

Alpha Chapter of Tri-Ess

Alpha-Bits

August, 2003

Linda's Fem/Mail

I and all of us at the potluck dinner at Janyne and Ginger's, want to thank them very much for their hospitality. They have a lovely home and we all enjoyed our time there, thanks again Janyne and Ginger. We also gave the person on duty in the guard house a lot to talk about.

For our August 9th meeting WE ARE THE GUEST SPEAKERS. It is your turn

and mine to discuss any issues pertaining to our community, transgender and the media, tell stories, practice feminine movements; these are but a few sug-

gestions, whatever comes to mind. You may have questions, I know I have a couple I'd like a response to.

Then for our September 13th meeting we will have Gina Lance with whom most of you are familiar, as our guest speaker. She is the editor of "Girl Talk" and a leading figure in the transgender community. She has done extensive traveling and has spoken to many groups. Gina has lots of great stories and I am very pleased that she is coming.



Our dinner choices for the August 9th meeting are:

- Mahi Mahi served with Chef's Accompaniments
- OR
- Baked Rigatoni with Meat Sauce

Please get back to me by Wednesday evening August 6th as to your choice of meal and how many in your party.

Linda:
Damelindatg@hotmail.com
OR call (310) 798-5637

Hope to see you on the 9th of August!!!!

Linda [[[[]]]]

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About Alpha

Alpha meets on the second Saturday of each month. We offer safe caring support for heterosexual crossdressers and their wives or partners.

If you have any questions regarding meetings, contact Linda Wade at (310) 798-5637 or E-Mail at damelindatg@hotmail.com

For couples issues Ginger Rogers is available at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or E-Mail at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Visit our web site at
<http://geocities.com/alphatriess>

This newsletter is available on our web site. Ask an officer how to access it.

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All of Us

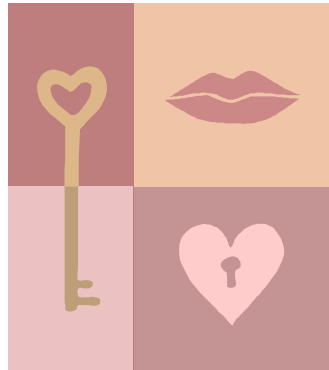
We have a need to present ourselves as females. We should fulfill that desire. If we don't we are killing a whole part of us. We are stifling emotions; we are in fact not being true to ourselves.

We struggle mightily about the heartache we will bring to others, and we do this for something wholesome and dear to us. We are not only selling ourselves short but also those around us. We are not letting them know all of us, only a part. This can't be healthy—burying a need so much a part of us.

When we do let ourselves out to explore this wonderful part of us, we feel release. We feel liberated. However, depending on your situation, we can still be tormented if that huge part of us is still rejected. We might still feel we are doing something wrong, but it would be wrong not to do it. Many of us for years lived with self loathing, fears, yada yada yada. We think this need of ours will go away; it doesn't.

When this wholesome part of us is allowed to manifest itself, then a lot of positives happen. If the support is there as well, then everyone can share in the complete you.

Because we are able to express ourselves, we are less angry, less opinionated, and just more fun to



be around. The hiding is no longer, and the anger is no longer, because of the frustration of having to hide. We can be clear in our minds and not hide in chemical abuse, because

we want to think clearly and feel. When this need is kept to ourselves, we can become distant and withdraw in some degree from families, friends, and society. I really can't think that not acting on this wholesome

part of us does anyone any good!

We love our family and friends and want to keep them, but we must be a friend to ourselves first. It seems to me that if we all could be truthful to ourselves, the benefits would be boundless.

When we like people, it's because of who they are, not what they look like. How many of us have had a negative feeling about someone, and if you got to know them, found them fascinating.

If we are dressed as Santa Claus and are really into the family thing, then we are looked at adoringly. Is that because of the red suit or the person in it? When Santa rids himself of the red suit and then puts on a skirt, has he now magically turned into a freak? I think not!

Is all the above simplistic? Well maybe, shouldn't it be?

Linda [[[[]]]]

San Diego City Council Gives Final Approval for Transgender Protection

(July 28, 2003) - Today in a historic vote, the San Diego City Council unanimously voted to amend the city's Human Dignity Ordinance (HDO) to protect the civil rights of transgender people.

"We as a community have worked hard to achieve this goal," said Amanda Watson, co-chair of the HDO Amendment Coalition, which formed early this year to press for passage of the measure. "It has been an honor working with such a diverse group. I am proud to be a part of this and to live in a city where I know I have rights too."

The amendment adds "gender identity" to the current language (which protects against discrimination based on sexual orientation). Gender identity is defined as "having or being perceived as having a gender-related identity or expression whether or not stereotypically associated with a person's actual or perceived sex."

