. We need to know an approximate number of contestants for logistical purposes, but anyone who does not sign-up in January may still be a contestant. I hope participation will be strong. This is an opportunity for us to get to know each other better, to put forward the best Chi Chapter has to offer, and to get really dressed-up for a fun evening.

In March we host another speaker. Mark Werle is a counselor from Chicago who has helped many people (myself included) deal with gender and relationship issues.

Mark's down-to-earth and approach and from-the-heart style can help all of us, regardless of where we are on our journey, to better accept ourselves and others. I hope everyone will come

(Continued on page 4)

Presidents Podium

Time

Wow does time fly. This issue is the 49th which I have had the pleasure to construct and marks the beginning of my fifth year as editor of the Tribune. It all began back in December of 1993 when Naomi appointed me as the editor, Not bad for someone who was also serving as VP at CGS at the time. Naomi was either very clever or out of her mind were some of the things I heard said. Well I guess it turned out ok, I haven't been lynched yet, although some have implied their desire. The cover of this newsletter is a copy of the April 1974 issue, I thought you might be interested in how things have changed and how they have stayed the same.

Welcome !!

I would like to welcome our incoming VP of Programming, Rachel James. She was the only non-incumbent in the line up of board members for 1998. She will take office on Jan 1, 1998.

As an ex-VP of Programming, I know how hard a job it is. After all, we wore out Miranda in only two years, but she did ten years worth of work what with 24 months of programs, a Be-All and a Holiday EnFemme.

Ritz.....

How was that Ritz? Dance enough? Drink enough? Entertained enough? Eat enough? that dessert wasum a killer. The chicken was good. Yes Kiki that really was chicken there, not rubber. 125 brave souls ate it, it should be ok and I didn't see any familiar names in the obits the next day. If you have suggestions for next year, send them in now so the ideas are fresh in your mind.

(Continued on page 2)

What a Byte!

By
Athena



OK, Christmas time has come and gone and how many of you got a computer for a gift? How about a peripheral...or a piece of software (no, not a dress). I thought so! And many other of you just want to learn about the latest TG website or other computer stuff.

To meet this demand I have decided that it is time to author a mostly monthly column dealing mostly with computers. I will keep it short and sometimes sweet and might drift off into non-computer or non-transgendered topics in my writings but just slap me upside the head and I'll return to these topics.

So if you have a favorite web site (which doesn't necessarily have to relate to transgenderism), funny story, or neat java applet, drop me a line at my e-mail address:

Athena13@usa.net

And I'll try to include it in my column.

(Continued from page 1) Presidents Podium

Many awards were presented and I will try and list them all.

Awarded by Miranda
Norma-Joyce-Donna for excellence in food service
Barbara and Barb for their work as cleanup after the meetings

Awarded by Candace
Christine-Dee Dee- Amanda for their work with the newcomers
Kate for her work with P.A.L.S.

Awarded by Christine
Denise for her work with the computerization of the records.

Awarded by Denise
Miranda for her unexcelled programming efforts for the past two years.

Awarded by the Chapter (The Biggie award)
Dawn for her tireless dedication and drive in re-establishing P.A.L.S. and the couples group.

The music by George was great and the dancing wore mostly everyone out. Thanks to Julie J. for setting up and taking several panoramic photos of the group. Thanks to Dave and Sally for stopping by and doing the portraits. Thanks to Naomi for her poem. Thanks to Rachel and Naomi for their hospitality room. Congrats to Rori for wearing (surviving in) a pair of heels even a CD would be cautious of trying.
Wait till next year.

(Continued on page 3)



Spirituality Recap By kiki

Sorry

I apologize to Kiki for inadvertently leaving her November program review out of last month's newsletter. I have included it below. Now give me back my super glue.....Denise....

SPIRITUALITY

We were blessed with a beautiful program by Mary Ann Foster and Father Dennis from the Living Circle about spirituality. .

Mary Ann has explained spirituality at least a dozen times to me and I still don't understand it. According to the American Heritage dictionary spirituality means: 1. The state, quality, or fact of being spiritual. That sure tells me a lot. Ok, so what's spiritual? Lets check that out. Spiritual: 1. Of, relating to, consisting of, or having the nature of spirit; not tangible or material. 2. Of, concerned with, or affecting the soul. They've got us going around in circles here. Lets check out spirit.

