



November 1989

Calendar of Events

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11/15-19	Tri-Ess	Holiday En Femme	San Francisco
11/16	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
11/18	Paradise	Social – Open	Lakewood, OH
11/18	TransPitt	Electrolysis	Pittsburgh
12/2	Crystal	Christmas Party	Columbus
12/2	Alpha Omega	Christmas Party	Lakewood, OH
12/9	Paradise	Meeting – Christmas Party	Lakewood, OH
12/16	TransPitt	Christmas Party	Pittsburgh
12/21	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
1/06	Crystal	Post-Holiday Party	Columbus
1/13	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
1/13	TransPitt	Meeting	Pittsburgh
1/18	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
1/20	Paradise	Social – Open	Lakewood, OH
1/27	Crystal	Meeting	Columbus
2/23-25	Boulton&Park	Texas Tea Party	San Antonio, TX
2/24	Lambda	Lambda Ball	Pittsburgh
3/3		Night of 1000 Gowns	New York City
3/20-25	IFGE	Coming Together Convention	Natick, MA
6/6-10	Several Clubs	Coming Together	Pittsburgh, PA

Treasurer's Report October 1989

October	Starting Balance	232.97
	Meeting Fees	141.00
	Total	373.97
	Food and Beverages	-27.07
	Meeting Rooms	-93.50
	Total July Expenses	-120.57
	Ending Balance	253.40

Susan

Christmas Party

Instead of a November meeting in the middle of the Thanksgiving weekend, we will have a Christmas Party on December 2. This is a chance to wear that dressy party number you've been dying for a chance to show off! (If you don't have one, it's an excuse to go shopping!)

The doors will open at 6. Snacks and beverages will be provided. A changing room will be available if you prefer to come and dress at the meeting site.

Advance registration is *strongly recommended*. Please see the registration form in the back of the newsletter.

If you aren't sure until the last minute, please come anyway, but we'll have to ask you to pay full price. If you can let Susan, Rochelle, or Mary Ann know by telephone no later than Friday night, it will at least help us make sure we have enough food and elbow room.

Letter from Renaissance

We received the enclosed letter from the Renaissance Education Association last week:

Dear Friends,

I wanted to let you know what has been going on here while you have been considering Renaissance Chapter status. The board has put a hold on further chapter

development. There are two problems which we are ill-equipped to deal with at this time. They are 1) the legal requirement of having an audit trail into out-of-state chapters and 2) ensuring adequate representation at board meetings. So, we have decided to put a hold on chapter development.

We are, however, working on a policy that will permit us to have affiliates. The difference between a chapter and an affiliate is there will be no legal connection between the affiliate and Renaissance. Without the audit trail, we don't have to worry about our IRS exemption and we won't have the problem of representation on the board. Best of all, you don't give up one iota of your own independence.

So, you might ask, what benefit does an affiliate have? Glad you asked! An affiliate will have many of the benefits I described to you previously and more. For example, we can provide our newsletter as a "wrap-around" for your local newsletter, or we can provide you with electronic copy so you can pick and choose the stories you want. We are also considering installing a voice-mail system for both members and affiliates. You would be able to get messages directly to your group from our system. And, of course, we will make available all of our Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins to help you and your members.

Let me know what you think of this affiliate idea. We'll probably begin implementation early in the next year, but I'd like your feedback now. Hope to hear from you soon. Don't hesitate to contact us if you need more information or just plain advice.

Sincerely,
JoAnn Roberts
Director Outreach/Chapter Development

[This sounds pretty encouraging to me. While it isn't clear what financial arrangement there would be between us and Renaissance, the structure looks good. What do you think? - MAH]

Goodbye Laser Printer

The kind folks who loaned me the Laser Printer have at last asked for it back. I'm up until all hours tonight getting this newsletter done because the printer goes back tomorrow morning. I hope we'll find an alternate arrangement, but if the next newsletter doesn't look this nice, it's because we're making do with a dot matrix printer. It was nice while it lasted!

Mary Ann

Politician Out of the Closet?

Rumor time: There is said to be a crossdresser who ran for office this month in Houston. She runs a construction company dressed, and ran for office dressed. This was covered on a night-time tabloid TV show. More details as they develop...

Your Name in Lights

Ladies, this is *your* space. We'd really like to have you write articles for the newsletter. Surely there are some interesting stories out there. Or some tips on how to avoid getting read. Or some great ideas about things to do. Please write something up for the newsletter and bring it to the Christmas meeting. I'd love to see the December Chronicle be the best yet!

Breast Forms

Here are some sources of merchandise, especially breast forms:

Chevalier Publications, PO Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

The proprietor, Carol Beecroft, is one of the founders of Tri-Ess. She got hit by a car in early 1988 and orders went unfilled for months - I had to phone her for sympathy, etc, to finally get mine filled. She is elderly and has a reputation for being slow, unresponsive, and old fashioned, but she is nice. I recently placed another order, and it was delivered about 3 weeks later.

