

Fantasia Fair 2008-- a trip report by Jan Brown with the help of an amazing cast of new and old friends

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 2008 in Provincetown (way out on the tip of Cape Cod) from Sat. October 18 Sun. October 26, 2008. I asked other attendees from our support group and friends I met 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	Putnam Co. N of NYC	CD/TS	Member of MHVTA; 2 nd timer at Fair
Sage & Rena	Western CT	CD / SO	Attend COS MHVTA, 2 nd timer at Fair
Jan Brown	Dutchess Co. NY	CD	MHVTA, visit other places; 2 nd timer at Fair
Denise Armel	Eastern Massachusetts	CD/TS	Involved w/Tiffany & Mass. Groups, 1 st timer at Fair
Odelesia (Del)	Eastern Massachusetts	CD	Not involved; 2 nd timer at Fair
Sandy Flynn	Buffalo, NY	TS	2 nd timer; leads Spectrum TG group
Sue & Ricki	Eastern, PA	SO / CD	1 st timers at Fair & looking for groups
Paula West	Western CT	CD	Attends COS ; 1 st timer at Fair
Susan Nagel	Central CT	GG	Service provider – owns makeup and nail studio
Glenda	Florida	CD/TS	Not involved; 1 st timer
Christina & Mary	New Hampshire	CD / SO	1 st timers and 1 st time out in TG community

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 – cross dressers, 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. Fantasia Fair 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”

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

Ques: What did you expect going to Fantasia Fair and how did it work out for you? Anything funny happen?

Paula W: I went with the expectation of having a very different experience. Something totally foreign to my everyday life. I had never dressed up for more than a single evening prior to this. I was able to put my male self into the closet (literally) for an entire week and let my female self emerge as much as possible for days and days and evenings and.... it was priceless!

Denise: I tried not to have any expectations except to take advantage of all the resources available to educate myself about where I am and where I might want to go on my Transgender journey. It worked out fantastically as I will detail below. Let's see,

"Anything funny happen." Ah, one funny moment happened while on stage at the fashion show. I had been given some money by some of the audience and wasn't quite sure what to do with it. One of the MCs, Robyn was telling me to put it in my bra. Well, you can see from the photo of me in the black dress, on stage with Liz, the dress did not allow for me to do that. So when I reached Liz, after returning from the runway, I put the money in her bra! You can see in the picture her retrieving it. There were many humorous moments but that one stands out for me.



Fashion Show: Christina, Jan, Denise Paula (and Paula again) and Everybody

Jan: Everything was pretty much the same as last yr. I stayed in the same guesthouse and saw a lot of friends from past yrs and made some new ones. The funny thing happened before going out to PTown. I met and traveled to PTown with Sandy from Buffalo in her RV. We met up at Susan's nail salon in Ct. and then onto a Tiffany Club meeting in Boston. We enjoyed the meeting and to save money, we were going to camp in a WalMart parking lot but it turned out, they let us camp in the Tiffany Club parking lot in downtown Waltham (ie: Boston) and froze. Sandy had problem with her heater and my toes were SOOOO cold that night. I woke up shivering.. but it is a fun memory.. NOW!!

I love being in the Fashion Show. I see pictures and realize I did that and wow.. I did it last year and again this year. a hoot both time!

If I think about each day, there were highlights and great times. Going out on the town was good. I took several of the vocal sessions and it was funny to do warm-up sounds and listen to everyone including me and repeat "This is the voice I choose to speak in today". There was 1 fabulous workshop (mentioned later).

Glenda: I expected a relaxing week in a seaside resort town with occasional classes, events, and outings. After I got home, I realized how tired I was. I was probably only getting 5 hours of sleep a night. I was busy during the day with all the classes and meetings, stayed out late at night because I didn't want the night to end, and got up early the next day so as not to miss anything. Karaoke night on Thursday was comical in that I was afraid to get up and sing. I was at the bar flirting with the bartender and decided to do a shot of Jack Daniels. He filled a cup to the top and handed it to me (OMG). Fifteen minutes later I was up singing Lola by the Kinks. LOL.....



Rooming at Romeo's.. Janice and Glenda

Janice: I went last year so I knew what to expect. I did wonder whether it would be as much fun, and it was.