Spirit: under spirit there are a whole mess of definitions but I am going to pick a couple I understand. 5a. That which constitutes one's unseen, intangible being, and 5b, the essential and activating principle of a person; the will. So, spirit must mean what we think, the way we think and in some manner, why we think the way we think and the fact we think. I think. (Who was that guy who said, "I think therefor I am" ? He was at a restaurant having a cup of coffee once, and said, "I can't think", and died.)

I found many of the things Mary Ann and Dennis said stimulating to say the least. Its always been that way with her, especially for the two or three years we did a TV show on TCI in drag of course, at least it was drag for me. It was great interviewing all these different groups and letting them get their message out whatever it was.

For one show, Mary Ann had decided to interview the lover of a gay man who had recently just died of AIDS. I was scared to death of doing the interview so close to the deceased's death but surprisingly, it turned out to be one of our easiest interviews and the love that these people had for one another come through beautifully.

Father Dennis said somewhere along the line that Hercules was the first crossdresser having been sentenced for three years to live as a women. I looked up Hercules in my Cliff Notes book on Mythology and got the straight poop which is a little different, but hey, I had the condensed version.

Greek mythology reads like a modern soap opera so bear with me.

Hercules killed the son of King Eurutus who welshed on a bet. Then he went to the oracles at Delphi and asked a priestess to give him forgiveness and a penance. She wouldn't give it to him. So he stole her tripod whatever that is and threatened so

(Continued on page 4)

Riki Anne Wilchins to Present at January Meeting

By Miranda

We are very fortunate to have one of the outstanding leaders of the transgender community to present at our next meeting. Riki Anne Wilchins is in Chicago for the weekend to promote her new book, *Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender*. According to the book blurb, *Read My Lips* will change the way you think about bodies, sex, and gender... yours and everyone else's. It is a frontal assault on both the status quo in academic studies and the full spectrum of single-issue identity problems.

Combining the theoretical breakthroughs of Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble* and the performance revelations of Kate Bornstein's *Gender Outlaw*, Wilchins moves the dialogue to new level. In a voice that is by turns outraged, outrageous, sad, and hilarious, the author weaves theory and personal experience into a compelling story of self-discovery. She redefines what it means to be "gendered," both by the way she lives and the accessible theoretical narrative she constructs.

For those of you who may not be familiar with Riki Wilchins background, she is one of the cofounders of Transexual Menace. This direct action group has been instrumental in calling attention to discrimination and violence which affects our community (yes, crossdressers are part of the transgender community, and yes, crossdressers have been victims of bias and hate crimes). Several of these direct actions have taken place in Chicago, with active participation of many Chi Chapter members.

Riki is also one of the founders and currently Executive Director of GenderPAC, a "public advocacy coalition" dedicated to pursuing "gender, affectional and racial equality." GenderPAC's charter includes Congressional advocacy, combating hate crimes, community research, media relations, and community mobilization. For the past two years, Riki has been one of the main organizers of National Transgender Lobby Days, which has brought these issues directly to our congressmen and senators.

Before her presentation at our meeting, Riki will be appearing at the Pride Agenda Bookstore in Oak Park. The Pride Agenda and It's Time, Illinois, the political action group for the Illinois transgender community, will be sponsoring a wine and cheese reception for Riki beginning at 3:00 p.m. The bookstore is located at 1109 Westgate in Oak Park. Westgate is one block south of the intersection of Lake St. and Harlem Ave. You are all invited to meet Riki at the Pride Agenda, and then to be captivated by her brilliance once again at the Chi Chapter meeting. Copies of *Read My Lips* will be available for purchase and signing at the meeting.

(Continued from page 2) **Presidents Podium**

Speaking of next year. Well actually by the time you read this it will be next year, or is it this year now? Well, this year we plan on having the Spring Fling on May 16th at the Holiday Inn. Anyone interested in being on the committee, please let one of the officers know at the Jan meeting.

Buddies????

The comedy, *Bosom Buddies* is back on TV in reruns. The show, starring Tom Hanks involves two buddies (Hence the name) who dress as women (Hence the name) so they can get a room in an all woman only hotel. (Hence the comedy). It can be viewed on the TV Land cable network, nightly at 8pm.

Of course, in the TV biz..(Take that anyway you want), there comes a time for reemergence of old shows...Lassie, has both old shows from the 60's and new ones from the 80's (Yes, Lassie was a crossdresser.), Luci, Newhart, even Mike hammer has a current 1997 show, a virtual copy of the earlier 80's show. NOW, what the heck is she talking about, you say. Well, FOX just previewed a new show, "Ask Harriet" which deals with a character, ala 'Tootsie'. I haven't seen it yet but the trailers look VERY interesting. I was lucky enough to get a promo write up from Fox along with a bio of it's main star. Check inside.

