

Fantasia Fair 2007-- a trip report by Jan Brown

Whenever I go to a TG conference or big group get together, I try to write a trip report to show the members of my support group, Mid-Hudson Valley Transgender Association (MHVTA), how it went. I, along with 160+ attendees, joined together at the Fantasia Fair 2007 in Provincetown (out on the tip of Cape Cod) from Sun. October 13 Sun. October 20, 2007. I asked other attendees from our support group if they'd provide their views to flesh out the report from their own experiences.



Name	Where you live	How do you identify	Group Involvement
Janice	Putname Co. north of NYC	CD/TS	relatively new member of MHVTA
Rena	Western CT	CD	Attends COS & MHVTA
Sage	Western CT	SO	Spouse of Rena, COS MHVTA
Jan Brown	Dutchess Co. NY	CD	MHVTA, visit other places

From the Fantasia Fair website (<http://www.fantasiafair.org>):

“Fantasia Fair is a week-long transgender event that attracts people from the entire range of the GLBT community – crossdressers, transsexuals, intersex individuals, M2Fs, F2Ms, and their significant others are all welcome.

Started in 1975, “FanFair” is the oldest and longest-running gathering of transgender persons for mutual education, support, collaboration and socializing. Every year the Fair grows in its scope, character, and assistance to the gender explorer. FanFair continues to be the leading annual program promoting an individual’s ability to thrive in a real-life situation, and receive positive reinforcement and encouragement. This allows the cross dresser, MTF transsexual, FTM transsexual and all the gender diverse to experience life in an open and caring environment — something unique in a world that typically has difficulty understanding and accepting gender diversity.

Couples find support, friendship and caring, and enjoy the opportunity to share and partake of workshops and sessions that explore and recognize the ups and downs of a TG partnership.

Fantasia Fair promises to be an exciting, fun, and educational opportunity. Your CD or TS self will be able to develop confidence by exploring life in a real community without boundaries. Attendees can spend a full week or part of a week in beautiful Provincetown, enjoying the seaside beauty and the friendship of many wonderful T folks. Yes, you will make friends you will keep forever.”

“There was lots going on at the conference —

- Workshops, seminars, panel discussions addresses from community leaders and notables Banquets, Buffets, Luncheons, Evening Entertainment and time for socializing and networking”

Below: Tues Founders Dinner.. fun table of gals and everyone having a good time!!



To get the spirit of the convention, I asked the following questions:

Ques: What was your reason to attend FFair and what were your thoughts and expectations before you went.



Janice doing her thing

Janice: My reason to attend was that I knew Ptown would offer a completely accepting place and that for a whole week and I could be myself without reservation. That alone was a powerful incentive in itself to attend. Also, I knew that with the attendance there would be a wonderful set of collective knowledge that I could learn from and that there would likely also be the opportunity to meet wonderful people in which I had a lot in common with. This last one especially proved true as I met many great people that I am proud to call friends. My expectations were certainly fully met

Sage: I went to support Rena and I was a little nervous about going until Rena explained that it would just be a really good group meeting.

Rena: Reason For attending were to advance my education and refine my fem department.

Jan: I had heard such wonderful things by friends who had attended in the past and they raved about the whole week. You get a totally accepting town, great scenery (as if we were able to see much of it if you got involved in attending things) and warmth and hospitality from everyone.

Ques: What were the things you most enjoyed or appreciated?

Jan: Each day brought new things. I found the thoughtfulness at registration was great down to the bag of staples (tissues, bobby pins, safety pins, etc.) each newbie received and I felt totally enveloped in a bubble of acceptance and met a lot of new and already friends. It turned



Jan in the Fashion show: makeover and up before everyone!! What a kick!!

out many the presentations I went to were relationship based (ex: BYOI = "Bring Your Own Issues", another group presentation about sharing gratitude and love with your significant other and some really challenging keynotes by well known "perts" in the TG community including Helen Boyd, Veronica Vera, Jamison Green, Hawk Stone and Miqqi Gilbert. I presented a

talk which got good reviews (someone even came up and said my talk meant a lot to her and it was one of the reasons she came to Fantasia Fair from Florida). I passed people on the street who were friendly and courteous and never heard an untoward comment.

