

ETVC Channel

March 1998

Volume 17, Issue 1

An Evening of Glitz and Glamour:

ETVC's French Kiss to Northern California

By Elizabeth Walters,
Channel Editor

Resplendent in a stunning white evening gown and long gloves, Dianna was crowned Miss ETVC 1998 before an audience of more than 400 revelers January 31 at the conclusion of our fourteenth annual coming-out party for Bay Area transgendered folk, the ETVC Cotillion.

Accepting a bouquet of roses along with her new tiara, our newly anointed "queen" will represent the organization at a variety of functions this year, including Imperial installations and the Gay Pride March. In accepting the honor, Dianna gave the appreciative crowd her heartfelt pledge to "do 100 percent better at every event than I did tonight."

Dianna's "court" was also named at the event: the lovely Kalani was selected as Dianna's first runner-up, and the equally stunning Miss Q was named second runner-up.

In the event that Dianna is unable to serve, one of the runners-up will take her place.

The selection was a tough choice for judges Elaine Herscher, Eddy Budworth, and Alison Austin: They were confronted with an array of eight delightful contestants, who modeled, performed and interviewed their hearts out for the honor of wearing the ETVC tiara.

In addition to the winner and runners-up, the candidates were: ETVC outreach co-chair Sandra Brewer, ETVC social co-chair Darcy Leopard, and sister competitors C.J., DiDi Mau (aka Brenda), and Michele.

The ladies modeled active wear and formal outfits and squared off in a barn-burning talent competition. In addition, each was required to undergo a rigorous questioning about what they hoped to accomplish if they won the club's title for the next year – an interrogation which constituted 25 percent of the score each of them received from the judges.

The selection of ETVC's "court" was the highlight of an evening that was high on glamour, glitz and elegance.



Your Miss ETVC 1998: Dianna!

(Photo By Telzey Adams)

The show moved swiftly, the entertainment was fantastic, the food was delicious and the venue absolutely fabulous. As international cyberpublishing czarina Cindy Martin put it, "This is the best Cotillion I've ever attended – and that includes the one we put on when I was president!"

Credit in large part goes to the event's producer, ETVC

(Please turn to Page 8)

THE CHANNEL

ETVC Inc., a non-profit corporation, is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-challenged people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services. For details about ETVC programs, membership, article submission guidelines and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Minutes of all ETVC committee meetings are available to members on request.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 1/11/98) 305
Total 1997 Membership 294
New Memberships this year 64

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balance as of 10/31/97 \$620.00

The "Home for ETVC" fund is now \$2017.50

ETVC is a non-profit corporation.

Donations to ETVC are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both Federal and California income tax returns. Talk to your tax advisor for details.

Channel, the ETVC Newsletter, is published monthly. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 20th day of the month preceding publication. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC. Other organizations may reprint or reproduce uncopyrighted portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged as the source of the material. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission of ETVC.

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Letter From Elizabeth



By Elizabeth Walters, Channel Editor

"The more things change, the more they remain the same."

-- Alphonse Karr

Please pardon the dust and construction debris. We are in the middle of a remodeling at the moment, and regret any inconvenience that may result!

Seriously, the Channel is right in the middle of the biggest change it has undergone in many years: Faced by an ever-tightening budget that was causing a strain on other parts of our program, we have been forced to move all production of our newsletter in-house. As a consequence, starting with this issue, the Channel will be in a process of continual change until we are able to strike a balance between format, cost and content that will satisfy everybody concerned.

In the past, our newsletter has benefited immeasurably from the terrific service we have received from our wonderful and creative typesetter, photo magician and layout wizard, Kevin Anderson, and our marvelous and dependable printer, Tom Zamot of Your Way Graphics. Unfortunately, the reality of our financial situation has made it impossible for us to continue contracting out production of the Channel. We are forced to rely on our own resources to put out the most informative, readable -- and, hopefully -- attractive newsletter we can.

As a result, a number of things will be different: For one, we are going to monthly publication of the Channel and dropping Channel Two. The reason for this is to place as much information before our readers as possible, and to do it as quickly and frequently as we can using volunteer labor. We are also dropping the use of a bulk postal permit to mail the newsletter, as this method of distribution takes a great deal of volunteer time and effort, and makes timeliness next to impossible.

There will also be changes in the newsletter's appearance, some of which may be welcomed by readers, some not. We stopped using spot color on the front cover with our last issue (Jan-Feb 1998), because we are using a cheaper reproduction method that precludes it. With this issue, we will be using a lot more photos -- partly because using them will be less expensive and partly because we think you simply want more of them.

As can be easily seen, our long-standing format is undergoing revision as well, partly because of your editor's lack of expertise, partly because the software available to us with our new ETVC editorial equipment dictates what we can and can't do.

In any event, it is your newsletter and we want to know what you think of the changes. If you see something you like -- or something you don't -- drop me a line at the ETVC post box, or e-mail me directly at lizw@tgforum.com. Your opinion matters to us, and if enough members feel that something isn't working -- or something works so well you want more - we want to hear from you.



Da' Prez Box

By ETVC President Erin Souza

A Difficult Choice?

The executive committee has already made the difficult choice to raise membership dues by \$5.00 for 98-99.