Staci: Before going to Fanfair, I read everything I could get my hands on about the event, so my expectations were that PTown was a very diverse and trans-friendly locale and that I would have the run of the town without having any worries. In general, my expectations were fulfilled, although I did feel nervous walking around town alone late at night.

On Thursday evening, we were on our own for dinner so a bunch of us went to the Lobster Pot to dine. As we entered the dining room, a civilian woman noticed us, so she alerted all the people at her table about our presence and they began craning their necks to get a good look. Five days in, I was sick and tired of tourists gawking at trannies, so I waved at the table of gawkers using my girliest limp-wristed wave. Their mouths went agape and they quickly stuck their heads in their menus.

Christina & Mary: I expected alot of tourist rubbernecking, and although some definitely were. I found the town as a whole very friendly and accepting.the rest of the country should try being as hospitable as the people of PTown.

Sage: We had been there before so we pretty much knew what to expect. The funny thing was my black leather jacket went on a little holiday, I lost it on Monday night and it came back to me on Thursday. Also I took a class in how to walk like a girl and then was to shy to practice in front of everybody.

SusanN: I expected to meet lots of people and I did. It was wonderful. I made friends as well as acquaintances. I also expected to see TGs in a comfortable non-threatening environment. I did, but early in the week so many of the girls were really nervous. That I didn't expect. As the week progress, the inhibitions melted away. FUNNY?? I knew I was accepted when the very first night when Erin's wife Laurel was introduced to me as "Larry" and was asked to feel her stubble. We all laughed and enjoyed that. I also expected to learn a lot about the TG community and I did. So much so that it was three days before I could sort most of it out in my mind. The trip was invaluable to me. It exemplified how little I knew, but provided resources to aim forward with my broad based plans.

Ricki & Sue: We really did not know what to expect and thought that we would just keep our options open. That means we had our eyes open and could take everything in. Nothing especially funny happened except that we kept missing Pilgrim House (it is tucked away off the street) and had to go around 3 times until we could spot it; and when is traffic "funny?"



Fantasia Follies





Del: I was totally unprepared for things. I had forgotten how to dress, makeup, etc., and I was staying in a place I know nothing about. In the end, it was a fantastic fair and it greatly surpassed my expectations. One interesting event was at Bubala's, late one night, where a rock band was playing the last gig of the season. Several "girls" were there having a great time and we were the whole audience with the exception of a few other people. One of the band members referred to us as "The Party Girls", and right there, in an instant, a new group was born. We carried this theme for the whole week. I don't know what we will do in the future but expect to hear something from this clan.

Rena: This was my second year at the Fair (A real veteran) so I really knew what to expect. A few things have changed for the fair under new leadership. There were many Supporting Folks that weren't there this year as in the last year and I feel they were missed. I can see the Fair is having its share of growing pains and the economic times are not helping with putting something like this event in action. But yes the Fair will always be a very special event for Sage and I and we will continue to go as long as it is possible

Sandy (provided an all in one answer): When I arrived in P'Town, it was cold and dismal. It didn't help that downtown was 3/4 of a mile away as I was camping in my RV. I said to myself that this would be the last year, but upon meeting some old acquaintances and those who soon became friends, and then the seminars reinforced things which were taught last year or at a different conference, it almost made the trip worthwhile. Later on, I put in my application for next year was because, to me, the best-most entertaining and

enjoyable part was the fashion show. To me, it was what Fantasia Fair is all about. It was very rewarding and fulfilling. It built self esteem and was a tremendous confidence builder. And it came at the right time, with my "improved" body. And then on top of that, I hope to find a better place to stay next year because the RV gets lonely for one. I know it will be nice, with my friends around. That's more what FanFair is all about.. the people and the common and not so common things we did. One of my favorite seminars was lead by Ari Kane as I feel she has a true grasp of transgenderism and that she provides a living history; most of what she says should be weighed very heavily. She is our past still living and helped form our heritage that we are now enjoying. I also enjoy listening to Mara Kessling. I liked what Denise said about living the moment. We can do nothing about yesterday, we live in the present and plan for the future. I plan on attending FF next year.



Mon. night Karaoke



Sue, Ricki, Jan, Rena, Janice & Sandy

Ques: Was Fantasia Fair special for you and why? Or why not?

Del: This was my first full fair and I and an absolute blast. It was really special to me because I connected with people to greater degree than ever before. Apart from the usual fair expectations, my highlight was seeing everyone and spending time "being me" with all the friends, new and old.