Svengoulie, (WCIU) recently had a Ed Wood special, he devoted more than 45 minutes on the movie Glen or Glenda...it was in good taste, it better be.....he knows me, we worked at the same radio station.....nuff said.

Sorry

I apologize to Kiki for inadvertently leaving her November program review out of last months newsletter. I have included it in this issue. Now give me back my super glue.....

As for her column about the Ritz, well her Bozo puter gave out and she will have to wait till the next issue to get her column in here.

Speaking of columns, Athena has started a 'gender' computer column. All you need to know about CHIPS, BITS, BYTES, RAM,

FLOPPIES, URL's and etc.

Help Wanted

Norma and Joyce announced that they will be unable to handle the food for the meetings beginning in March. If anyone is interested in assisting in any area of food service at the meetings, please contact me (Denise). Kim has already volunteered and we will be bringing a supply of whatever is needed.

I want to personally thank Norma and Joyce and Donna for their unselfish service to the chapter.

Happy New year to all.....

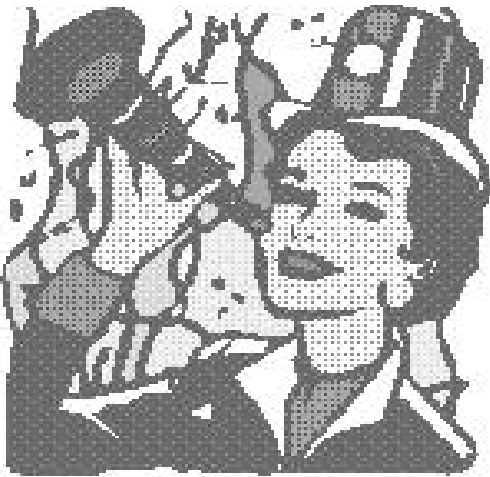
Denise



(Continued from page 1) Rachel
and benefit from this program.

To wrap up, I would like to make a few comments about programs involving guest speakers. When guests come to our chapter to speak, we should remember it may be their first contact with us, Tri-Ess, or the transgendered community in general. We should welcome each guest warmly and treat them with the respect we would want for ourselves. We are the ambassadors for Tri-Ess and our chapter and should always try to project an image that we can be proud of. Speakers should not have to speak over mini-conversations being conducted during the program. Leaving and entering the room should be kept to a minimum while guests are speaking. Lastly, we do not have to agree with any or all of the ideas presented by guest speakers, but our dialog with them and among ourselves should always remain civil and respectful of differing or opposing views.

A happy and prosperous 1998 to all,
Rachel James



Rachel Ad

(Continued from page 2) Kiki

set up his own oracle. All the gods got mad at him and had the priestess order him sold into slavery.

He was sold anonymously at auction to Queen Omphale of Lydia who set the brawny hero to three years of woman's tasks. While performing woman's tasks he fathered three sons, rid the Queen's kingdom of bandits, captured a band of evil spirits and slew a gigantic serpent among other things. So much for crossdressing.

Since we have eliminated Hercules as a crossdresser if my info is correct, who was the first crossdresser? Deuteronomy has its thing about wearing the clothes of the opposite sex and was written after Moses who lived around 1250 BC. Now since it takes anywhere from a decade to a couple hundred years for things that occur to get written down in the Bible, our first crossdresser might have appeared anywhere from 1000 BC to 1250 BC! I have no idea what his name was, but lets call him Nate, and since Deuteronomy also condemned women for wearing the garments of a man, he had a female counterpart, lets call her Denise. Why not?

Wow, this has been going on for a long time and there must have been a lot of them.

Bye.

(I've got my own Web Page called Kiki's Catbox at: users.aol.com/kikicar/kiki/catboxa.html. All small letters. Give me a look and let me know.)

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Great Lakes Gender Leadership Council Activities Calendar January 1998

Weeks of January 5-17

Sat 1/10 6:30 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. 414-297-9328
Tue 1/13 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee
Sat 1/17 8:00 pm Chi-Chapter meeting Elmhurst Rikki Anne Wilkins Author of "Read my Lips." Book reading/signing

Weeks of January 18-31

Sat 1/31 Chi Chapter Couples Group Call 630-262-8707 for details.