Chevalier has lots of books ("How to", etc) mostly written by her or Virginia Prince, both quite elderly crossdressers. My girlfriend points out the advice is the same sort of stuff you'd get from your grandmother - very conservative, some correct, some out of date. There are several novels listed also.

Merchandise includes breast forms, various foam hip/butt/front pads, and earring adapters. I've tried some and just ordered the remaining pads. The adapters (\$6) turn pierced (post, not long-wire) earrings into clips, reusable, but you have to bend the post 90 degrees, so you don't do this with borrowed earrings. Also, the surface area where the clips touch your ears is awfully small, so they hurt after a while. I found similar adapters at Meijer's for about \$4, with more surface area, so they are much more comfortable.

The breast forms are a kit, costing \$34 for a pair of "inserts" (plastic bags) and "jelly kit" (two jars of chemicals and instructions.) These are a pain to make: you mix the chemicals into a lumpy jelly, then squeeze them into the bags through a 1/8" opening valve. You really need a syringe, I did it with a small squeeze bottle, and it took 2 hours and made a big mess. The result is quite good, although when you first put it on it's cold plastic, you need to warm it up first or tolerate cold on your chest. I believe these were designed for mastectomy patients.

Tanya's comments on the Chevalier inserts: "I, too, own a pair: #1 They are adjustable only between sizes (approx.) 34C-38C. Larger girls are "S.O.L." [I put socks between them and my chest to get 38D - MAH] #2 I had excellent luck filling the forms using a "squeeze-bulb baster." The nozzle of the baster fit the opening in the form cases perfectly and, because most basters are calibrated, I found it easy to get equal parts of the gel into each form. #3. Because they lack any

kind of cover, the forms are both cold in cold weather and extremely uncomfortable in very hot weather. (This is the main reason I looked elsewhere. That plastic against your skin is uncomfortable all the time, becoming virtually unbearable when the weather is hot and humid!) [The instructions advise sewing a pocket into your bra - MAH] #4 As the form is rather shapeless, it is difficult to find a bra that molds it to the proper shape and holds that shape throughout the day/evening. (How's that for a sales pitch for the Simone forms instead of Chevalier's?)"

[Denise's comments: I'd just like to add, I'd have to check my catalog at home, but I don't believe \$34 is correct. I think they are much less. For the money they are quite good once they are made. You do need something between them and your skin, though.]

[My blurb, probably 2 years old, says \$11.95 for "Jelly kit for inserts" and \$21.95 for "Mastectomy Inserts," and you need both. I imagine it's gone up by now. - MAH]

Tanya Brown, P.O.Box 263, Windsor, OH 44099-0263

Tanya is a Tri-Ess member offering these as a service. She had an article in the most recent issue of *Femme Mirror*, for those of you who belong to Tri-Ess. (Tanya indeed! Typos were awful!) We carry Tanya's ad in the *Chronicle*.

Tanya presently offers the Simone "W19" foam prosthesis. The Simone form is constructed of polyurethane, *not* sponge rubber, and is hollow. The cavity is filled with a mixture of ground polyurethane and steel shot, thereby giving the form the weight necessary to correctly replicate a human breast. The forms retail at \$38 per pair. Her price, \$28 per pair. For more information, send a SASE.

Tanya advises that, at present, she is in negotiations with two major manufacturers of silicone prostheses. Barring any major setbacks, she should soon be able to offer silicone "teardrop" forms for about \$75 each and "asymmetrical" forms for about \$100 each. All prices are 25% off retail.

[Tanya has also written an article telling how to make your own hip pads out of "Omalon Spec 2" carpet padding. I could type it in, but it has diagrams that are hard to reproduce with text. I can't be sure, but if you ask, she might be persuaded to include a copy in the SASE. The cost is under \$10 for parts, but it apparently really helps if you have a "Dremel" power tool with a "metal-cutting abrasive disk". - MAH]

Michael Salem's Boutique (212) 371-6877

I see their ad on page 128 of the October 88 issue of *Penthouse Variations*. It shows 6" spike heels for \$200, a "Treasure Chest" of latex - looks like a tank top with breasts, \$70. They offer catalogs for \$35 and up, and it looks like you might want at least \$120 of catalogs. I have not pursued this further, since it looks

unbelievably expensive.

[Denise's comments: Michael Salem is the *king of ripoffs!* Do not mess with this company. They are *extremely* overpriced. I have heard nothing good about them. I did send for some of their catalogs once and even purchased his book "How to Impersonate a Woman" for \$35, as it turned out, an outrageous price for what little there was of the book.]