Sage: The company was the best, getting to meet all those great ladies (and gents). To stay at a really lovely inn where I felt very very pampered, it was just glorious there. The weather was great as was the scenery but the best part of all was having my beloved with me for five whole days.



Presentations.. Miqqi introducing Hawk Stone and Helen Boyd Keynote



Introduction to Fantasia Fair meeting Jameson Green Keynote

Janice: The things most enjoyed or appreciated were meeting the wonderful people I met and the friendly atmosphere, the great people who

own the inn in which I stayed, and the acceptance by the people of PTown as you moved about and experienced their hometown.

Rena: There was but one thing and that was spending true quality time with friends in our most natural state (Enfemme) and the length of time I was able to spend there.

Ques: What would you like to see at future FFair's or similar events? What things would you change?

Rena: More emphasize on Fem look and deportment i.e. Hair, makeup, nails, posture, and movement, but if the hair doesn't work nothing does. Communications was difficult regarding events especially for first timers.

Sage: It was too short a time, the days were just not long enough and there were not enough of them. I wish I could have talked to a few more of the very interesting people that we got to meet. It's kind of hard to answer that as this was our first time and I really didn't know what to expect. I would have liked to have some more private chat time with other SO's



The elegant Sage and Rena smoozing the floor!

Jan: I think I liked the fact that significant others (SO's) were so well represented and active. They had specific SO workshops and meetings setup just for them. In other conferences, you see the TG community and the presentations are geared toward them with the Drs. coming in to promote their business. It wasn't the case here. Yes, there was a few presentations focused on hormones and surgery but it was more focused on the total transgender experience and runs the gamut from instructional to personal. One of the things I was able to do for me personally was I took home a sense of gratitude for my spouse who allows me space for Jan but is only oh so slowly becoming involved to a minimal extent and I shared that with her to say she is so special. I think each event I've attended allowed me to grow and become realistic to who I am but also not forgetting who I am.

The weather was great except for the night of the Follies when it poured but overall The temperature ranged from 60's - 70's. There were some no-show presenters but things were juggled well as I got to see other presenters

instead and all were good. I actually went to all of the keynote presentations so didn't do a lot of shopping.. OK, I bought a blouse. So there really wasn't much to change. Lunch at area restaurants was fun meeting others; same with dinner (I made lots of friends).



The follies was a visual treat to all the senses.. You work it girls!!



More Follies.. Jamie Dailey

and Sissy Stephanie

Janice: things to change would be an attempt to get even more people to meet one another; an attempt to have people in similar situations have an easier chance to meet, and sunshine for all 7 days (!!!!). At future fairs or

events I would like to see more gurls! And more parties! ..but also more professionals in terms of docs and therapists etc. And the only improvements I thought would be to have more professional people there i.e. doctors, therapists, etc.



Mr. Cinderella



Ms. Congeniality

Quickie Ques: What was the funniest thing that happened?

Rena: I suppose it was when I changed back to drab that hardly anyone recognized me.



Rena wandering the stores in Ptown.. such fun!!

Janice: The funniest thing was when I went on my merry way thru town with the price and size tag still attached to my garment!! Embarrassing!

Jan: Actually there were 2 things.. the night it poured was the night we were invited to attend a "Fetish Party" at a local nightspot and it was walking down the cobblestone street, up a big hill, and into the night club in open toed high heels in a driving rainstorm hugging onto a friend with her little umbrella trying to avoid the puddles enroute. OK.. it was like walking in a storm in a short skirt and trying to avoid water at all costs. I learned I don't shrink. **Darn!!** Another time we were out to dinner and conversation was flying back and forth. Sage and I got started with the giggles and couldn't stop. It was so much fun.

Sage: When we met a couple that was staying at the same inn as we were, the GG said "We thought you were a normal couple until we saw you both carrying ball gowns up to the room." AND another time when we went out for dinner at Napi's (below) and I had a serious case of the giggles. Oh, another thing at Napi's that was funny was the signs on the bathroom doors were not "woman" / "men"; it was "Either" / "Or".



