

# Alpha Chapter of Tri-E ss

## Alpha-Bits

February, 2004

### Linda's Fem/Mail

**Well, you asked for a change of date because of St. Valentines day and you have it. The meeting will be February 21st.**

I want to thank Bebe Tamberg for her nice presentation and the time she put into preparing for it. I really admire the work she does at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Our Feb 21st meeting will

feature Mr. Michael Behling of Wilshire Wigs. He will tell us about his product line and will bring several wigs, so we can see the quality/price/etc. Hoping that a stylist will also be there to show us how they cut, etc. the new wigs to fit the person.

Along with a good friend,

we are communicating with our March 13th presenter and hopefully this will work out.



Because of the schedule changes we will now have The Gender Studies group of

UCLA at our April 10th meeting. They will describe UCLA's gender

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Alpha Contacts

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### About Alpha

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

If you have any questions regarding meetings, contact Linda Wade at (310) 798-5637 or E-Mail at president@alphatriess.org

For couples issues, Ginger Rogers is available at xxx xxxxxxxx or E-Mail at xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Visit our web site at <http://www.alphatriess.org>

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

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# Next Meeting

*Special Meeting Date:*  
**Saturday, February 21**

**7:00 pm Social**

**7:30 pm Dinner**

AT: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
 xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
 xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
 Phone: xxxxxxxxxxxx

Menu: Meatloaf dinner with chef's accompaniments,  
 OR  
 Linguini with Chicken in tomato artichoke sauce

Program: **Mr. Michael Behling of Wilshire Wigs,**  
 Showing wig product line and styling tips.

RSVP: Please RSVP to Linda by Wednesday, February 18  
 Contact Linda at (310) 798-5637 or damelindatg@hotmail.com

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

Cost: \$21.00 single  
 \$36.00 couple

## It's All About Wives

**Next Meeting February 28**

Women's Club of Hollywood  
 1749 N. La Brea Ave.  
 Hollywood, CA 90046  
 Fee:\$40  
 For more info: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

# Veterans Group Announces Transgender Gathering at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

## NTAC Press Release

Posted: 12/4/2003

The Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) has announced the first ever gathering of transgender veterans to honor those who have served and died in the U.S. armed forces. The March to the Wall will be held in Washington, DC on May 1, 2004 and is expected to draw transgender veterans from all over the country.

NTAC joins TAVA in encouraging transgender and intersex veterans to support this memorial effort with their presence. TAVA president, Monica Helms, expressed satisfaction, saying, "I am proud to see that NTAC is the first national organization to show its support for the Transgender Veterans March to the Wall. I hope other organizations will soon follow suit with their letters of support."

No one knows how many transgendered and intersex people have served in our nation's armed forces. If the numbers reflect those of the general population, there are likely several thousand currently on active duty. Transgender is an umbrella term that includes heterosexual cross dressers as well as transsexuals and other gender variations.

Although the Congressionally mandated "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is aimed primarily at homosexuals," explains Robyn Walters, Chair of the National Transgender Advocacy

Coalition (NTAC) Veteran Affairs subcommittee, "it is also applied to discharge service members who manifest such gender variance as cross dressing or feminizing hormone treatment."

The TAVA-sponsored gathering is not intended to protest government discrimination against transgendered service members and veterans. The primary purpose of the gathering is to give transgendered veterans an opportunity to honor those who have served and given their lives in the service of our country, be they transgender, gay, or straight.

NTAC feels that it is important, in this time of ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, to remember all of our troops who courageously serve our country, especially those who have given the supreme sacrifice.

We must not forget our service members nor lose sight of the fact that some of them are also transgendered.

TAVA March organizers have reserved a block of hotel rooms for the event and will arrange buses for the scheduled tour of the Vietnam Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery. Those interested in participating in this historical event should check event and hotel details and complete the March registration form at [www.geocities.com/tg\\_vet\\_march\\_to\\_the\\_wall/](http://www.geocities.com/tg_vet_march_to_the_wall/)



## Old West Cross Dresser

I have been reading a book named "Stage Coach," written by Philip L. Fradkin, about the history of Wells Fargo.

The first 14 years of my life, we lived in Reno, Nevada. This was in the early 1930s.

In some ways, it was still part of the old west. It was not uncommon to see someone come into town wearing a pistol on his hip. Most of us could ride a horse. My father grubstaked prospectors.

Reno was the divorce capital of the country and we got a lot of "dudes" from the east.

Mostly they were women who came to Reno to establish the six week residency that allowed them to get a divorce and then there were the good looking guys who worked on a dude ranch hoping to snare a rich divorcee.

I remember one humorous incident when I saw a guy in down town Reno that was obviously from the east. He had been duped by some enterprising salesman to buy "western" garb. We couldn't believe our eyes. He wore a white, ten gallon hat, sheepskin vest, sheepskin chaps, and two pearl-handled six shooters on his hips.. He had seen too many Tom Mix

movies! Mix was a popular movie actor at that time.

