

State University of New York College at Buffalo - Buffalo State University

Digital Commons at Buffalo State

Buffalo Belles Newsletters

Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
Transgender Archives of Western New York

7-2001

July 2001

Buffalo Belles

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buffalobelles>

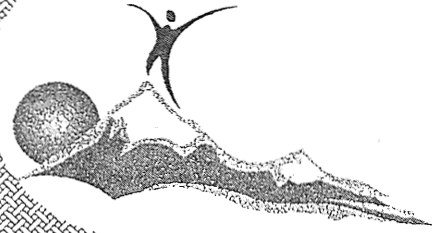


Part of the [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), [History Commons](#), and the [Museum Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Buffalo Belles, "July 2001" (2001). *Buffalo Belles Newsletters*. 81.
<https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buffalobelles/81>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Archives of Western New York at Digital Commons at Buffalo State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Buffalo Belles Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Buffalo State. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu.



THE JOURNEY

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO BELLES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

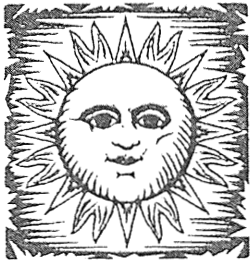
KATHY VENTS 1

CAMILLE'S CORNER 2

Tina on The Pride Parade 3

ANDY'S ADVENTURES 7

g Events 8



MEETING PLACE

UPDATE

AS OF 5:18PM

JULY 7TH WORK

HASN'T

STARTED ON

THE ADDITION



Dear Members,

My editorial last month at least stirred some members up to do one of two things: stay away or get Janice to finally attend a meeting for a change. The former is the most common reaction. As best as could be recalled later by one of the attendees Janice, Colleen, Kendra, Denise, Trissa and one unknown girl making her debut.

The six there tied the record set for least attended meeting. That other time only six came was our very first meeting held back in September '92. Janice was at that one also. Humph, is there a pattern there? That meeting held then was the start of a pretty successful group. Maybe this is our start once more. Or has the patient gone to Intensive Care?

My call to involvement by others went pretty much unheeded. The only one who has shown any interest is Denise. She sent the following Email to me to send out.

Subj: (no subject)
 Date: 6/23/01 7:58:14 PM Eastern Daylight Time
 From: Djphammerman2
 To: [REDACTED]
 CC: KATHYLORR

Hi Ladies,

I don't know if Rebecca has left yet, so as you see I am sending a copy to Kathy.

This is in regards to the Buffalo Belles Org. Seems to be some misunderstandings or whatever in the group. A couple of us ladies want to get them resolved and would appreciate it if in the next bulletin you could please ask all the ladies to attend the meeting whether dressed or not. We need as many of the members there this month so we can get on with business and continue to be a group. This can only happen if we have a very good turnout at the next meeting.

Thank you,
 Denise P.

PS If you could fwd this to all those who have computers it would also help. I know all the girls don't have computers, but some word of mouth may also help for those who have phone#'s,etc.



CAMILLE'S CORNER

Life is a journey. It is often fun, sad, baffling and mysterious. Each day presents an opportunity to learn, to grow; to appreciate family and to cherish friends.

The Buffalo Belles are one of those opportunities. Before I joined them in 1996, I felt alone, fearful and in need of finding out who I was. Soon after becoming a member, I embraced new found friends, sharing with each other the happy, the sad, the enriching experiences that we all have carried with us throughout our lives.

I felt so good I wanted to give something back to this unique organization. I soon volunteered as the "pop & snack girl" and when asked if I would write something for the newsletter, I jumped at the chance. As time passed, I took on the editor's duties. Eventually I found myself conducting the meetings and representing the Belles outside the meeting place. With the Internet becoming an increasingly popular place to go for information, I pushed for a web site to let more people learn about us and it soon became one of our main sources of contact to the Belles. By 2000, our membership had grown to the largest in our history.

We began to do outreach, first information tabling at the Pride 2000 Celebration at Bidwell Park and then at the University of Buffalo. The Trans community was finally not as invisible as it once was (not counting appearances of Trans people at the downtown bars/clubs). Educators and community leaders began to ask us for information about the Transgender community. We spoke at health care symposiums and nursing school classes. We gave workshops and presentations on numerous transgender issues. I believed we were really beginning to accomplish something.