San Diego is the first city to use the word "stereotypically" in its language instead of the word "traditionally." San Diego now joins 3 states, 9 counties and 49 other cities in specifically protecting transgender people. San Diego's current HDO, passed in 1990, covers employment, housing, city services, business establishments and educational institutions.

"Many people assume that laws protecting gays and lesbians also protect

transgender individuals, but that's not the case," said Jess Durfee, also co-chair of the HDO Amendment Coalition. "There is no direct relationship between one's gender identity or expression and one's sexual orientation. We needed language specifically protecting the civil rights of transgender people."

The HDO Amendment Coalition worked with Lisa Mottet, a legislative lawyer for the Transgender Civil Rights project at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. They asked Mayor Dick Murphy, through the LGBT Advisory Board, to amend the HDO, and Councilmember Toni Atkins submitted the recommendations to the City Attorney.

Members of the HDO Amendment Coalition include: the American Civil Liberties Union, Balboa Park for All, BiForum, BiPol, Bienestar-San Diego, Dawn Media, Imperial Court de San Diego, Inc., LGBT Center of San Diego, LGBT+SQ



Communities E-Mail List, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Pride At Work, San Diego Democratic Club, San Diego State University LGBT Student Union, San Diego TransFamily, Inc., The Butterfly Group, Transgender People of San Diego, Inc., and Transpire.

Transvestite is out in the open in bid for Mexican office

Associated Press
July 7, 2003

IXHUATAN, Mexico - Four female impersonators, each exquisitely made up, seize attention in Ixhuatan's town plaza by lip-synching and dancing on a stage to pop music. Traffic freezes as drivers and pedal-cab operators halt in the street to watch.

Then out comes candidate Amaranta Gomez - the first transvestite to have at least an outside chance of winning a congressional seat in Mexico.

Campaigning in a flower-print skirt, and making no attempt to hide the fact that she lost an arm last year in a bus crash, she has become a symbol of the tolerance for diversity promoted by a small, new political party, Mexico Possible.

"Our themes are very clear," Gomez said in an interview after her appearance in this Pacific Coast fishing town of 10,000 people 360 miles southeast of Mexico City. "We don't go around with ambivalence or double-talk. We call things by their names."

Gomez, born Jorge 26 years ago, is running both for Congress and her local government. Even if she loses locally, she could get a congressional seat if Mexico Possible wins 3 percent or more in the nationwide vote Sunday.

While polls indicate it may not get that many votes, the party has won national attention by filing legal complaints against Roman Catholic priests and bishops who had urged Mexicans to vote against parties favoring abortion and gay marriage. Under Mexican law, clerics are forbidden to meddle in partisan politics.



ASSOCIATED PRESS
AMARANTA GOMEZ, right, campaigns Sunday with Mexico Possible leader Patricia Mercado. Gomez is seeking a congressional seat.

Homosexuals, or *muxe* (pronounced MOO-shay), are generally accepted in the community as home helpers, embroiderers, decorators, cooks and entertainers. It's common to see

transvestites in the streets of Juchitan, a city of 80,000 located 35 miles west of here.

Until now, however, few have ventured into politics, and none so dramatically as Gomez.

Call for Papers

Hi Ladies. It's Kathi come to bug you again! It's summertime! You're going out doing wonderful, exciting things. (I'm staying home doing newsletters.)

As you have these exciting times en femme, how about writing them up for publication right here? Impress the girls! Strut your stuff!

Email your articles to me at xxxxxxxxxxxx or fax them to xxxxxxxxx

AB196 Passes! Your Help is Still Needed!

The following appeared in our local newspaper.

Long Beach Press Telegram
July 25, 2003

Ban would help state's transsexuals

SAN FRANCISCO - In a sign of growing tolerance for transsexuals, the California Senate agreed Thursday to ban housing and job discrimination against residents whose "perceived gender characteristics are different from those traditionally associated with the individual's sex at birth."

The Senate voted 23-11 to add "gender identity or expression" to the dozen characteristics already protected under the state's Fair Employment and Housing Act.

If the governor signs the bill, California would become the fourth state to make it illegal to deny someone a job or place to live on that basis.

Apparently, the writer doesn't know the difference between a transsexual and a transgender. This bill gives all types of transgenders, including crossdressers, protections against discrimination similar to those already enjoyed by other protected minorities. Unlike what some of its opponents say, it will not "force" businesses to hire anyone. It could, however, prevent a Peter Oiler incident in California.

Please ink up your pens (or printers) and write Governor Davis, telling him you want this law! A letter is far more effective than an email or a phone call (unless you know the Governor <hee-hee>),

but send an email if that's all you can do. It might help, considering the current Davis Recall Campaign, to gently imply that in signing it, he can earn the gratitude of a significant voting block--5% of the males in California.