What? Do we want to buy new outfits and have champagne and caviar at committee meetings?

No. We want to put out a newsletter, mailed first class, on a monthly basis, bring in quality speakers for seminars and put on an elegant cotillion in a first-class venue like the San Francisco Design Center. On top of that we want to continue our socials, speaker's bureau, library, hotline and newly established web site.

We would like the champagne, caviar and clothes too, but won't be buying those things with money from members. But all of this costs more than the current \$25.00 times 300-plus members, supplemented by entry fees, will allow.

Alternatives would be to do away with things like the newsletter, seminars and the cotillion. We could meet once or twice a month at designated venues, have our cocktails, take our snapshots and return home at no cost other than our individual food and drinks, film and processing. There's plenty of information we can now get from the internet and plenty of places we can go for acceptance that groups like this might not be necessary.

The other alternative is to go country club. Raise the prices through the roof so that only the fashionably elite can attend. And make it secretive so that only a select few

know. In either case, we're indulging in a modestly furnished or well-furnished walk in closet: no interaction with outsiders, no reaching out to bring in new people. It's like one of those stereotypical towns you see in horror movies, where the citizens keep to themselves and consequently breed recessive mutations.

Would you have found out about this group if members in previous years did nothing more than go from car to bar and back? Would we have as many places to go if the society only saw us doing that, and not interacting or sharing beyond ourselves in any way? Would any of us have gained the self-acceptance and confidence we now have if all we did was socialize and return home?

Our cotillion and newsletter have impressed people outside the club, who might have otherwise been influenced by negative images of us on television. These things demonstrate that we are intelligent, creative people instead of the psychotic buffoons they see in media portrayals. Who knows how many college students and professionals now view us in positive light as a result of interaction in our speaker's bureau and education seminars?

Do we choose to abandon all this over an increase that breaks down to less than fifty additional cents each month? I hope not. I hope you will choose to stay with us and expand our opportunities.

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P.O. BOX 1088
YORBA LINDA, CA 92886

Or Call (714) 281-0271 [Leave Message]

E-Mail - PPOC@aol.com; or
Dreamin96@aol.com; or
visit our website:

<http://www.flash.net/~dhome/cadreamin>

Special Events

Mid-Month Get-together Wednesday, March 11th

Got those post-Olympic blues? Is it too early to start working on your income taxes? Relax -- join us at an informal gathering in San Francisco's fashionable Potrero Hill District. Lilo Lounge, 18th and Connecticut Streets, San Francisco, 8:30 p.m. No charge.

End of Month Social Thursday, March 26th

"It's simply out of this world!" - Major Tom.
An appropriate testimonial, indeed, for Café Mars, one of our newest venues. Join us for drinks and conversation at our End-Of-Month Social in the heart of San Francisco's SoMa district. 7th and Brannan Streets, San Francisco, 8 p.m. \$3 admission.

River City Follies Saturday, March 28th

Our sisters from the Sacramento Gender Association are putting on a show! According to Tina Louise, a variety of acts will perform, including lip-synchers, dance and other entertainers. Grab a fine meal from the restaurant downstairs before the acts begin. The River City ladies' March Madness will be held at Joseph's 1454 Del Paso Boulevard, Sacramento. Call SGA for show time and admission charges (916) 482-7742.

California Dreamin' April 30-May 2

Maybe all the leaves are gone and the skies are gray, but it isn't too early to start preparing for this Spring's premiere gender event, California Dreamin': four days and nights in San

Francisco, with a full range of seminars, workshops, informational panels and social events. Co-hosted this year by ETVC, Diablo Valley Girls, Rainbow Gender Association and FTM International, the program will include offerings for MTF and FTM cross-dressers, transsexuals and couples. Presenters will include JoAnn Roberts, Mildred Brown, Wilhelmina Beins, Lin Fraser and a host of others. For information contact PPOC/California Dreamin', P.O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92886, or phone (714) 281-0271. You can also send e-mail to PPOC@aol.com or Dreamin96@aol.com.

Notice to All Gender Groups from DVG's Julie Freeman

With the death of Ginny Knuth, significant other support in the Bay Area has experienced a tremendous loss. With her passing there is a need to find a new way to meet the needs of significant others.

Toward that end, DVG will assume responsibility for support of significant others in the East Bay. We intend to provide that support through a recently created network of SO's who will be available for one-on-one contact with new SO's in their area. I will be the focal point for that support and can be reached through our hotline.

Significant Other Support - East Bay
Questions or concerns about your partner's crossdressing? Please call Julie at (510) 937-8432, e-mail Julie39@ibm.net or write to: Julie Freeman, P.O. Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885.

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Other Groups

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling oriented growth center sponsors all- inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00 PM, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, Call: (510) 841-6224.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Write: RGA, P.O.Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170. Call: (408) 984-4044

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets 8PM the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write P.O. Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) 482-7SGA for meeting locations.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) Meets first and third Monday of every month. 8 PM at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write: DVG, P.O. Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) 937-8432.

DVG Rap Group (RCC) meets first and third Thursday of every month, 7 PM at Rainbow Community Center, 2637 Pleasant Hill Rd. at Taylor Blvd. in Pleasant Hill. For more info, call (510) 937-8432.