Versatile Fashions
1925 E. Lincoln Blvd
Anaheim, CA 92805
(714) 534-1490

The proprietress, Antoinette, apparently specializes in TV and fetish trade. Most of the merchandise looks more suitable for the bedroom than the street. She was on *Donahue* last month. They carry medium-priced catalogs - one called "Stage Door" is of most interest for \$15, they will throw in your choice of any 6 of a selection of 12 for another \$15. Stage Door claims to be a "how to" magazine. It starts with 6 pages of instructions for putting on makeup, then follows with color drawings of models showing off their products: wigs, lingerie, adult-sized baby girl clothes, French maid type outfits, various sexy outfits, unbelievable heels (5" and up, sizes to men's 14), waist cinchers, pads, and breast forms. From the drawings, the hip pads look awfully round (egg shape) and I'm skeptical they would look decent on the street, [they turn out to be identical to the Frederick's of Hollywood ones] the breast inserts range from \$19 ("Bra falsies - round foam pad covered in nylon, excellent if minimum padding is required") to \$49 ("soft flesh coloured foam and weighted just enough to give that all important bounce movement") to \$189 ("The silicone gives it both weight and movement"). Total of 5 different models, I've listed cheapest, middle, most expensive. I suspect the middle compares to what Tanya offers, but I'm not sure.

Some of the other catalogs include lingerie, latex/rubber lingerie, corsets, a "bionic bra" for \$39 in sizes "26"-52" rib cage sizes, cup sizes BB-G, cup sizes GG-MM \$10 extra charge," boots and shoes with 5" and 6" heels, makeup (from a BF catalog, her price list calls "beard cover" something called "under tint" in the catalog), and shoes. I didn't order the "equipment" (B&D stuff) catalog. The shoes are amazing to look at, there are spike heels from 5" to 7" and platform shoes a 12" heel with a 6" platform! Their standard 6" opera pump is \$119.

Tanya Volen Inc
200 Main St.
Tennent, NJ 07763

shown in a graphic on *Donahue*, along with Versatile and Salem.

[Denise's comments: Tanya Volen puts out "The Transvestian", a monthly tv newspaper. I can't offer

much on what other products she carries.]

In the past year since this article was originally written, I've found out more about Tanya Volen. It seems she publishes 4 or 5 newspapers several times a year. One, "The Transvestian", deals with crossdressing. This publication seems primarily sexual in nature. Most of the items (submitted by readers) are continuing fiction, with one episode each month. There is some exposure to nonsexual issues as well. Both gay and straight sex is depicted, although it seems to be mostly gay. It includes a section for people to meet other people, with an emphasis on sexual encounters. This publication may offend many of us, but for those who want it, it's the only sexually-oriented crossdresser periodical I'm aware of.

They offer a free watch or bangle if you subscribe for two years. Don't bother! I'll tell you why in a later issue, as well as the startling news about what's located at 200 Main St in Tennent, NJ.

Lee's Mardi Gras Boutique.
400 W. 14th St, 3rd floor
New York, NY 10014
(or PO Box 843, New York, NY 10108)

A previous digest said to send them \$4 for a catalog. I sent them a check, and they eventually sent me a check for \$4 made out to "M.A. Harru" which I can't cash. They don't have a spiffy catalog, but there was a nice apologetic note, and some xeroxed literature. They seem to have shoes from \$45 to \$80, ranging from 3" to 6" heels, a few pads (\$4, \$36, \$105, and \$210/pair), and a bunch of porno magazines.

[Denise's comments: I have an old catalog of theirs which is quite good, but they don't seem to send them out like it anymore. I have heard really good things about going there in person.]

Mary Ann

[Here is an addition I just found. - Denise]

Dear All,

Here's another possible source for breast forms. Judging from the pictures in the catalog, they look to be of reasonable quality. There are three models available:

1. "Silicone Comfort" - Designed to interact with you (even golfing or swimming), it hugs you for 100% confidence and comfort. Silicone gel in a skin-like casing; looks and feels natural. Undetectable under even sheer lacy bras. 2 year warranty. Single - \$119.99, 2 for \$229.99
2. "Contessa" - Amazingly close to shape, feel and weight of the natural breast. Liquid gel bonded and sealed in a smooth, seam free form. Silky nylon cover is skin-toned. Conforms to the chest to assume a natural position. Single - \$59.99, 2 for \$109.99
3. "Look Natural" - Has weight and consistency of the

natural breast. Allows natural movement and balance during daily activities. It's undetectable. Single - \$14.99, 2 for \$28.99

Order from:
Dr. Leonard's Health Care Catalog
74 20th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11232
Accept: Master Card, VISA, and American Express
Phone: (718) 768-0010 (Mon-Fri, 8AM - 5PM Eastern)

I've never ordered from these folks, so unless someone else on GL can vouch for them, you're taking pot luck. The catalog is full of all kinds of home "medical" gadgets, gizmos, and gadgets.