Dinner at Napi's

What presentations did you attend & were most meaningful?

Janice: I attended many sessions: Stitch and Bitch (knitting), Hormones 101 Getting a Feminine Voice, Starting and Maintaining a Support Group, New Gal Drop-in (daily get together), Sissy Stephanie's talk on being a Sissy, Your feminine toolkit, Veronica Vera's presentation on her School for Boys who want to be Girls. The most meaningful thing I got from the sessions was the sense that there is a wonderful community ready to lend support and knowledge to one another.

Jan: Miqqi's keynote "The Public Crossdresser", Jan's Support Group talk, Older TG's, Jamison Green's keynote "The Corporate Connection", BYOI, Mariette Pathy Allen's Slideshow on "TG's in the Pacific Rim", Hawk Stone's keynote "Trans-ing the World", Helen Boyd's "Queering Your Sexuality", Leslie Fabian's "A Positive Spin", Helen Boyd's keynote "The Middle Path", Heather Kay's "Voice, Gender, Action!", Veronica Vera's keynote "TransIntegration" and the Transgender Spirit Circle. I liked them all but Leslie Fabian's helped me focus on my spouse and how grateful I am to her.

Ques: What did you think of PTown and your accomodations?



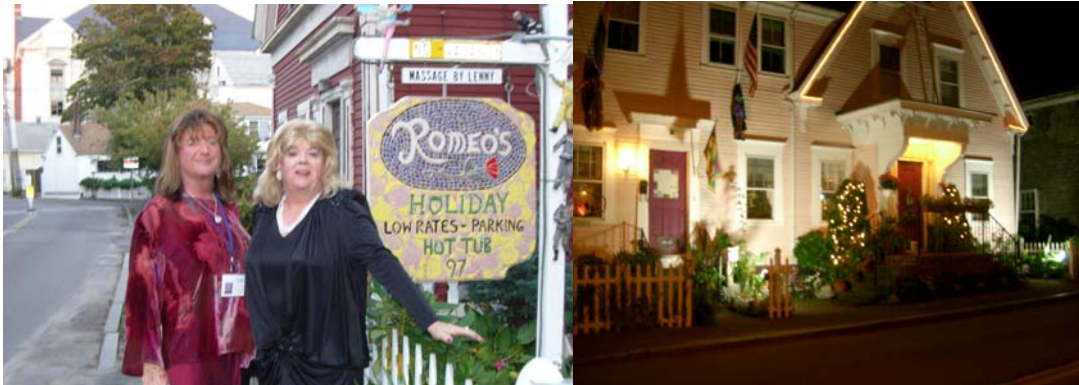
Janice:. I can't say enuff about both Ptown AND my Inn. Both were absolutely wonderful... My Innkeepers at Romeo's Holiday were the best, most friendly folks, I can't say enuff good things about them. It was absolutely a wonderful, beautiful week!!!

Sage : Absolutely fabulous, it was the nicest Inn I have ever been to and the town went out of its way to be very very welcoming

Rena: Ptown was great, good food, comfortable rooms, but I could see the town spending a little more time and money on sidewalks and streets and signing.

Jan: Janice and I stayed at Romeo's Holiday, the owners of the guest house couldn't have been nicer. It was close to all the activities and had morning breakfast with fresh hot muffins; they always took the time to talk. We got

on famously with everyone. I attribute a lot of positive vibes from their warm and caring spirit. We each had a room with was quaint and charming and in my case, it was a closet but that's what I paid for. All the places in PTown were open to Fair attendees (gee.. I guess we bring \$\$ don't we). The restaurants and shops were very accommodating.



Jan with Patti (from NJ) at Romeo's and at night..

Ques.: Would you like to attend again? Why?

Sage: Definitely, we are already making plans. It was like a gift to have some real time with Rena, so many "firsts". And I had the chance to meet people that I had only known as online friends,

Janice: I would luv to attend again and will do so next year. Why? See everything above!!!! :-)

Jan: Why? Yes.. but of course..