FTM, a support group for Female-to-Male cross dressers & transsexuals, holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission St, Suite 200, SF94103 or call Voice Mall (415) 553-5987.

TGIF (TransGenderism is Fun), a social group for transgenders, meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4 PM until early evening. For dates, location and reservations, call Diane or Anne at (707) 544-1540.

TV/TS/TG Groups and Activities

02	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
05	DVG	RCC Rap	Meets at 7 PM	Pleasant Hill	(510) 937-8432
05	ETVC	NewsComm	Meets at 7:30 PM	SF	(415) 337-5409
06	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
06	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets at 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
08	FTM	Info Mtg	Meets at 2 PM	SF	(415) 553-5987
11	ETVC	Mid-month Social	Starts at 8:30 PM	Lilo Lounge, SF	(415) 641-8169
13	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	SF	(415) 664-1499
13	ETVC	Lending Library	Hours: 7-11 PM	SF	(415) 664-1499
13	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets at 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
13	SVGA	Support Grp	Meets at 7 PM	San Jose	(408) 293-2429
14	ETVC	Bowling	Starts at 8:30 PM	SF	(415) 731-7032
14	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
14	FWW	Meeting	Starts at 8 PM	Eureka	(707) 445-9760
16	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
19	DVG	RCC Rap	Meets at 7 PM	Pleasant Hill	(510) 937-8432
20	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
20	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
26	ETVC	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Cafe Mars, SF	(415) 641-8169
27	SVGA	Support Grp	Meets at 7 PM	San Jose	(408) 293-2429
27	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
28	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
28	FWW	Meeting	Starts at 8 PM	Eureka	(707) 445-9760

vate home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4 PM until early evening. For dates, location and reservations, call Diane or Anne at (707) 544-1540.

Silicon Valley Gender Association(SVGA), a new transgender support group meets at the Billy De Frank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 7PM to 9PM. For more info, call (408) 293-2429.

Far West Women (FWW), a support group for TGs affiliated with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance in Humboldt Co., meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the Month at 8 PM in the GLBTA Center at Fourth and "D" Streets in Eureka. For info, call the Center at (707)445-9760.

ETVC Membership Application

Please Print

Mailing Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Preferred Name: _____ Family Member's Name: _____
 (If Applicable)
 Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____ New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is \$25.00 (Family - \$35.00).

Please remit by check or money order to:
 ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486



Sandra Reaches Out

By Sandra Brewer

As the New Year begins we reflect on the last year. Our speakers made at least 44 presentations in 1997. We fielded 17 volunteers in June, and 11 in December for KQED pledge drives. We made a strong presence at the Freedom Parade, the East Bay Mardi Gras Festival, and several of the gay court events. Dale did an outstanding job representing us as Miss ETVC. We face a real challenge to expand on these efforts.

Soon it will be time to elect our ETVC officers for the coming year. Most of the current officers are in their second term; some will be reassessing their ability to continue after this year, and none can be expected to continue indefinitely. If you love your community, please seriously con-

sider a position on the executive committee. This can be your chance to work with a great group to expand your own adventures, and to help your community maintain its standards of excellence.

We will also be voting on a proposed revision to the ETVC bylaws. This would be the first revision of the original bylaws. Your ETVC executive committee has worked long and thoughtfully on the proposed revision in an effort to preserve the original intent and to expand the bylaws to meet today's needs. Also on the ballot is the question to find a new name that better describes our expanded mission, or to keep the traditional name that has brought us all together.

The ETVC web site is on-line. It's just a few pages so far, but we expect it to expand soon. We may get a shorter domain name later, but you can access it now at <http://www.tgfm.com/tg/etvc>. We have decided to discontinue the ETVC voice mail and BBS services at the end of the current membership year. These have been under-used, and don't justify their costs. We also expect to eliminate first class mail as a membership option, since we intend to begin sending the newsletter to all members by first class mail.

If you're looking for transgendered subjects in the media, try to catch the French film "Ma Vie En Rose" if it's still playing at a theater near you. This depicts the problems of a ten-year old boy affected by transgendered emotions and the resulting problems in his family until they finally come to terms with the situation. Also, by now you've probably seen the new Fox comedy, "Ask Harriet."

This features a reporter unable to hold a job as a guy; he finds success a la Tootsie by posing as a woman to write a column that

(Continued Next Page)

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Free Enrollment Information

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by

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(From Previous Page)

gives advice on relationships. The performers on this show, as on the old Bosom Buddies program, have to be challenged to pretend they don't read him. But he does get to wear some really classy outfits in the role; he may even make it to Blackwell's best-dressed list.

A reference to a "Union Square" episode in my last column inadvertently tapped into a long-standing point of contention between the TV and gay communities. A letter objecting to this, my reply to the letter, and our president's reply have been published in the local gay newspapers; these are reproduced elsewhere in this issue (*Editor's note: See Page 16*) Erin's reply in the style of Abraham Lincoln is a noble effort to preserve harmony in the face of adversity. I hope some good will come from the ensuing discussion. Whether we identify as lesbian, gay, TV, TS, or any combination of these, we have enough trouble getting acceptance from the outside world without creating more conflicts from within.