Because of my background, this book has been of great interest for me. Wells Fargo's roots are in California and the old west, the gold rush in California, and the Comstock silver mine in Nevada that helped fund the Civil War for the Union,

Now that I have taken you through that I will bring up the subject of the title of this article.

Stagecoaches were a primary means of transportation of people, mail, and gold in the 1800s.

The stage coach drivers were hardy people that had to endure dust, rain, snow, long hours, little rest, Indian raids, poor food, miserable accommodations, and the risk of capsizing the coach..

A few drivers stood out in the crowd. One was Charley J. Ross-Browne, who was described by a passenger that had been given the honored seat beside the driver.

"The driver was Charlie. Of course every body knows Charlie—that same old Charlie who has driven all over the roads in California and never capsized any body but himself. On that occasion, he broke several of his ribs, or as he expressed it to me, 'Bust his sides in.' I was happy to sit by the side of Charlie—especially as the road was supposed to be a little undulating even by its best friends"

Some fifteen years later, Charley died. And it was discovered that she was a women. The San Francisco Call's obituary referred to Charley as "one of the most dexterous and celebrated of the famous California drivers.

Charley, perhaps born Charlotte, originally came from Providence, Rhode Island where she drove carriages for the gentry

*Charlene*

### Linda's Fem/Mail (continued)

diversity and education program and seek our comments on these matters.

I have some people to thank for helping me get this all together, and I will do so and explain at the meeting.

Our dinner choices for Feb. 21st are:

Meatloaf Dinner served with Chef's Accompaniments

OR

Linguini w/Chicken in Tomato. Artichoke Sauce

Please get your choice of dinner and how many in your party by Wednesday evening Feb. 18th.

Have a nice Valentines day and evening. See you on the 21st of February.

*Linda [ ]*



## Changing Gender Roles in Children's Television

Most kids shows of the seventies showed a two parent household that was firmly founded in the male working, female staying at home, stereotypes. It didn't dawn on me until the other day that there is a pattern of change slowly emerging in children's television. The Bear In The Big Blue House is a single male adult who is a caregiver for a little girl bear that he is raising. While the show doesn't deal with his particular familial tie to the girl, they at least are the same species. He is a stay at home father figure.

Another stay at home father is The Professor from Power Puff Girls. He works at home, raising his girls without benefit of a mother. When asked "Who goes to work? Who Brings home the pay?" they answer "Our dad" "Who does the laundry? Cleans the house? Fixes your dinner? Stays home to raise you?" - "Our Dad" again is the answer. To them dad staying home is perfectly normal. He is practically speaking as their father and their mother. One episode has the professor in full drag looking not wholly unattractive. While the premise for his feminization was to protect his girls against a villainous movie director, it still portrayed the action as one of dignity. The manner of his dress was much less shocking to anyone than the fact that the movie director



was the villain. You might not think this differs much from the antics of Fred and Barney when they dressed as Wilma and Betty but it is. Fred and Barney did things to benefit themselves, always afraid of being found out for who they were while dressed up. The professor proudly showed himself as a man, in a dress, protecting his children. In these modern shows (Bear and Puff Girls) males are single parents, staying at home, doing things to protect their children, putting the kids first.

If they wear pants or a dress the children don't make a fuss over it. It's no more of a shock than the kids dressing up for tea time or playing pirates.

If you've never watched Fairly Odd Parents, the main character is a boy named Timmy Turner who wears a pink hat and never goes anywhere without it. There was a gender-changing episode where Timmy, wished to be able to think like a girl to find the perfect present for a girl he has a crush on.

His fairy god parents granted his wish by turning Timmy into Timothea - a girl. The god fairies laughed and Timmy in retribution wished each of them to change sexes with the other. For the length of the episode Timmy remained as a girl and got to experience shopping with other girls, going to the beauty par-

lor and learning that gender stereotypes can be painful for both boys and girls when he meets the girl of his dreams dressed as a boy because she's afraid of being teased while buying her favorite, very boy oriented, comic book. While it was placed in comedic context it gave an over all positive message about imagining yourself as the opposite gender, breaking gender barriers and self liberation. Even though Timmy was glad to be male again. At the end of the show he, as his own male self, still enjoyed watching the soap opera and going to the beauty parlor for a bit of self pampering. It showed that not as a gay act, but as a genderless enjoyment. He found that it was ok to like 'boy things' and 'girl things' - that there didn't have to be things that only girls could do and vice versa. Even the god fairies, now back to their original sexes found that there were things they did enjoy about the gender mix that were, as Wanda put it, "strangely liberating".

The episode was comedic but also made gender mixing non threatening to kids and adults and gave an overall message of tolerance hidden in a wacky make believe world. I'm glad to see shows like this, that in subtle ways make kids both laugh and think and open early channels for tolerance and understanding.

By David Everts  
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