

The Crystal Chronicle

December 2003

<http://www.tgender.net/cc>

Current Officers

President - Rachel	Vice President - Open	Treasurer - Tina
Secretary - Jenifer	Newsletter Editor(s) Linda	Meeting Coordinator Barbie
Screening Officer(s)		
Internet - Rachel	Librarian - Valerie	Web Mistress - Open
Phone - Tina		Assistant - Nikki

The Crystal Chronicle is the official newsletter of the Crystal Club. The Chronicle is published and mailed a week prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

Complementary copies of the Chronicle may be obtained by contacting a club officer or any club member. News items for the Chronicle should be mailed to the Club before the end of each month. The e-mail address is: ccnl@tgender.net

Editors Notes:

Hi girls, it was so nice to see the faces behind the names on Crystal Club mailing list. Thanks to everyone who made the Christmas party successful this year. Since most of the members were there I won't bore you with the details of the party. I hope to see the club double in size for the next Christmas party. A special thanks to Barbie for taking the time to purchase the many items it took to put on this party, also for preparing the ham and turkey.

Member Letters:

The last time I was at a Crystal Club meeting I was wearing a puffy red petticoat and a blue square dancing outfit. That was October of 2002. A lot has change since then. The membership has definitely changed. The number of new faces (for me) at the Christmas Party far succeeded those I knew. The way the party was held was also different from previous Christmas parties. A larger crowd and what seemed to be livelier conversation (but lacking music and my train layout). Even the selection of food from previous years seemed different (not better mind you, just different).

Yet among all the changes many things about the club remain the same. The president is the most obvious. Talking to Rachel I could hear the determination in her tone to keep the club moving in the right direction. Like previous presidents, she has a firm understanding on how important the Crystal Club is to the Columbus areas. A few presidents have ruled the club for pride, but in Rachel's case it's based on a love for how the club has changed her life for the better. I've known Rachel since her first meeting and have no doubts in her ability to run the club. I'm also proud to call her my friend.

Linda, the newsletter editor, was busy during the party going around trying to solicit articles for the upcoming letter. I have to chuckle, because if any of you were around when I was editor you might remember some of the 'strong-arm' tactics I used to get articles from the membership. What struck me was how open and friendly Linda was to someone she didn't know. Not that that's unusual. The Crystal Club has been blessed with such people. But she was one of the first members to welcome me to the club and it left a positive impression. We can use more people like her. As for the rest in attendance, it was a mixed of new and old members sitting around having a good time. Like Regular people. Funny, but sometimes we forget that's what we are, regular people. That's why I appreciate the Crystal Club so much. It reminds me how much love, understanding, and support there is in an otherwise cold and less understanding world.

Thanks for making me feel welcome – again.

Hugs – Kelly

Dear Friends in the Crystal Club,

Thank you again for the privilege of sharing your Christmas Celebration. We were not a huge group but there was plenty of diversity representation. We had some people from far enough away that they are not regular attendees of the Crystal Club. I had met one lady in Ann Arbor, MI., at a Be All Weekend in the mid or late 80s. There were others who had once attended and now were coming by for the party.

Many of you went to great effort to make the night a success and it was! We had plenty of food and fellowship. The spacious church hall provided us room to roam about and visit with more than just the people we happened to initially sit by. The toy collection we donated to Choices added to the warmth of our night together. It's nice to reach out and help those in great need, instead of being self centered and bemoaning about your own lack of acceptance in society at large.

The Crystal Club Christmas party is never complete without at least some loyal partners also in attendance. I would like to take this opportunity to commend couples who came together. I do wish there were more but we must especially welcome and commend those who come. In time, when the varieties of gender expression can become more acceptable, we will hopefully have many more couples and even whole families in attendance!

Finally, once again, I felt enriched being part of your gathering. Thank you for the invitation.
Meral Crane

New evidence: Gender identity in genes?

LOS ANGELES (Oct. 22, 2003). New research in the October issue of *Molecular Brain Research* adds new evidence to the view that gender identity lies in the brain, not in the genitals, according to medical newswire Health Day News. Researchers discovered 54 genes in mice that appear to be related to gender, generally occurring in different levels in males and females. A study co-author cautioned against jumping to the conclusion that genes alone define different types of sexuality.