Lovely Ladies: Relaxing for the camera are (on left) Tina Mink, a simply darling visitor from Council Bluff, Iowa, and (on right) our own camera woman, Telzey Adams.

(Photos by Telzey Adams)



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My Adventures En Femme

By Nicole

It has only been about six months since the first time I started going out dressed en femme. I was surprised to find out what a rewarding experience it has been. I know there are those of you out there, who are wanting to go out, but are worried about taking the initial steps. So I wanted to tell the story of the last six months and tell you how it went for me, and highlight the trail that I had so much fun following. I know an article like this would have convinced me to get out and socialize sooner.

One of the key obstacles to overcome was the first time out to a transgendered event. I had no idea what to expect. I had been planning for over a year to go to one of the ETVC events at Kimo's, but the perceived level of unknown experiences was too much for me to overcome in one shot. Fortunately for me, I found out about a transgendered social event in my area called TGIF. The TGIF social is always held at the house of one of the members, most of the time in the hills near Santa Rosa. This setting is the most gender friendly scenario I could have possibly imagined. The usual meeting place is in a rather secluded area with a lot of open land around. The only houses within sight of the property are aware and supportive of the event. The access to the house is on a private road. You can arrive in drab and dress there if you want. You could not beat this scenario with a stick, but it gets better.

In the five or six TGIF meetings I have attended, I have met many people who I enjoy spending time with. At various TGIF meetings I would meet people from the other groups in the area, and through talking with them I would find out about more TG events in the San Francisco area. Before I move on to the next part of the story, I would like to point out, if you are thinking of a first night out, this is the place. It happens once a month and the number to call is always in the ETVC newsletter.

After a few of the TGIF meetings and after reading about a few of Darcy's adventures, I knew I wanted to expand my horizons. I had received enough practice in presenting my feminine appearance and I was ready to do more. It was almost Halloween so the ETVC Halloween party was an obvious choice for my next excursion. What a blast! It was the first time I had danced in high heels. I went as Elvira, and even though some last minute problems occurred with finding all the right parts to the costume, I had a great time. With this second venue conquered I was ready to go on tour. I do contract work, and as it turns out I completed a large contract in the last half of December. As the Christmas holiday's approached I developed a plan to hit all the local groups.

At this point (at the November TGIF meeting) I heard about a club that catered exclusively to the transgendered community in San Jose. At first I found it hard to believe, if a club like this did exist I would not expect to hear about it by word of mouth, I would have expected a full page ad in the ETVC newsletter or on the Transgender Forum. But it does exist, and not only that, it's a great place to go. As it turns out one of the first stops on my tour was Carla's. Carla's is the TG club I was talking about. Carla has practically everything you would want under one roof, a place to eat, a game room, a beauty salon, a dressing area, a boutique and a tanning parlor. I could not believe how well things were going. On one of the initial trips to Carla's, I heard about a TG makeup event at the Palo Alto Nordstroms, and I went to that, yes dressed, in a department store. (This deserves some info just in case you are planning to visit this outstanding venue. The number for Carla's is (408) 298-6900 or you can see her web site at www.carlas.com).

Well, Nicole was now on tour. What was next? In the next month I made it to a few ETVC events, one of which, the social at Cyber World, I would recommend. Cyber World is a fun spot in San Francisco. Darcy wrote about it in the ETVC November-December newsletter so I will not describe it much here except to say that one of my fears of going to a club was removed at Cyber World. What do I do if I need to go to the bathroom? I could just see myself having to use the men's room while the football team of some college was in the other part of the club. Guess what? There is only one bathroom at Cyber World which is shared by both the men and us ladies. (Just as a side note, the restrooms at the Shell stations on both sides of the gender friendly Nordstroms in Palo Alto have the same restroom setup)

(To Be Continued Next Issue)

You can contact Nicole at nicole@tgforum.com

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 Clinical Sexologist
 Certified Sex Therapist

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 San Francisco, CA 94109

Ph (415) 776-0139
 Fax (415) 441-0936

ETVC's French Kiss: A Night of Glitz and Glamour

(Continued from Page One)

ice-president Leslie Bailey, who managed to bring it off on time and budget. Additional plaudits go to Co-producer Lulu Blau, who scored Mark Kleim to direct the evening's show.

Kleim, creator of the "Lavender Lounge" TV show and a producer of several major San Francisco theatrical events, including official videos of the 1993 and 1994 Pride parades and a number of gay erotic films, struck gold: the performers moved through their paces without a misstep, delighting the audience.

The Miss ETVC contestants were not the only ones to entertain the crowd. Noted local dancer and choreographer Ken Ludden kept things rolling along – and the audience in stitches -- as Mistress of Ceremonies "Dear Diva," a character he originally created for Michael's Entertainment Guide in Washington, D.C.

Other performers included: outgoing Miss ETVC Dale Carlson and her hot band, featuring keyboardist Erika Von Valkyrie, bassist Ed Ivey, guitar-player Richard Michos and Dale herself on reeds; operatic singer Reginald; singer and

"This is the best Cotillion I've ever attended — and that includes the one we put on when I was President!"
— Cindy Martin

theatrical producer Trauma Flintstone; entertainer Donna Sachet, and ETVC President Erin Souza.