Janice: It's always special because you meet great people and have a wonderful time.

Christina & Mary: The fair was special for me because it allowed me the opportunity be free and express who I am and have always been. transgendered is difficult when society can't see into the real person and realize they have a right to peace the pursuit of happiness, too.

SusanN: Special is such a small word for my feelings. I was an outsider. I was wholeheartedly accepted. Sharon (Kohl) cautioned me not to be or become a mother to the girls. So far so good.. However, I became upset Saturday when my friend Dana wasn't initially allowed into the dinner. She arrived late and I didn't realize I needed to pre-register her for the dinner. Dana looked so nervous. She hadn't been out so much before and several people were rude to Dana. I was so mad I couldn't speak. After

everything special all week, it just didn't make sense. These were the same people who had been so different and nice all week. She was just going to take the car back to the B&B, I said to Dana, "we're out of here", and we left. I was shaking so much that I could barely unlock the car. I don't know who obtained the approval, but Jamie let us know it was ok to let her in. I generally don't get mad, but I was livid. About dessert, I stopped shaking.

Sage: Very much so, the chance to get away with my darling Rena was fabulous

Rena: Yes it was very special, Seeing many many dear friends and making many new ones, I suppose Fairgoers is what truly makes the Fair memorable. It's a concentration of like minds and hearts

Glenda: Actually, it was very special for me in that I got to experience what it was like to live 24/7 as a female. As the days went on, I found myself adapting and improving. I especially became more proficient at applying makeup as I was always in a hurry to be somewhere. Sometimes I would get somewhere and realize I forgot to put my earrings on or wear my rings. I learned to be more organized.

Ricki & Sue: This was really special. We made great friends (I know most people don't believe it but I am one of the shyest people you will ever meet--it's true!) and everyone was great. In the past week I haven't written so many emails in my life (and keep them coming ladies!). We are already planning for next year with everyone.



Densie, Glenda, Staci



Club Purgatory sign = party city

We could be ourselves for an entire week and it flew by. What could be better than that? We even got to see Jimmy James on the first night (for those who don't know of him/her the most amazing physical and vocal impersonations ever.. a Marilyn Monroe to die for) That was icing on the cake.

Denise: Fantasia Fair was definitely the most special experience I have had since coming out and accepting this side of me in the Spring of 2007. I have had many firsts since then, first time going out dressed, (to Tiffany Club), attending 1st Event 2008, the first

out time in a public restaurant, but none can match the feeling of freedom that I felt at Fantasia Fair. The exhilaration of being Denise 24/7, of coming and going anywhere for a full week, and acceptance respect by all, inside and outside the "community" was a dream come true! It has given me the courage, confidence and pride to let Denise shine through in everyday life.



Jan having fun on the beach.....and preparing for the Sat. banquet

Jan: I think being Jan for an entire week was special as I don't have lots of opportunity and meeting some really nice people. Meals were good (except for one lunch) because we went to different restaurants and sat with friends and made new friends daily. There were an eclectic mix of programs and inclusion of the SO's.

Paula W: Hell yes! I met a lot of wonderful girls who, thru their everyday gender expression, challenged and then expanded my understanding of what gender identity means. I now am able to see that gender does not have to be limited to a binary model - male OR female but rather can be a range of expression. It is more personal than our societal model.

Staci: FanFair was special to me because it gave me the opportunity to experience being en femme for an extended period of time (seven days).

Ques: What presentation or talk was most meaningful and why?

Denise: I got so much from all the workshops and keynotes I attended, but the one most memorable and emotional for me was when Jenny Boylan spoke. OMG, she struck a cord with me when the end of her talk, she emphatically urged us all to "go out and SHOW who we are. I began to cry and went to meet her after with tears falling. She gave me a big hug and literally a shoulder to cry on. I felt a connection with her because she had made her journey and transition in Maine. I had graduated from UMaine a few years before she graduated from Colby. I could really relate to how difficult it must have

been for her in that less than accepting environment. I would also like to note that I was very happy with the Opening and Closing Spiritual Circles. Holly was wonderful. Having at the beginning and end of the Fair is really a good thing. One really acquires an immediate emotional and personal connection with the other participants. It was really interesting to observe the changes that took place to each person at the end of the week. More should experience it, yet to many attending at the same time would detract from the intimacy. There were approximately 10-12 participants. All but 2 or 3 returned for the Closing Circle.