Study on TS DNA

By Deborah Smith The Age (Australia)

Contributed by Rachel Smith: December 1, 2003

Australian researchers have begun a world-first study of the DNA of transsexuals to search for genes that influence whether a person feels male or female. Associate Professor of Genetics at Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne, Vincent Harley, said transsexuals felt trapped in the wrong body. "From between three and five years of age they are convinced they are members of the opposite sex," he said. Professor Harley is an expert in the genetics of intersex disorders, where one in 4000 children are born with genitalia that are not clearly male or female. At present, genital surgery is carried out soon after birth. "But it is very difficult to know whether they are being assigned the correct gender," Professor Harley said. A genetic test that could indicate whether these children were likely to grow up feeling like boys or girls would be extremely helpful, he said. Melbourne psychiatrist Herbert Bower, of Australia's only gender Dysphoria clinic at Monash Medical Centre and part of the research team, said the discovery of genetic variations associated with transsexualism would mean children with gender identity disorders could confidently be raised as the opposite sex and given treatments to prevent puberty. It also would assist adults with the decision to have sex reassignment surgery. In the new study, the Melbourne team has begun analyzing the DNA in blood samples of 10 transsexuals for variations in three genes.

Transsexuals, new focus of companies' legal protection

by Daniel Sorid

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Corporations and lawmakers are expanding protections against sexual harassment and discrimination to cover transsexuals, cross-dressers and others who fall outside the traditional notions of gender identity. In the last two years, 19 companies in the Fortune 500 – including Bank One Corp. and Microsoft Corp. -- have banned discrimination based on "gender identity and expression." Sixty-five cities and counties have similar protections, with 16 ordinances passed in 2002. The measures extend protections to men perceived as effeminate and women viewed as masculine. "There is a sense that laws specifically based on

sexual orientation are not capturing everyone," said Daryl Herrschaft, deputy director for work-place issues at the Human Rights Campaign, the country's largest lesbian and gay political organization.

In August, California's recalled governor, Gray Davis, signed legislation banning discrimination in housing and employment based on gender stereotypes or transgendered status. Three other states -- Minnesota, Rhode Island and New Mexico -- have similar protections. Another four states -- New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Massachusetts -- have had either court or administrative rulings that could be interpreted as banning discrimination against gender expression or status as a transsexual, according to Human Rights Campaign.

Socially conservative groups have opposed the measures, arguing they force owners of religious businesses to support a way of life they morally oppose, and would hold up transsexuals as role models for children.

At some companies, however, the protections are seen as a straightforward way to comply with a patchwork of statutes that protect transsexuals in some cities and states, as well as to reduce taunting and discrimination against those whose appearances clash with more traditional beliefs. Proponents see the trend as a natural progression from the protections for women and gays against harassment.

"Gender identity and expression was the next step," said Maria Campbell, director of diversity at SC Johnson & Son, based in Racine, Wisconsin. Transsexuals are disproportionately pushed out of jobs, kicked out of housing, and beaten up or murdered, according to studies. Excluded from a society confused and sometimes disgusted by their way of living, they tend to get less education and are more likely to lack health insurance, studies show.

A survey funded by the District of Columbia in 2000 showed that most "gender variant" residents earned less than \$10,000 a year, with one in three saying they had been a victim of violence or crime brought on by hatred of gays or transsexuals. In a poll of 392 male-to-female transsexuals in San Francisco in 1997, nearly half the respondents reported facing job discrimination, while a quarter said they faced housing discrimination. "Even though it's only a patchwork, at this point this is how civil rights proceeds," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition in Washington, D.C. "Ten years ago there was none of this. All this has happened very quickly."

A growing sense of protection among transsexual workers is tangible in a city like San Francisco, considered one of the country's most liberal places to live. Indicative of that is the experience of Ina Fried, a technology reporter who in May came out to colleagues and business contacts as transsexual. Fried (pronounced Freed), who was born male and had always used the name Ian at work, said she wanted to feel "whole" in her life.

Her employer, CNET Networks Inc., said it has made a conscious effort to accommodate employees "transitioning" from one gender to another. When designing its new headquarters building in San Francisco, for instance, it included unisex bathrooms to accommodate transgendered employees. "I think I've been very lucky," Fried said in an interview. "For a lot of people the experience of being transgendered is still greatly more difficult."