All Members of the Great Lakes Gender Leadership Council, newsletter editors and interested parties.

Please send all information of your activities for inclusion into the calendar to
Racheljame@aol.com and a copy to DenisePete@aol.com
Rachel will be putting the calendar together and sending it out each month.

Reviews

ASK HARRIET is a brash new half-hour comedy in the tradition of "Some Like It Hot," "Tootsie" and "Mrs. Doubtfire." New York's most popular advice column, "Ask Harriet," has always been written by a woman, until now! Super macho Jack Cody (Anthony Tyler Quinn), a notorious womanizer and hothead who wrote the tough, opinionated column "A Man's World," has been fired from most of the dailies in town and when a multi-million dollar harassment suit catches up with him, he's sent packing from the last respectable paper. He applies for the "Ask Harriet" job to take revenge on his editor and former flame, Melissa Peters (Lisa Waltz). And he is desperate for a job to keep his alimony up to date and his 10-year-old daughter Blair (Jamie Renee) in ballet lessons. With best buddy Ron (Willie Garson), a restaurant critic, in tow, Jack secretly applies for the position of writing the advice column on the death of the current "Harriet," confident that there's nobody better to tell women what they should do when faced with jerks like him. He thinks he can write the column from home, until Melissa insists on meeting the new "Harriet," so Jack goes to work transforming himself into one helluva good-looking woman.

Harriet Ad

7:30 Thursdays FOX - 32

Couples Group

The couples group will meet on January 31st. We will announce the location at a later date or you may call the helpline for information. We welcome all newcomers and first timers.

NOTE: There is NO crossdressing at the meeting.

P.A.L.S.

The P.A.L.S. meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Jan 17th just prior to the regular meeting. Watch for signs to the correct room.

January meeting schedule January 17th

Lower Level Holiday Inn

Newcomers and PALS meet at 6:30
Business meeting starts at 8:00

Dues are now being accepted for the year 1998.

Chapter Dues are \$24.00 for all members.

National Dues are \$36.00 for individual and \$48.00
for couples

(Two years available at \$60 or \$80)

Please remit direct to Chi Chapter at:

Chi-Chapter
PO Box 40
Wood Dale IL 60191-0040



P.O.Box 40
Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

Officers

President: Denise Peters
VP/Program: Rachel James
VP/Membership: Candace Mahne
Secretary: Kiki Carmichael
Treasurer: Christine Adams

Commitees

Newcomers: Amanda
Dee Dee Bolden
P.A.L.S./ Couples: Dawn & Kate
Hospitality: Norma, Joyce & Donna

Chi Chapter is a not-for-profit social and educational support group of Tri-Ess members and their spouses, partners and friends. Meetings are normally held on the third Saturday of each month.

Chi Chapter Telephone Helpline:

(630) 262-8707

E-Mail: Chitriess@aol.com

Home Page:

[HTTP://users.aol.com/chitriess/triess/
chimain.htm](http://users.aol.com/chitriess/triess/chimain.htm)

Check your mailing label. The label will give you the amount of your Chapter and National dues. All dues amounts are calculated for an expiration date of Jan 1, 1999. You may also take advantage of a substantial discount on your national dues by paying just \$60 for a two year membership. Adjustments for prorated amounts will show a reduced amount.

Local (red)

National (blue)

24 35

Jane Doe
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You Are Cordially
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PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

the
Chi-Chapter / Tri-Ess
Annual Awards Banquet
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Honoring
DAWN MAHNE



featuring
the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
and
George the D.J.
Saturday Evening December 20, 1997
at the

Cocktails: 6:30
Dinner: 7:30
Ramada Hotel O'Hare
Rosemont IL

For those of you who wish to make early **tower room** reservations, our
guaranteed price is \$78 Call the Ramada at (847) 827-5131 Mention Tri-Ess

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

**DON'T MAIL AFTER DEC 11, IT MAY NOT ARRIVE IN
TIME.** In that case, please call in your reservation to the hotline
630-262-8707, leave your name and number of tickets desired.

Enclosed is my paid reservation for _____ person(s), for 'PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ on Saturday evening, December 20, 1997 at the Ramada
Hotel, O'Hare. I am enclosing a check or money order payable to Chi/Tri-Ess in the amount of \$_____

Please print your femme name and last Initial _____

Membership # (If a member) _____

COST: Payment received by 12/10/97: \$36 per person, \$64 per couple
 Payment received after 12/10/97: \$41 per person, \$69 per couple