I also felt the Belles were ready to involve the female-to-male component of the Trans community. It was happening elsewhere. Why not here.? We seemed to be growing and evolving. All we had to do was to change the name of the group to a non-gender specific term in order to make them feel welcome. Simple, right?

Was I wrong on that one. After

explaining the reasons for a name change in my column and at the meeting that followed, I asked the membership for dialogue and some possible name suggestions. Two types of responses came back: the first was from some members seeing no reason for the change. The second: silence. It all meant one thing to me. Leave it alone.

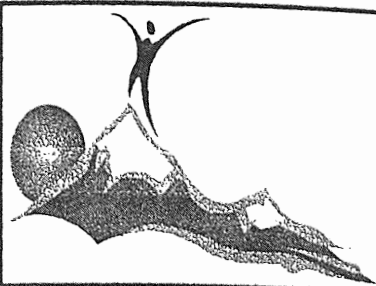
The Belles had come as far as they wanted to go. I was asking too much. Or as one individual told me, "Don't fix it if it ain't broke". I understand now that all the Belles want is a place to come and socialize with others like themselves. I can accept that. In fact, it's an important function in the life of a transgendered individual. It was a great help to me and it will continue to be for others who will follow. Let it be.

One of my favorite sayings is by Denis Waitley: "There are two primary choices in life: to accept conditions as they exist, or accept the responsibility for changing them". Because I believe that there is a need for further growth and development in the Trans community, I am co-founding a new organization that will continue from where the Belles leave off. We have named it "Spectrum" and it will welcome *all* parts of the Trans community, as well as family, friends and supporters. It will not only offer support for the TG individual but also for spouses, partners, family members or friends as well. Real-world experiences will be the prime focus. Outreach, education and diversity training will be offered. Members will be encouraged to join committees of their choice in order to make them feel like a true participant. A board structure, elected officers and by-laws will allow us to establish a non-profit status that will permit us to solicit tax-deductible donations and funding grants.

An important point I want to make is that Spectrum is not designed to compete with the Buffalo Belles. It is meant to compliment them. One can be a member of both groups. This will not be 'my' group, but the whole Trans community's group. We are aiming for an October 1 start. If you want more information, or to be on the contact list or to comment, email us at: goldbriar@hotmail.com or call: (716) 465-1837.

It's been an amazing five years. I hope that I was somehow able to touch each of your lives as you have touched mine. Take care.

Camille



The Journey is the monthly publication of the Buffalo Belles. All articles and information contained in this publication may be reprinted in full by any non-profit gender community organization without permission, provided credit is given to this newsletter and the author. The material contained herein does not necessarily express the views or opinions of the Buffalo Belles, its officers or editorial staff. Contributions of articles are welcomed. The Buffalo Belles reserve the right to edit submissions for publication for suitability, spelling, grammar and/or length. Submissions or comments should be addressed to:

Buffalo Belles, PO Box
1701, Amherst, NY
14226-1701

Editor:
Kathy L.

To contact the Buffalo
Belles:

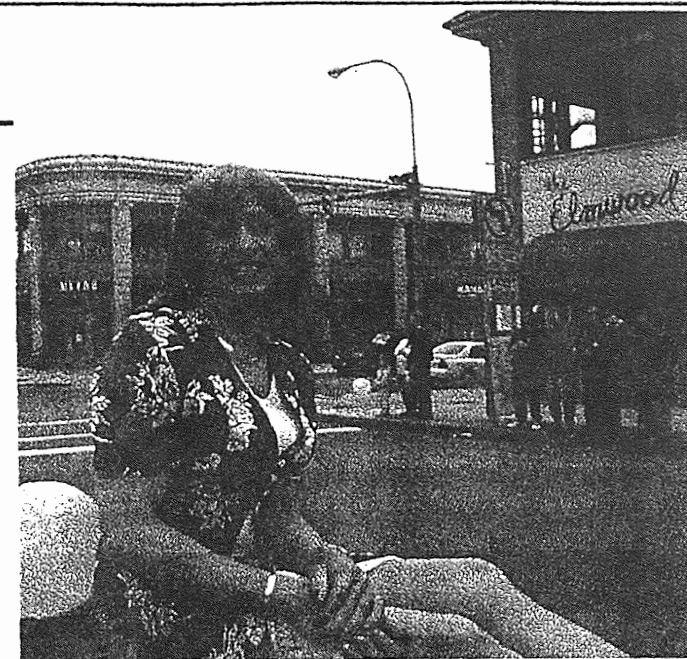
By Phone: (716) 879-0973

By Mail:

Buffalo Belles
P.O. Box 1701
Amherst, NY 14226

By e-mail:
buffalo_belles@juno.com

Buffalo Belles Website:
www.geocities.com/



THE PRIDE PARADE BY TINA MARIE

Buffalo's Gay Pride Parade was on June 2nd and the Belles had their first ever float entered! I had been in the Parade last year, but on the Compton- PEP float. This year we had our own and I was excited.

It had been talked about for a few months and now it was time. Patti had the job of organizing the details and she did a great job. He had a car! It was a nice red convertible that was owned and driven by Bobbi Swan. We were all to meet at Kleinhans parking lot to do the decorating. I arrived about 10:30 and found Patti already waiting. She had brought the decorations and a snack lunch for later.

Denise and Trissa were also there. Denise decided to make a run for home for warmer clothes as our vehicle wasn't there yet. It was a lousy day for a parade. It was cold with a light rain coming down. Bobbi arrived a few minutes later with her red chariot. We found our spot in the lot and just talked a bit waiting for the rain to stop. It would have been almost impossible to decorate a wet car. April soon joined our little float group. It was getting close to our time of departure, so we decided to move the car under a large overhanging tree for some protection from the falling droplets. This worked and with a little drying of the car, we were able to get our decorations attached. April made a last minute run for home to get a yellow flashing light to attach to our hood. This was a nice touch to get attention, not that just our presence wasn't enough! It was just 15 minutes before we were to start and the rain stopped. It was all working now and we could put the top down and ride in style! Reader, who is a friend of Bobbi Swans' and mine, was going to join us with his motorcycle and side car. He is also a PEP Buffalo member. It looked

like the rain had put an end to that.

It was 1:00 and the procession started on its way out of the parking lot and up North St. Just as we were about to pull out of the lot, Reader pulled up with his usual big smile. He made it! He asked if anyone wanted to join him in the side car. Denise was quick with the response, I will! This added some nice action to our float with them circling around our car.

The spectators were rather sparse at this point. The weather had kept many at home. There were a few here and there and we waved and smiled as we passed. I then had my first taste of a "heckler" We approached 2 guys at the side with a loud speaker. I thought at first they were announcing floats as they passed, but as we got closer and I heard them, I found it to be a bit different. They were bad mouthing us all. All the floats, calling us "Scum" and not fit to be on this earth. Etc.. Then all the floats started to blow their horns to drown them out. We all smiled at this action and as we passed them. I blew them a kiss. LOL On we went. We then turned onto Elmwood and the crowd size was a little better. I saw a lot of smiles and everyone was having a good time. Then low and behold the sun came out! Someone liked us!

I made sure to wave at all the officers that were attending the intersections. Out of all the people we passed I felt they were the most important to leave a (continued next page)

HELP-LINE NEEDS HELP!

HELPLINE VOLUNTEER
NEEDED. MUST BE CON-
CERNED INDIVIDUAL. THIS
IS OUR MAIN CONTACT
WITH THOSE LOOKING FOR
HELP & ASSISTANCE.
PLEASE CONTACT HELPLINE
IF INTERESTED

The parade lasted about 45 minutes and I did see one Belle girl on the way.

Janice was on the side and waved as we passed. I was glad to see a familiar face in the crowd. As we got to the end, we passed the Belles booth. I saw Rebecca and Andy behind the table. Both had nice smiles as we passed and waved. Patti had also made it to the end to rejoin us.

We then passed the Judges stand as they announced "And here is the Buffalo Bells"! What a proud moment and one for the history books for the Belles.

After finding a place to park our car, we then went back to the Belles booth to say hello to everyone. It was so much fun just to be out as "us" and to be walking around comfortably in the crowd. (In the daytime!) It's not very often I get out in the day. We saw a half dozen other girls at the end.

After an hour it looked like rain again, so we decided to head back to the starting point to get our own cars. After that I went to the Town Restaurant with Bobbi Swan for some lunch. It was nice to get some time with her to catch up on things. The two of us hit a few other places and ended the day around 11:00 (I think). It was a long day and I was tired. I hope next year we can have another entry with more Belles joining us. It was a lot of fun.