The term "transgender" is often a term appended to the name of gay and lesbian groups, even though many transsexuals and cross-dressers do not consider themselves gay. But it is the gay community's success gaining protection and prominence in government and private-sector jobs in recent decades that has, in part, led to calls for expanded transgender protections. "Transgender issues are really seen as the next frontier, as a way to really make the work place safe for everyone," said Selisse Berry, executive director of Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, based in San Francisco. "People are finally much more comfortable with the words gay and lesbian," Berry added. "They're not familiar with what the word transgender even means, and sometimes people's only connection is either, drag queens, prostitution, or some movie."

Copyright 2003, Reuters News Service <http://www.forbes.com/markets/newswire/2003/11/09/rtr1141102.html>

UK to allow new birth certificates and marriage after sex change

Transgender men and woman will have to meet medical criteria by having undergone sex change operations and live in their new gender for two years before they are given a replacement birth certificate and allowed to marry in their adopted sex and adopt children. **The Gender Recognition Bill** will allow transsexuals to tear up their birth certificate, which records their original sex, and apply for a fresh one recording their new gender. There are an estimated 5,000 transsexuals in Britain. The bill is expected to pass in the House of Commons by a majority, but could encounter a strong opposition in the Lords from Tory peers and bishops concerned about allowing transsexuals to marry in church. Campaigners who have been working for 30 years for legislation to allow people who have changed their gender to legally marry were yesterday jubilant about the prospect of a

Bill. Presently current laws transsexuals are not legally recognized in their new sex and cannot marry. However they will retain all obligations that occurred during their old gender as for child support, debts. This bill does not allow for "same-sex marriages". Meanwhile, the Government is moving forward on its promise to allow the creation of "civil partnerships", conferring the same rights as marriage for committed gay couples.

Mass. lawmakers ponder next move

By Ann Rostow

Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network

Judging from the reaction of conservative leaders to Tuesday's ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, even opponents agree that the state Legislature has no power to prevent the legalization of same-sex marriage in the Bay State. [The 4-3 majority](#) changed the legal definition of civil marriage to encompass "the voluntary union of two persons as spouses to the exclusion of all others," and ordered the decision to go into effect in 180 days. Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney called Tuesday for the Legislature to pass an amendment to the state Constitution enshrining marriage as a heterosexual institution. "We must provide basic civil rights and appropriate benefits to non-traditional couples," said the Republican. "But marriage is a special institution that should be reserved for a man and a woman." Indeed, the Legislature does have the power to initiate action on a constitutional amendment, but the process Romney recommends will take years. A marriage-banning amendment would have to win a majority of both houses of the Legislature, voting jointly in two successive legislative sessions. After that, the amendment would be placed on the next ballot for ratification by the voters, which could not happen before November 2006. The court encouraged the state Legislature to "take such action as it may deem appropriate in light of this opinion" during the six-month waiting period. But given the criteria "in light of this opinion," the lawmakers have little choice during this timeframe but to do nothing, legalize same-sex marriage or perhaps ask the court for clarity. According to the Lowell Sun, top state lawmakers were still mulling the court's ruling one day after the announcement. Senate President Robert Travaglini said the language pertaining to the Legislature was "somewhat ambiguous." "They're giving us 180 days from Nov. 18 2003 to take action," he said. "We're not sure any action we take is going to affect the decision of the court. We're trying to analyze and digest what options and responsibilities are now the Legislature's." "Dracut Democrat Representative Colleen Garry told the Sun that her efforts to find a middle ground have been for naught." "I think we could have been able to craft a resolution that might have been palatable to a lot of people," she said. "Now that the court has ruled this way, I think there will be tremendous backlash. I think it really might polarize people on both sides." Lowell Senator Steven Panagiotakos said the lawmakers need further guidance from the justices. "I think the Supreme (Judicial) Court is going to need to speak again on this issue," said the anti-marriage Democrat. "Certainly, they put it in play and it's an issue of what can happen from here on in." Other lawmakers told the Sun that the Legislature might try to pass a civil union plan, and then ask the court whether such a contrivance satisfies the Nov. 18 opinion. But most legal experts do not believe the justices in the majority would accept a separate-but-equal marriage status. **Link to Full story:** [The 4-3 majority](#)

My comments:

In the stories above confusion is the name of the game. In the first story they say if you change your sex live that way for two years you can change your birth certificate, adopt, and marry in your NEW SEX, but to a man? What if you are sexually attracted to a woman? This is why you need to be aware of anything about the same-sex marriage, same-sex civil union, or same partner bills or laws YOUR government tries to pass.