In one of the evening's high points, first-time Cotillion



Glamour Girls! Our newly selected Miss ETVC, Dianna, strikes a winning pose with her first runner-up, Kalani (right), and her second runner-up, Miss Q (left).

(Photo by Telzey Adams)

goes from all over Northern California took the stage for their formal presentation as debutantes. Each had her unforgettable moment of glory as her name was called and she took center stage to receive a floral memento of the occasion, a single blue long-stemmed Iris, and accept the appreciation of the audience.

In addition, Jamie Faye Fenton, who, with Cindy and Joanne Roberts, publishes the global Internet resource for transgendered folk, TG Forum, was presented with the Joanna Caron Award in



(Left) Three beauties: The Cotillion was enjoyed by a debutante whose name was unknown, Shavonna Starr of Trannyshack fame and Miss SGA, Misty Love. (Above) Jamie Fay Fenton receives the Joanna Caron Award.





*(Left)
Debutantes 1998: Some of
our lovely first timers take
the stage for their moment of
glory at Cotillion 1998.*

*(Right)
Miss ETVC 1997 Dale Carl-
son and Cotillion co-
producer Lulu Blau make
their presentation.*

(Photos by Telzey Adams)



(From preceding page)

recognition of the energy, time and effort she had given unstintingly to this year's Cotillion.

Finally, the evening included a special multimedia appreciation of Ginny Knuth, who died after a lengthy illness late last year. The presentation recognized Ginny for tireless efforts on behalf of ETVC that helped make the organization what it is today.

The event would have been enchanting in any setting, but the venue selected for it, San Francisco's elegant Design Center Galleria at the foot of Potrero Hill, was utterly flawless. Many thanks to all involved: club officers, volunteers — and especially the eight lovely ladies who made picking Miss ETVC 1998 so difficult!



(Above) Dale Carlson and her rockin' band perform for an appreciative audience.

(Right) The smashing finale to Cotillion 1998, ETVC's French Kiss to the Transgender Community.

(Photos by Telzey Adams)

Special Thanks

From Leslie Bailey, ETVC Vice-President

It takes a lot of people putting in a lot of effort to make the Cotillion a success. I thank everyone who contributed in anyway. We had a wonderful group of contestants who put themselves on the line. They each deserve to feel good about their performance. I congratulate Dianna and look forward to working with her during the next year.

As for Lulu, Mark, Dear Diva, Jazz, Cheryl, Jamie, Deann, our judges, Geri & Joanna, Ronnie, Toni, Valerie, Susie, Valerie and everyone else who helped, I can not thank you enough.

A couple of apologies: Joyce's Perfect Fit, Stormy Leather and Luanna Rodgers wanted to place ads in the program and due to my mistake were not included. Also Joyce contributed a generous gift as a prize for one of our contestants and was not properly thanked. I appreciate the generous support of all our friends and advertisers.



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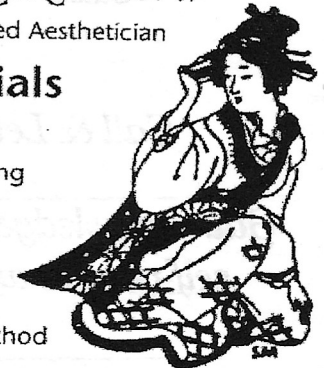
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Chapter 6: Connecting the Dots

By Andrea Drane

When the Prussian general Von Clausewitz declared that one must first and foremost have a secure base, I doubt that he had girls like us in mind. Yet, when you consider how important it is to have a strong sense of self, to feel centered and grounded, and how our gender incongruity can make that all but impossible, you begin to understand his point. For most of my life, I had no real sense of belonging, no real sense of having any kind of place in a society whose expectations always seemed to be at odds with my inner feelings and inclinations. Fortunately, caring and sympathetic friends and professionals, hormone therapy, transition, and my "real life test" experiences have changed all that for the better.

Up until my transition, much of my life was spent in a disassociated state. So many aspects of my personality were disconnected or otherwise suppressed that I drifted aimlessly, living by rote while I hid behind first my schooling and later my career.

I am a rock; I am an island.
And a rock feels no pain,
And an island never cries.

No, it was not a lot of fun, but I did manage to survive - barely. All the while I longed desperately to feel whole, complete, and that I belonged somewhere (anywhere!). I knew that my future survival depended upon achieving that goal, and that it could only be achieved by living as the person I had always known myself to be. This realization and the open acknowledgement of my true self pushed me past my fears, and started me down the path of transition.

Within a few weeks of starting hormone therapy, parts of myself that I had always known were there but could never quite grasp began to become accessible. Little by little, I started to feel more and more complete as each new connection came alive, the way that a shadowy object in a dimly lit room becomes clearly recognizable as more and more illumination floods in through the unshuttered window. A continual reinforcement of these feelings and perceptions also occurred: each day, my confidence increased, which strengthened my sense of self, which increased my confidence, and so on. This feedback mechanism continues.

Perhaps reunited twins experience similar feelings; perhaps it's a validation of the "brain sex" theory. I just know that so many pieces fell into place so quickly that it was actually a bit scary! In what seemed like a very short time, I was a whole person - secure in myself, secure in my abilities, and secure of my place in the world. This boost in self-confidence enabled me to survive the early, difficult weeks of my "real life test", as well as establish the foundation of the all important "secure base". For the first time in my life, I could venture forth knowing that I was firmly anchored, and that I had a sanctuary for when things went wrong. While the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" continued to be all around, I could finally cope effectively with life's disappointments, and move on.