TINA, BOBBI, PATTI, CAR, APRIL, TRISSA, DENISE



DENISE, TRISSA, TINA & APRIL IN FLOAT CAR



DENISE RODE THE SIDE CARE OF READER'S BIKE READER IS A PEP MEMBER



ONE OF THE PRIDE EVENTS WAS A GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD ON MAY 19th. PICTURED ARE CAMILLE, JEAN, PATTI & KATHY. DENISE ALSO PLAYED AND WON LONGEST DRIVE AND CLOSEST TO THE PIN

I caught up with Denise after the meeting, down at Secrets and gave her the keys to the storage cabinet. So we will have access to the snacks, books, & videos that are kept in it. This is a start and good one, as we sure don't want anyone to go hungry:)

This start is just that. A start. But what are the other things that need doing I'm sure you are all asking? (Editorial note: I am now ROFLMAO for that one!) OK, just what is done anyway? And by whom?

- Meeting Leader Camille*
- Snack girl Denise
- Activities director open
- Mailbox girl Kathy
- Has our \$ Janice+
- Meeting fees collector open
- Group Mom Colleen+
- Cabinet keeper Denise
- Picnic chief open
- Newsletter editorial Kathy*, Camille*, & Rebecca (out on injured list)
- Wench in the printshop Kathy*
- Phone duty Colleen
- Record keeping Kathy
- President Camille*
- Pizza gofer open
- Outreach Camille* Patti
- PO Box owner Janice+
- Meeting place liaison Kathy*
- Visionary open
- Trannie feeder Colleen, Kathy

*Resigning, wants out of it!
+For life.

Funny, this is probably the first time this has ever been set down. I just kind of thought about who is doing what and this list is what came to me. This is strictly my own personal opinion. I speak for nobody but myself. We currently have 50 other members whom I'm sure all have their own opinion. But right now I've got the power of the press working for me.

How long I exercise that privilege is up to you. Camille is done with it. Rebecca probably won't be back for the



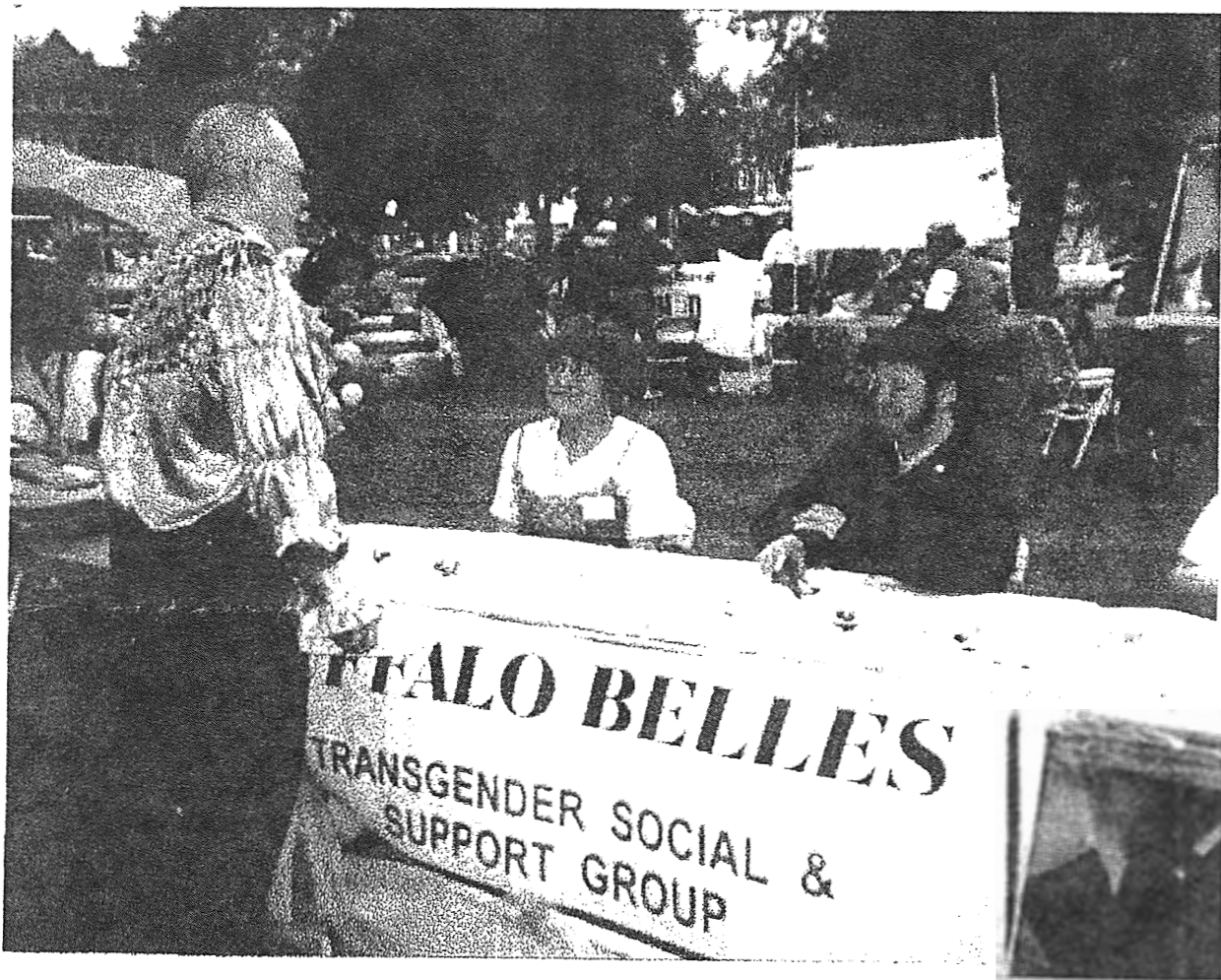
Since I've had my hand in practically every newsletter after year one, I'm not about to go cold turkey yet. But if nothing happens, nothing from me.