Each country is different. In the US each state is different. And you say So. It is time we start looking at the BIG picture and helping future generations. Some states allow for you to change your birth certificate after you change your sex. And fewer states allow same-sex union. Now in Ohio you cannot change your birth certificate. If you were born a (man/woman) and attracted to the same born sex you cannot marry because your birth record says you're of the same sex even if you've change your physical sex. Next picture, you are born male, change sex, live in Ohio marry a woman because your attracted to female. You say same-sex? Not according to Ohio law if born a male you're male until you die. That is what your death certificate will say even if you have a female name. Next picture, lets say the state of your birth allows you to change your birth record. Your born male, change sex, attracted to female, marry a woman in that state. Your job requires you to move to a state that does not recognize same sex marriage. Are you married? Not according to the state you moved to.

As you can see in the second story notice even the law-makers are confused. Note the tip-toe wording about civil union, civil marriage and the word marriage.

This is why I wish everyone to be aware of same-sex laws and birth record rights. If you plan to transition the laws passed may affect you or someone you know. Head-count changes laws whether for good or bad. I hope that my birth and death record matches the sex of my death.

By, Linda Cox

TRANSGENDER VETERANS MARCH TO THE WALL!

For Immediate Release: 27 November 2003

From: The Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) Website:

Media Contact: Tina Rice, Contact Email: media@tavausa.org Contact Phone: 618.867.3028

The Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) will march to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on Saturday, May 1, 2004. Organizers hope to draw a significant group of supporters from the Transgender community to honor the many transgender people who served our nation with pride and honor.

Angela Brightfeather, Chair of the TAVA Special Projects Committee, noted many reasons for a march to the wall, most of which, "lie within our own hearts and the pride with which we served our country, and to finally pay our respects to our service members and friends, as we should, and in a way that they never knew us, as people of Transgender experience." Credit has been given to many minorities in America. They have had their members recognized for their sacrifices in the military and in serving our country. Organizations have been formed to highlight the contributions and defend the rights of many of these veterans. This march will be the first time that transgender veterans will have been recognized and remembered for their valuable contributions and sacrifices. Due to the ongoing neglect of rights of Transgender American Veterans, this march should provide healing and recognition for those who have been and continue to be discriminated against due to their transgender status. Like all American Veteran's who need to share their experiences, Transgender Veterans have been unable to gather and share those experiences openly with pride. This march will establish the presence of Transgender veterans and provide a face and voice this group of American Veterans. It is time our country recognizes that the Transgender community has heroes who contributed to our freedoms. Monica Helms, President of TAVA, stated, "This event marks the first time transgender veterans will gather as a group to show that they exist. Although the March will not make an overt political statement, the presence of these veterans will be noticed, and their quiet message will be heard." Department of Veteran Affairs treatment of transgender veterans, particularly regarding health care for transsexual vets, is of concern to TAVA and to individual veterans. The VA is prohibited by law from performing sex reassignment surgery. Other treatment required by transsexuals, e.g., gender identity disorder counseling and hormone therapy, while not prohibited, appears to be strongly discouraged by VA headquarters. Requests for information from the VA Chief of Patient Services on legal and policy issues concerning treatment of transsexual veterans have failed to elicit any kind of acknowledgement. Anyone wishing to join the march may check for details on the TAVA website:

http://www.geocities.com/tg_vet_march_to_the_wall/ or contact: Angela Brightfeather at projects@tavausa.org or Tina Rice at media@tavausa.org TAVA news submitted by Mary Ann

Mailing List and Yearly Dues January is membership renewal month.