LOVE and HUGGS,
Tere

[Courtesy CD-Forum #38 of January 27, 1989.]

Editor's Edict By Rochelle

Hi Ladies!

Once again we had a good turnout at our monthly meeting. I'm glad to see new faces at each meeting. I hope that they will return and join us on a steady basis. We had a total of 12 at the last meeting, including a special visit from Pee-Wee Herman and Elvira The Goddess of Darkness. Since it's getting darker sooner due to the time change, I hope to see more of us at future meetings.

With our November meeting being moved to December 2nd. and making it our Christmas Party we have a chance to dress a little classier than usual.

We have a great group of members and I know each and everyone of you would help anyway that you could. This is our first Christmas Party and I'd like to see us set some kind of format that can be followed in future years. If anyone has any kind of idea for this please give me or one of the other officers a shout. We could really use your help. What we do in the beginning will set the pace for what the club will do in the future. I hope that some of you would give us a little help by contacting one of the officers and giving us an idea on what you'd like to see served at the Christmas Party. If you'd like to bring something that would be great. I'm going to bring a couple homemade Pecan Pies. So let's think of what we'd like to have with it and make this a great first party.

Until then, *Rochelle*

Also keep in mind that we'll be having elections in February so be thinking of who you'd like to see run for what office.

Setback in Athens

The following is from the 11/8/89 Columbus Dispatch:

Voters last night rejected Athens' homosexual-rights ordinance by a 163-vote margin.

With all 23 precincts reporting, the unofficial vote to scrap the law was 1,626 to 1,463.

The southeastern Ohio city of 18,000 last year prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation. In passing the law, the City Council overrode a veto by Mayor Sara Hendricker. The ordinance had not gone into effect, pending the referendum result.

The law would not have applied to church-supported schools, businesses that employ fewer than four people, and the rental of owner-occupied residences.

[Our condolences to our brothers and sisters in Athens. Crossdressers are often subject to discrimination similar to gay people. Some interpret "sexual orientation" to include crossdressing and transsexualism. You would think a college town like Athens would be more progressive. - MAH]

The Stairway to Feminity

I read many newsletters from other groups. I spotted a hint in one that, when I went back through the stack to find again so that I could give proper credit, I was unable to relocate it. I apologize to the author and to the editor of the newsletter that contained it but I felt this hint was too good to let lie.

Females, when climbing stairways, always place their *entire* foot on each step, even if it involves turning the foot slightly sideways so that both the ball and heel are supported. Males, whether wearing hiking boots or high heels, tend to climb stairs using only the balls of their feet, letting the heels dangle in mid-air.

After reading this, I began watching both sexes and it's 100% true. And 99% of CDs, it seems, climb stairs like the males they are rather than the females they wish to emulate. It's a little thing but, then, it can be little things that give us away.

Courtesy Tanya in the Alpha Omega Outreach

Crystal Club Cancellation And Refund Policy

Up to two days before an event	100%
From two days until noon of the event day	50%
After noon on the day of the event	no refund

Policies

The Crystal Club is an open support group for cross dressers. We welcome TV, TS, TG, FI, and others who assume a complete feminine identity. We welcome their wives and significant others (SO's.) We welcome guests from other cross dressing organizations, when cleared through an officer.

We do not care about the sexual preference of the members and attendees. We do, however, require that all attendees behave like ladies at all times. Everyone has the right to feel secure, knowing they will not be ridiculed for their dressing or their appearance, and

knowing they will not be "hit on" by anyone present.

We require that all attendees come completely dressed in feminine attire, or not dressed (i.e. in masculine attire). It is expected that most members will normally dress, but this is not required. Persons are *not* permitted to arrive partially dressed, for example, a dress and male hair, or a dress and an unshaven face, as this may draw unwanted attention to the rest of the group. Ladies pants and casual wear are fine. An adjacent changing room is available if you prefer to come in male clothing and dress at the meeting site.

Meetings are open only to cross dressers who have been screened or approved by an officer, and to cross dresser's wives/SO's, helping professionals, and approved guests. The location of the hotel is given out after the screening process.

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The Crystal Club may be reached at:

Crystal Club
PO Box 287
Reynoldsburg Ohio 43068-0271

Reservation Form

Mail To - Crystal Club
P.O. Box 287
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-0287

For December 2nd meeting

Members before November 28th	\$12.00
Members couples before Nov. 28th	\$17.00
Non-members before Nov. 28th	\$15.00
Non-members Couples before Nov. 28th	\$20.00
Members after Nov. 28th	\$15.00
Members couples after Nov. 28th	\$20.00
Non-members after Nov. 28th	\$15.00
Non-members couples after Nov. 28th	\$20.00

Femme name _____
Mailing name _____
and _____
address _____