Denise issued a call for a good turnout for the July meeting. I hope you'll heed her call and get together. Come regardless of your presentation in the summer months. If you have an opinion of what the group should be, come and voice it or write it down and I'll put it in the newsletter next month. I plan on making it.

Whatever the group shall be is your choice. The meeting place is paid up to the end of the year. Janice has our money. Checking account with about \$700.00 in it is in her name and control. Same with the PO Box. Camille and myself have the PO keys. Camille has the phone account. I hold about \$100.00 in cash, the VCR, membership records & applications, Cabinet & contents: keys are held by Camille, Denise, Patti(?) and myself.

That's our assets. And you. We can drop the newsletter and stretch the \$ for paying the rent out for a few years. If that is all you want. And that would be just fine. Whatever. Attend or write, get some dialogs going.

I'll try to have an update regarding the construction and how it may affect us. It is a good chance that we will be up in the second floor meeting room. Remember the meeting is on the 14th, not the weekend following the Fourth.



REBECCA AND ANDY WORKING OUR INFORMATION TABLE AT THE PRIDE FESTIVAL ON JUNE 3rd

"We Deliver for You" - Andy Miller 7/6/01

Just when you thought life couldn't get any more bizarre than it already is, experience comes along and teaches you that you still have much more to learn. Many of you know that I have had my share of employment struggles, starting with surviving being fired from the Eastman Kodak for being (hey, my parachute is rainbow striped!), to working a variety of temp agency jobs here in Buffalo. I felt I was getting some pretty good experience on learning how to land on my feet, as it were, and hitting the ground running.

I was beginning to feel that no matter how bumpy the road would get (hadn't I survived the worst bump yet?), that somehow I could manage to pull things out in time to keep myself employed and food on the table for myself and my daughter.

In one of my recent job searches, I applied to that illustrious employer, the United States Postal Service. Properly enthused by its motto of "neither snow, nor rain, etc..." I entered its hallowed halls, pen in hand and resume in the other and decided to throw my hat into the ring. After having filled out the necessary paperwork, I received only 2-1/2 wk. later, a large packet from their human resources department. After filling out this rather lengthy document and sending it in, I received a phone call! Was it true? Was I finally going to break into the \$10 + wage category here in Buffalo at last?