We are trying to update the information list. Have you moved, changed your phone number or e-mail? Changed your name? Included in this is: How would you like to receive the newsletter and information concerning special events or meetings too late to include in the newsletter. The contact options are (E-mail, phone, or cctalk) sorry we cannot mail this information as most is short notice. DO NOT e-mail your contact information on cctalk. If you cannot come to a regular meeting, Please call 614-806-7288 or you can e-mail ccnl@tgender.net this link only comes to the newsletter editor. If you have news or wish to share a story with everyone feel free to send it to the ccnl link

Upcoming Meetings

January 09 2004 Business meeting

January 24 2004 Membership renewal, Office Nominations (volunteers accepted)

February 13 2004 Business meeting

February 28 2004 Election night “your vote matters”

The Crystal Chronicle Information Page

Copyright (C) May 2002 by the Crystal Club, Editor: Linda Cox. All rights reserved. Articles and information contained in The Crystal Chronicle may be reprinted by other non-profit Organizations without advanced permission provided the author and source is cited and a copy of the issue containing the reprinted material is sent to the Crystal Club within two months of publication. The opinions or statements contained in the Crystal Chronicle are those of the authors' and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the Crystal Club. Furthermore, neither the Crystal Club nor the Crystal Chronicle editor assume responsibility for any consequences resulting either directly or indirectly either from advice or from any of the material contained in this newsletter. Contributions of articles are encouraged but may be altered with the author's intent retained or may be rejected, whether solicited or not.

Absolutely no sexually explicit material will be accepted or printed. Contributions or comments may be electronically mailed directly to the editor at ccnl@tgender.net, or sent to the postal address.

Postal Mail: The Crystal Club att: newsletter editor PO Box 287 Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

Our Purpose: The Crystal Club is a non-profit social and support group for transvestites, cross dressers, transsexuals, and other transgendered individuals. Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to participate. Both male-to-female and female-to-male individuals are welcome. Also, members from related organizations, helpful professionals and approved guests are welcome when cleared through a Crystal Club officer.

What to Expect at a Meeting

Except for being transgendered, participants in the club are just like other people. We dress pretty much like average people, and meet only to socialize and participate in club functions. We range in age from our 20's to our 60's, and come from a wide range of professions. Most of us are cross dressers, although several of us are transsexuals. Most of us are married and have kids, and often our spouses attend the meetings, too. Nothing of a sexual nature is permitted at any of the meetings. You will not be criticized for how well you dress or pass. The club isn't a beauty contest. We range from hardly convincing to completely passing. Some of us dress up, some dress down. Come however you are comfortable. Our regular meetings will have a private changing room, so you may bring a change of clothing with you. We do insist, however, that you dress either completely male or completely female. Gender-blending attire is normally not an option. We also insist that everyone behaves as ladies and gentlemen (which is more polite than simply “women and men”). Overtly sexual or obnoxious behavior is unwelcome; we don't need to exasperate the feelings of people who are already nervous! You will not be required to reveal your legal name, or any other personal information. You can be as open or anonymous as you wish. We ALL have been newcomers and have had similar feelings. We can (and will) sympathize completely!

Membership Dues

One year membership, includes newsletter \$42	Newsletter subscription only \$18
Meeting Fees: First Timer Free	Member (of any T group) \$10
Member and Partner \$15	Non-Member \$20

Your membership renewal date is shown after your name on the mailing label. Membership fees paid on months other than January are prorated to January.

Contact Information: **Postal Mail:** The Crystal Club PO Box 287 Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287

Screening Officers: (614) 806-7288 (with voice mail) **Electronic Mail:** cc@tgender.net

World Wide Web Page: <http://www.tgender.net/cc> **Newsletter editor e-mail:** ccnl@tgender.net

Contact Policy: All calls are kept strictly confidential. We do not use caller ID and will return your call only at your request. If you are still concerned about caller ID, you can block this function by pressing *67 (or dialing 1167 for rotary/pulse) before the phone number. All written inquiries are kept confidential. The newsletter is mailed in a plain, white envelope, bearing only the return PO Box and no markings pertaining to the Crystal Club. The meeting location is never published, and is only disclosed after a prospective attendee has been interviewed by the screening officer.

Meeting Dates and Times: Regular meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month, except for November and December. The doors open at about 6:30p.m. (For those wishing to change). The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. Refreshments are normally provided, and activities usually centers on a presenter or selected topic. Several members may go to an accepting dance club or restaurant after the meeting (of course, this is optional).

Business meeting: is held on the second Friday of the month the doors open at 7:30 p.m. After the club's business is addressed, this Meeting is more of a relaxed and personal discussion time than the regular meeting - a great time to get support for “real world” issues! During the month of December, and at various other times, we will hold special activities (such as a holiday party). These will be announced in the newsletter.