Please do this quickly. Whatever his record on other matters (a hot debate that's WAY off-topic here), Davis has shown sympathy for "non-straight" people and has supported and signed GLB bills. I think he would be inclined to sign it, especially with a little encouragement. If he fails to sign it before the recall, let us hope that Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamonte takes over the office for a while. He's listed as one of the bill's supporters. I highly doubt that any of the Republicans eyeing the Governorship would sign it. So, PLEASE, do it now!



To see the text and legal analysis of this bill, go to the California web site, www.ca.gov, and follow the links, Government, Legislature, Tracking Bills, and search for AB 196.

Mail your letters of support to:
Governor Gray Davis
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Email: governor@governor.ca.gov

Please forward this, too, to California girls you might know elsewhere. The more help, the better!

Please help! We Want This Law!

Kathi



Next Meeting

Saturday, August 9

7:00 pm Social

7:30 pm Dinner

AT: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Phone: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

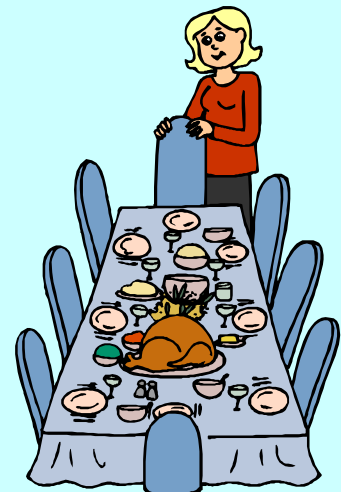
Menu: Mahi Mahi served with Chef's Accompaniments
OR
Baked Rigatoni with Meat Sauce

Program: WE ARE THE GUEST SPEAKERS. Whatever comes to mind.

RSVP: Please RSVP to Linda by Wednesday, August 6
Contact Linda at (310) 798-5637 or damelindatg@hotmail.com

Please tell us the number in your party and your dinner choice(s).

Cost: \$21.00 single
\$36.00 couple



"It's All About Wives"

An Invitation to Wives, from Linda, a Wife and Mother

So, your husband has come out of the closet. That took a lot of courage; he must love and trust you a lot. You may be feeling relief now that you know what has been on his mind. You may enjoy his feminine expression. Your sex life may have improved. If so, then that is wonderful for both you and your husband!

Many wives will probably not feel this way, at least initially. Are you feeling alone, isolated, confused, hurt, depressed, afraid, etc? Are you asking yourself "Why me", "If I was a better wife and sexier woman would he still be like this", "Is he going to turn into woman", "Is he gay", etc.? Do you suddenly feel ugly and unattractive? Did you tell your closest friend and now wish you hadn't because she just doesn't understand? Did you tell your family and now they are not speaking to you? If you answered yes to even one of these questions, then welcome to the group.

My husband came out to me a year ago, after 20 years of marriage. We have two school age sons. During the past year, I have had experiences I never dreamed of, learned a lot, and experienced a great deal of emotional turmoil. I was disappointed by the lack of support for wives of TG (transgender) husbands, especially in such a huge and diverse area as LA. So, I decided to try to start a wives support group with a professional counselor experienced in gender issues. Although this group is being established for wives, women in committed relationships with TG partners are welcome too.

I hope you will come out of the closet and join this group.

Please see the attached flyer for the details – when, where, etc.



"It's All About Wives"

Support Group for Wives of Transgender Husbands

Women in Committed Relationships with T G Partners Welcome

Mission Statement

Provide a safe and supportive place for wives of TG (transgender) husbands to share their feelings without fear of reprisal or condemnation. Empathetic and caring traveling companions for the journey that most wives must take to find happiness and fulfillment with their TG husbands and marriage. A forum for asking questions and learning, listening to and being heard by others, providing and receiving emotional support, discussing and exploring our own needs and desires.

Vision

To become and be recognized as the model of what a wives group should be. Be seen as the group husbands want their wives to join and will support with their hearts and wallets. For TG people and service providers to recognize and support wives as being vital and important constituents of the TG community. Open the closet door for every wife and accompany her on the road to happiness and fulfillment.

Values

Honesty
Teamwork

Integrity
Caring

Compassion
Respect

Empathy
Responsibility

Co-Founders

Founding Member – Linda, a wife and mother

Group Facilitator - Elise Turen, M.A. (Clinical Psychology), Los Angeles Gender Center, Five Changes Foundation

Introductory Meeting

- ◇ Date: Saturday, September 27
- ◇ Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
- ◇ Address: Women's Club of Hollywood, 1749 N. La Brea Ave., Hollywood, CA 90046
- ◇ Directions: On La Brea just north of Hollywood Blvd. (See www.mapquest.com for map).
- ◇ Location: Upstairs Room (sign by room will say "Wives Group")
- ◇ Fee: \$40
- ◇ For more information, questions, and/or to RSVP please contact us.



Contact Information

- ◇ Contact Linda via email at XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.
- ◇ After August 26 – Contact Elise Turen at XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.