Today I am happily living, working, and playing as my true self, free to fully express who and what I have always been. Tasks and situations that used to seem impossible and overwhelming are now merely difficult and challenging. Self-awareness, confidence, and belief in yourself are the keys to success and happiness for anyone, transgendered or not. Our lives are all about finding our true identity and fulfilling our need to be a whole person, to be complete in both body and soul. Our therapists and our "real life test" experiences help us find our way, but in the end, it is up to us to put the pieces together.

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ETVC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 11, 1998

The monthly meeting of ETVC's Executive Committee was at Erin's, on Sunday, January 11, 1998. Social Co-Chair Evette RoqueLaurie was the only officer absent. The Meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

Communications and Announcements: Gianna Israel's book is out. Astria International Association is having a party on January 26. The Minutes: Sandra moved that December's Minutes be approved, Juana seconded and they were unanimously approved.

President Erin: There was discussion about Victoria Secret, who accused Sandra of espousing homophobia in her column. Victoria sent letters to Bay Times and BAR. Sandra's response made it to the Bay Times.

Vice President Leslie: The Cotillion was only three weeks away. Food had been decided upon. Leslie still had to talk with the tech person. The facilities will take care of any clean up. Leslie stressed that officers should sell tickets to ETVC members. Leslie was in the process of getting advertisers. The Cotillion should have eight contestants. Leslie suggested having a post-Cotillion discussion. Erin said that if the venue proved to be good, ETVC should secure it for next year. Lisa asked about a written timeline for future Vice Presidents. Leslie was working on one. Leslie then asked to leave so she could get back to work. She left at 6:15.

Secretary Veronica: Membership is 305 of which 64 are new. There was discussion of the newsletter. There was approximately \$600 saved on latest issue. Veronica and Elizabeth hope to save another \$400 with the next issue, which will be the first totally in-house production. It will then come out monthly. Multiple free copies will be severely cut back. February will be the last issue of Channel 2.

Treasurer Lisa: Between June 1 to December 26, 1997, ETVC spent approximately \$5,000 more than it took in. Lisa believed that ETVC must find other methods to pay for things. She asked for each officer to bring to the February ExCom meeting a list of expected expenses for the rest of February, March and April.

Outreach Co-Chairs Sandra and Telzey: When and how the ExCom should warn the members about the coming changes? There should be notice about the BBS and voice-mail systems being eliminated and being replaced with the web site. Sandra asked about Donna handing the distribution

of ballots and vote counting. Erin said she would address the upcoming election and bylaw changes in her column. Telzey asked about a new Hotline Resource Guide.

Education Co-Chairs Nancy and Juana: Flyers will be sent to Pacific Center, TARC and the Waddell Clinic for Dr. Schrang's lecture. Juana and Nancy wanted to cancel Christmas potlucks. Juana needed help locating excess Lady Like magazines and that ETVC owed Joann Roberts those issues and/or money. Juana wanted to have a panel discussion on Homophobia in the Transgender Community as an education seminar. Social Chair Darcy: There were 47 at the December Social. Saturday socials at CyberWorld have brought in folks who have rarely made weeknight socials. For the January 26 social, members will be invited to dress as their favorite French Femme. Edward of CyberWorld has asked for special French recipes. Darcy would like to move the time up for the socials at CyberWorld since they serve dinner there. February socials were incorrectly listed in The Channel. Corrections will appear in the last issue of Channel 2. April 8's mid-month social may be in Oakland. April 30's social will be at the Holiday Inn on Van Ness as part of California Dreaming. The May social will be election night. Masquerade might have a special drag event. Juana asked about group sales.

Old Business: There was a long discussion on the By-laws. Veronica had reformatted them and further refined them. Sandra had a few clarifications on membership and dues requirements. What was still missing from there was any description of officers' duties; they were left to be discussed under Standing Rules, which have yet to be written. Nancy stated that each position should have three clearly defined types of duties: Must, Should and Could. Nancy also suggested that rather than handle all of the officer descriptions at one time, the ExCom do a few each time. The officer whose duties will be discussed should prepare an outline of duties she sees need to be done. At the February meeting the Secretary and President will be defined. New Business: Lisa expressed qualms about the prospect of doing the newsletter in-house.

Adjournment: At 9:10 p.m., Lisa moved to adjourn. Erin seconded it and the motion was passed.



On the Town

Humorous Incidents

By Darcy Leopard

There have been several excursions of mine on the town in which, even though I didn't feel they were noteworthy enough to do a whole column about, nonetheless funny or interesting situations did occur. I've always wanted to do a column on these bits and pieces, so I guess this is the time!

One such time takes us back to the days when we had our mid-month socials at the Lineup, a friendly little Mexican restaurant with an outrageously gaudy neon sign out front, located at 7th and Harrison streets in South of Market. I had just strode in with my usual partner in crime Didi Mau, when we encountered a foursome of folks, two women and two men, who immediately lit up in delight upon seeing the scantily-clad Didi. Miss Mau, not one to be shy, immediately joined her admirers while I made my way to the back of the restaurant to join the rest of our gang.