SusanN: I was lucky enough to sit in Holly Boswell's "Beyond Man or Woman" talk Holly helped me assimilate the scope of the TG community. I came away "WOW", do I have a lot more to learn. Just because there is a biological need to be a woman, the "Things your Mother Never Taught You" session reiterated what I suspected. It appeared to help those who attended when I did. After years and years of being drilled on how to be a man, learning to be the woman, each person's needs helped me know that there was a need for more. My plans if successful would be able to satisfy part of the need.

Ricki & Sue: I did not attend many (those kind of things are never high on my list and as someone who is comfortable in my own skin and one who has been at this for awhile it was not as compelling for me to go as it might be for some others) but the guest speakers (especially Mara from NCTE--and EVERYONE should join and make a contribution to this great organization since they are there for all of us) were excellent. Also I got a lot from the two sessions on voice and movement.



Jennifer's sessions on wigs

Staci: Sandra Cole's group meeting for girls attending without their SO's was worth the price of admission. My SO is not very supportive and attending FanFair without her approval made me feel guilty (as do other things I do en femme). In a nutshell, Sandra made me realize that despite my wife's lack of support, I must be true to myself and do things en femme occasionally.

Del: The most meaningful was Sandra Cole's talk about being alone at the fair. I thought it was great to hear different peoples situations and perspectives. I felt that I really

wanted to meet all the wives and, in some way, express my gratitude for being with us even if not fully supportive. This session also invoked some emotions and tears, on may part, and I felt a sense of relief after I had a change to talk.

Sage: "The ancient wisdom of the goddess" maiden, mother and crone. it was very powerful, reveling and uplifting.

Rena: The more meaningful presentations for me were the Transgender Thought Seminars (how you are feeling and thinking about yourself and the community), Joanne Frost and Dru's seminars were practical and interesting; I got a lot out them. The Wigs and Makeup seminars were ones I was really looking forward to however I and few others felt the presenter (who knew her work and was talented) didn't convey her knowledge well to a group so the knowledge could absorbed and taken home The seminar conducted by Robyn about Walking and Deportment was Fabulous! ☺

Jan: There was 1 discussion group for TG's w/o partners and that moved me and caused me to rethink how I was dealing with my spouse. Sandra Cole was the leader and she listened and then gently probed and got us all talking and thinking. I enjoyed the vocal sessions with Lezli as something totally different. I think the other presentation which was awesome was mine.. no.. only kidding!



Happy Vanessa



More follies fun

Christina & Mary: I really enjoyed walk the walk and had fun with it. couldn't strut my stuff enough practicing. thank you, Robyn.

Janice: The talk regarding coming to the fair without your SO. It was very good and lots of emotion was evident in the room. Very touching.

Paula W: Sandra Cole led a discussion group for TG's only on various issues mostly dealing with how we present the inner woman. She is extremely gifted in bringing our feelings out in a positive way and helping us see that most of us have similar feelings.

Rochelle: I didn't attend FFair.. I was just a visitor, I can only say the Follies was the best I have seen over the years of attending various conferences. A job well done but those involved in the entertainment portion and the MC was great.

Glenda: Well, I have been working on my voice so Lezli Whitehouse's classes were important for me. I also took some private voice lessons from her and it helped me a great deal. I never understood why a TG will buy nice clothes and makeup and look fabulous but talk in a deep voice. To me that's almost drag. It gets you clocked in 2 seconds flat. I like to try and remain below radar as much as possible and using my feminine voice helps me to do that. I know it requires a lot of work but it is so worth it. Anyways, that's my take on it. Isn't the goal to try to be as passable as possible? Also, it was ironic that one of the classes I thought I would like the least was just the opposite. It was titled "Poetry Jam" by Abby Saypen. So as not to show up without my homework, so to speak, I scribbled together a short poem over a cup of coffee at the Purple Feather coffee shop just before the class. I'm so glad I did because part way into the class Abby turned to me and said, "Okay its your turn." I had to stand up in front of the class and read this really lame poem LOL but at least I had one to read. I even got some mercy applause! Some of the girls were so creative and talented. They read their poems like an actress would in a stage play. Trankila and her SO both told anecdotes. Trankila's was amusing, hers eyewatering.