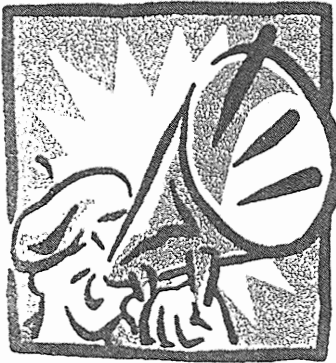
I nervously dialed the number, trying to remember all the things I knew I was going to need to remember. I asked to speak with Ray (the person who called me) and was put through to her line. My initial enthusiasm, however, was met by cool administrative, bureaucratic dysfunction when I was notified that my paperwork couldn't be processed, due to my omission of checking off the box that stated that I had, in the past, registered with the selective service. She further told me that she had checked and found no such registration on file with the appropriate authorities. I quickly had to scramble around the issue right here and now...on the phone. If I hesitated, she might think I was trying to create an elaborate story so as to avoid my civic "duty", as it were. Instead, I told her that honestly, at the time I would have been required to register, I was unable to because I am a transsexual.

The word transsexual must have sent off a huge PANIC button in her, but I calmly assured her that I was not a male to female, but rather, female to male. She really was unwilling (or should I say "unable"? to listen because she literally couldn't deal with what I had just told her. It didn't make any sense. Now she had to do the scrambling. The only way out for her was to deny it making any sense anywhere. I even tried appealing to the idea at least that since she had a gender specific name (Ray) that she too had to have encountered some level of gender confusion when others might mistake her for male due to her name. Despite all this, she ended up terminating my call. She really felt that I was trying to evade my responsibility in registering for the draft. My best efforts to appeal to her sense of logic failed to impress upon her that people like me are out there and actually have a need for employment.

Talk about your bureaucratic snafus. Sometimes I think that the more I try the harder it gets. I'm trying to keep my head up about this whole thing, but I'll admit, there are days that just deep down get to you on a level that really, really gets you mad. Call it fate, perhaps, but I know that on another level, I probably wouldn't be able to handle being part of such a large organization ever again.

Besides, on the lighter side, could I even imagine wearing a uniform that paired shorts with wearing a tie? I think not! Fashion crimes aside, I have, nor ever will be one to win any awards for fashion, but shorts with ties are definitely out for me! Now that, if you'll please pardon the overused expression, would make me go "postal"!

I'm sure that something will turn up. I'll just keep plugging away as I always do. Until then, I'll just sign off for now as your local Draft-dodger.



COMING EVENTS



DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF LAST MINUTE CHANGES, CALL TO VERIFY THE TIME AND PLACE OF EVENTS

JULY 14 REGULAR MEETING-PLEASE ATTEND AND HELP FIGURE OUT WHO IS GOING TO DO WHAT. IF CONSTRUCTION HAS STARTED, WE MAY BE IN THE UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM

JULY 23rd GAY DAY AT SIX FLAGS DARIEN LAKE CHECK WITH CLUB MARCELLA FOR MORE INFO

AUGUST 4th ROCHESTER CD NETWORK REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 11-BUFFALO BELLES REGULAR MEETING-USUALLY THE PICNIC MEETING BUT WITH THE CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING OF THE CHURCH AND US PROBABLY BETTER ANOTHER TIME

SEPTEMBER 8 REGULAR MEETING AND NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR FIRST MEETING. PROBABLY STILL IN OTHER AREA

SEPTEMBER 17-23 SOUTHERN COMFORT ATLANTA EXPERIENCE THE LARGEST GATHERING OF TG's IN THE COUNTRY AS TINA WROTE ABOUT A FEW MONTHS AGO.

OCTOBER 14-21 FANTASIA FAIR PROVINCETOWN MA-28th holding of this annual event

NOVEMBER 7-11th HOLIDAY ENFEMME HELD THIS YEAR IN CHICAGO

NOVEMBER 15-18-LAKE ERIE GALA BY THE ERIE SISTERS

BUFFALO BELLES HAVE THE SECOND SATURDAY RESERVED FOR OUR MEETINGS WITH THE CHURCH THROUGH DECEMBER. KEEP THIS IN MIND IF THE NEWSLETTER CEASES, THE MEETINGS ARE STILL ON

INFORMATION ON THE OTHER EVENTS LISTED CAN BE GOTTEN FROM KATHY

**“WOMAN WHO SEEK TO BE EQUAL WITH MEN,
LACK AMBITION.”-Timothy Leary**