A short while later, as we sat munching appetizers and sipping drinks, we noticed Didi get up from the table en route to an unknown destination. Or so it seemed. She suddenly froze in cute, mock alarm upon spotting a glistening scrap on the floor.

"Oh! Is that a penny?" she exclaimed in eager hopefulness, wasting no time in bending at the waist and fully exposing her famous derriere to her new friends. The ladies in the group positively shrieked with glee upon witnessing this grand, spontaneous sluttiness. Didi, now returned to an upright position with her hoped for treasure in hand, exclaimed in rather questionable disappointment, "Oh, I guess not."

ETVC President Erin Souza wasted no time wittily summing up this display. "I see Didi's doing Outreach," she said.

Another excursion with some hilarious moments occurred when ETVC's Executive Committee had a club planning retreat at the Asilomar Conference Center in Carmel. After spending a grueling eight-hour day en drab discussing ETVC's future, we decided to treat ourselves to a spicy night on the town en drag in Monterey. Only problem was, nobody really knew Monterey.

We decided to check a local weekly for ideas, and selected a place that received good reviews. The Mucky Duck. It turned out, upon actually visiting the place, that we should have brought our hip-waders.

The Mucky Duck is, plain and simple, a kick-back, very casual brew-pub where the locals come to relax over a cold one on the back patio and sink into good ole' boy 70's rock spun by a DJ under a tarp shack. This is the scene we strode into in our pretty dresses and heels! It was actually very cozy, with the centrally located, brick-enclosed fire pit making things very homey. I'm glad the regulars didn't throw us into the fire pit.

Despite jaws hitting concrete amidst smirks and whispers, we maintained our confidence and ordered up drinks. The staff of the establishment, in contrast to the patrons,

didn't seem to bat an eye at our presence, and served us right up. We then found ourselves in a situation where all the seats were taken and we were the only ones standing, making us stand out all the more in a situation where we were ridiculously out of place in the first place! The DJ wasted no time, and immediately served up the rock band Aerosmith's classic song, "Dude Looks Like a Lady."

We took the situation in good humor, and stood our ground while sucking down our drinks. It was actually kind of fun watching all of the reactions we received. They ranged from women giving us "Oh come now, gentlemen, just what are you up to?" looks, to ladies giggling that our social co-chair Evette was dressed "retro", to a little guy looking up at us in awe.

One drink's worth of this was enough, however, so we retreated to a partitioned area at the front of the establishment. This did little good, however, as the passing tourists proceeded to do triple-takes staring at us through the window, throwing all social graces out another window.

"Toto! Somehow I don't think we are in San Francisco anymore!"

Another silly situation happened at Club Oz, located at the top of the St. Francis Hotel. "Not in the Land of Oz, Toto, but good old San Francisco!"

Club Oz is a glitzy place where people who wish the 80's never left us like to get glamorous and dance. Not a bad scene for cross-dressers, actually!

Bree and I had popped in here one night after finding the elegant ground floor bar with a waiting list. We found great seats with a spectacular view, and ordered martinis. After sipping our drinks for awhile, a speech-slurring gentleman wandered into our little haven.

It turned out he was in town for the weekend on business. Somehow, he had completely lost track of his companions for the evening. He was a nice looking, middle-aged guy well dressed in a sport coat, but not really at his best. We invited him to sit and tell us his story, and he ended up buying us a round of martinis.

Naughty Bree blatantly started to flirt with him a bit before taking him for a spin on the dance floor. After they returned, our new friend sat and grinned at us with a gleam in his eyes. Did he have designs on us innocent girls? We decided to check out another venue, and our new friend accompanied us, still grinning, during our elevator ride to the ground floor.

As we exited the elevator, an unknown person suddenly caught his attention. Bree and I weren't sure what they started talking about, and we didn't stick around to find out. While our new admirer was temporarily distracted, we boogied on out of there as fast as we could move in our pumps. Terrible teases, aren't we?

Making Psychotherapy More User-Friendly

Katherine Reed, L.C.S.W.

It is time for a new approach to psychotherapy for persons pursuing sex reassignment. For years, psychotherapists have struggled with the awesome responsibility of certifying a person's readiness to change his/her life, usually without fully understanding what the change will mean for that person. Meanwhile the transsexual person has felt s/he is being held hostage to the process while trying to survive in an ignorant world in which even the psychotherapists need to be educated about how it feels. I believe that if we started with a completely different premise we would make the psychotherapy component of the process much more user friendly.

First, I would like to start from the assertion that you as a transsexual are different but not in any way defective. On the most basic level, you know who you are and what you need. When we start from this point of view, your time in psychotherapy can be spent exploring the truth of who you are, and developing your attitude of self-worth. In your journey of self-discovery there will inevitably be some aspects with which you are not comfortable. Because the purpose of psychotherapy is to increase your sense of your own value as a person, the therapist is your assistant in making the desired changes in your life. Psychotherapy is then seen as less a requirement imposed from outside and more as a personal

necessity to make life work better for you.