Ques: For Significant Others.. what did you learn that was important to you?



Sage and Rena



Sue (Jan) and Ricki

Sage: the time together, a vacation with my very best friend. the chance to go out for lunch (and dinner) with friends. a little shopping even Grand Union with Rena is fun but walking on the beach just the two of us was very romantic.

Ricki & Sue: As for our SO experience, I have been more than blessed by not only knowing my wife but for her support for close to 4 decades (and there were other SOs there exactly like Sue). She is great to me but she was great with all of our newly met "gal pals" (a term I have to credit Kim with) and she and another SO (like Sue also a fantastic lady) are going to do a session next year for SOs which stress all the positive aspects of being a TGSO, CDSO, or TSSO.

Christina & Mary: I learned that there are a lot of people with the same interest from all walks of life and professions so I was very surprised how common it is.

Ques: For 1st timers.. what did you learn that was important to you?

Denise: It was not so much what I learned that was important as what was reinforced. The diversity of the transgender community is enormous. Everybody has their own unique "story" that puts them at a certain place in the transgender spectrum. You really should not worry about where you have been or, be in to much of a hurry trying to figure out where you should go. Enjoying where you are at any given "moment" can really make the journey a much more pleasant, peaceful and happy one. The positive energy given off by those I met, who feel that way, was strong and inspiring. That was important to me so that after returning home I handled the "pink fog" like a champion!

Christina & Mary: you only live once so be who you are.



Christina relaxing.. a charming couple from Canada.. Sage grinning (like usual)

Staci: Having attended a few long weekend T-events in the past, I looked forward to the opportunity to be en femme 24/7 for seven days instead of three days. After seven days en femme, I reached a new level. I stopped thinking about the fact that I was en femme and began living like a woman. All the techniques I used to be en femme became second nature; I did not have to think about using those techniques because they were now

natural. I believe that during Fantasia Fair, I came as close to being a natural woman as I could be and I hope that that second nature will stick with me forever.

Paula W: That I can actually get up each morning, put on my face, dress and go out en-femme and enjoy it. I was not at all worried or scared about being read or not accepted.. That was incredibly freeing and powerful



serious sessions as well

and there was

Glenda: For some reason I thought that I would be spending most of my time as a male and dressing as Glenda when there was an event. As it turned out, there was just no time for my male self and I ended up spending all 7 days as a female. When it came time to leave I felt strange being a male again.



Susan pre-Fantasia



"Kare-E-Oke"

**Ques: What did you like about PTown and not like about PTown?
Would you attend> again?**

Glenda: PTown is a quaint little seaside village and I felt totally comfortable walking around town. The people were so nice and accepting of us and I was able to experience what it would be like to live full time as a female. It was the ultimate fantasy come true. Okay, some of the stores were closed for the season and sometimes it was cold and rainy but I was not to be deterred by frivolities.... and yes I shall return.

Janice: I will attend again. I love PTown and the cons are far outweighed by the pros.

Christina & Mary: We loved everything about PTown. The parking could be better. but, hey, it's a small price to pay for such a great town.

Del: I love PTown and I go there often in the summer time. Most definitely, I will continue to come back.



Jamie and Rena



Sandy

Ricki & Sue: Although a "first-timer" in a technical sense at P'town, we went for years to the Eureka Getaway in Eureka Springs, Arkansas (yes Arkansas) as well as being out and about as far away as London. But being the constantly observant person that I am, I also saw things as a first timer would and spent a lot of time with one lady who was a genuine first timer and I watched her grow every day. So it is a great first time experience.

The meals were excellent and on the rare occasions they were not included we ate on our own and had some wonderful food.

The town is open and welcoming. But again, it all comes back to friends. Just sitting here writing this makes me smile.

Rena: PTown was great as always, a little cold and windy, but the entire atmosphere for the Trans Community was as Always.. Fabulous!!



Walking tour of PTown led by Alison Laing

Denise: The acceptance, peace and tranquility of PTown is wonderful. I have been visiting there for years. For so many of those years I was and admiring observer of the culture, envious that I could not participate. Two times this past summer, I visited PTown as Denise to experience the culture from the other side. WOW! And then to top it off with a full week was SPECTACULAR! Yes, I would definitely attend again

Staci: PTown is very picturesque and most of the civilians I encountered were trans-friendly (or so clueless that they did not realize I was en femme). Most of the restaurants were excellent and during my 7-day stay, I think I had only one meal that was disappointing. I didn't like Gawking tourists, cobblestone sidewalks, and businesses that were closed for the season or open for limited hours. I would like to absolutely attend again (budget-dependent)

SusanN: PTown was fine. I enjoyed the shops and off season sales. The towns people were very nice and accommodating. The whole trip was expensive. The soft and hard drink costs were considerably higher than I expected for the Fantasia Fair get togethers where tickets were required. It must be difficult to find accepting communities for 8 days of Fantasia Fair. From that aspect, PTown may be as good as it gets on the east coast.

Paula W: I liked that I could walk down the street and into any shop however I felt like dressing that day and most shop owners were very welcoming. I spent one day trying on about 25 dresses in one shop because I had never been able to do that before back home. I am planning to come back in 2009 with my spouse.

Sage: yes we will go again. I like everything about the town except having to wear flats but all the walking was great aerobic exercise.



Jan: PTown is a neat little town which has a special charm and likes to have fun. The one night several of us went out on the town, the locals just went along with the flow and we had a fun time. I love when we can get together and just sit and talk and talk. Yes.. I plan to attend again but this time I will talk more with my spouse to get her approval vs. just telling her.



One thing which was surprising was visiting the library. Someone told us to go to the 2nd floor and behold something special. It was..

And they have internet you can use if the internet doesn't work in your guesthouse.

Ques: Is there anything you might change or add?

Janice: More parties, more people!!

Denise: The only thing I would be to have is more entertainment options available. I saw a promotional piece of all the entertainment available the week before, during Women's Week, there was a lot to choose from. Other than that, it was amazing how co-ordinated and "user friendly" the event was. And, as a first timer, I felt really welcomed and catered to. Just a terrific job!)

Staci: I would replace the cobblestone sidewalks with shag carpeting.

Sage: Some of the session needed a better description of what they were and a little more variety would be nice.



Really nice shot of Rena

Rena: I truly wish that there was more in number and more positive sessions available for couples; even if there isn't a moderator available to conduct it.. just a space for open sessions and discussion. Oh and maybe something other than a Fetish night; something more open for mingling as we are not all Fetish minded

SusanN: Not that I can think of now. Of course, in a few days I will think of tons and tons more. I don't care, may even like, my picture shown, except the fat red tomato/pumpkin in the ugly hair and makeup.

Christina & Mary: We can't think of anything to change really.

Ricki & Sue: The first evening's get-together (Murder and a Mystery) fell flat. We have also suggested dropping the term Fetish night after the Follies (the Follies were SPECTACULAR by the way, as was the Fashion Show which I had the joy of being in too) and using the term Costume or Halloween night. Everyone knows what that means and those who did not come because they were unsure what "fetish night" meant would come now and anyone who wanted to dress in fetish could be more than free to do so. The town could also use a few less t-shirt shops and a few more clothing stores but that is just this girl's observation (I mean c'mon, the shopping in the aforementioned Eureka Springs Arkansas was great and P'town rather ho-hum).

As for adding anything else, how many different ways can one say "fantastic?" This was our first year that we could go but we are going to register as soon as the registration comes up on line. We had the time of our lives and cannot wait to return. It is our "mecca" ladies--you are not confined to a hotel, you can do anything your little heart desires and did I mention that you make friends?

Del: There was one fair a few years ago, maybe four, where one of the evening events was a concert with a very talented TG pianist. I believe her name was Sarah Buchner. This was such a CLASSY event and I really wish we had more of those.

The follies and fashion show are fun but I feel the need to balance them with more "serious" events, ones that I would attend in "real life". This year's follies, however, was truly great with the participation of some SO's and the excellent quality of some of the presentations. My favorite was the Broadway star SO (don't remember her name) but she gave me goosebumps. Wow.

I felt that the Monday night event, the mystery, was the one I least liked.

PaulaW: Not at this point!

Jan: I liked the final dinner meal and the fact that people were having a great time and there weren't long boring speeches. I didn't think the mystery night went over well since it was done in a dark bar where you couldn't hear as there were other conversations going on about you and the food there was nothing to write home about. I would also like to see more variety of keynote speakers. Which had a definite TS activist bend. Maybe that's who speaks these days.