Second, recognizing that major life changes require resources--emotional physical, social and financial--the psychotherapist can help you to decide what additional resources you need and how to locate them. Since this process is often less straight forward than you might expect it to be, an experienced partner in the process can make a huge difference in the success of resource gathering.

Third, we have many unquestioned assumptions about men and women in our society. The process of actively manifesting both male and female aspects in your life can be a process filled with miscommunications and difficulties. Examining our understanding of how a woman thinks, processes information and behaves, and how a man does the same, can help to enhance communication and relations skills, leading to a more successful life.

Like most of life's journeys, this one is best not done alone. The support of a community enhances the process all along the way. That is the reason why I am organizing group psychotherapy for MTFs who are beginning the process of manifesting their truth about who they are. The therapy aspect of the group will meet the criteria of the HBGDA Standards of Care, while the group aspect will provide feedback, mirroring and sharing which will make the process easier and more effective. It can provide the beginning of a network of friends who are on the same timetable in facing the challenges of transformation.

The Peer Mentor for the group is Ms. Ayme Kantz. She will bring to the group the wisdom she has gathered in successfully living full time and in transition since 1991. For free enrollment information call 415-664-4940 or 415-751-2552.

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Letters To The Channel

Unhappy Channel Reader

Dear Erin:

I am writing to express my anger and indignation at a in the latest issue of the ETVC Newsletter. I quote this item verbatim, although the italics are mine:

Also in October, the NBC program Union Square featured a cross dresser depicted as a responsible member of society. When a woman even pointed out that he wasn't gay, he responded, "You see, I'm normal. Despite her witty reply, "I didn't say that," the spirit was one of public acceptance slowly replacing the ridicule we've endured for so long.

Apparently, ridicule of the gay community is not a problem for "Ms. Brewer."

According to this column, apparently sanctioned by ETVC, gay people are neither "normal" nor "responsible members of society." However, a straight man with a wife and children in the suburbs, who prefers to prance around San Francisco in a dress one night a month; patronizing businesses owned and operated by gay people who are not "normal" or "responsible" is somehow a paragon of "normalcy" to be emulated!

It is this kind of attitude on the part of ETVC members that destroys all the work that Ginny Knuth did in trying to forge a bond between ETVC and the gay community in San Francisco. It is this kind of attitude that causes many in the gay community to view ETVC as a group of middle-aged, middle-class, hypocritical homophobes.

I suggest that ETVC owes the gay community an apology for publishing this defamatory tripe.

Sincerely,
Victoria Secret

Sandra Replies

Bay Times Editor:

I understand an objection has been made to an item that recently appeared in my 'Sandra Reaches Out' column in the January/February ETVC Newsletter and this may have been sent to your office. In the limited space in my column I may have condensed a plethora of thoughts into too short a paragraph to convey them properly. Though I am an ETVC outreach officer in good standing, the thoughts expressed in the column are my own, and it was certainly not my intention to offend anyone. To promote better understanding, I will attempt to clarify these thoughts. The offending paragraph follows:

In October, the NBC program Union Square featured a cross dresser depicted as a responsible member of society. When a woman even pointed out that he wasn't gay, he responded "You see, I'm normal". Despite her witty reply "I didn't say that", the spirit was one of public acceptance, slowly replacing the ridicule we've endured for so long.

Let me begin by saying that I have nothing but the highest regard for people of any lifestyle, alternative or otherwise, as long as it doesn't infringe on the rights of others. I have seen and felt the wrath of both homophobia and transphobia of the worst kind. Gay or transgendered, we're all in this together, and we need to do all we can to break down any barriers between each other, and to the world at large.

A prime goal of my ETVC and other outreach efforts is to educate the public on who we are. A common misconception is that we're all gay. It's true that some of us are, but most transgendered people are not gay. Any statement that promotes this understanding without offending either group can only help the objectives of both. Despite (or maybe because of) a tongue-in-cheek implication that none of us, gay or transgendered, are normal (who really is), the NBC program described above treated us all with dignity; and at the same time it helped to educate the public of our unique qualities.

In my column I also discussed . . . Ellen, a show that week after week continues to thrive with new episodes dealing with lesbian issues. This has to help pave the way for public acceptance of all of our alternative lifestyles.

Sincerely,
Sandra Brewer

Erin, Too . . .

An Open Letter To The Community:

On behalf of the ETVC newsletter staff and columnist Sandra Brewer, I wish to apologize to Ms. Victoria Secret and everyone else who is angered and offended by the column in the latest issue of the ETVC newsletter. While we reserve the right of our contributors to express their opinions as wholly their own, sanctioning nor censoring no one; in this instance neither Sandra nor ETVC intended to offend or imply judgment of the gay community with the description of NBC's "Union Square" episode featuring a cross dresser. In noting the accepting spirit in which the show depicted a cross dresser, neither Sandra nor ETVC wished to imply agreement with any negative assumptions the show's characters or creators conveyed about the gay community. I am sorry that, inadvertently, we did.

I appreciate Victoria's concern regarding ETVC's relationship to the gay community. I, too, value and wish to maintain the harmony that Ginny Smith and others worked so hard to establish.

All of us, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, are entitled to respect. Bringing this about is a shared goal of both the gay and transgendered communities.

I hope we can continue in the spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Erin Souza, ETVC President