

The Rho Tau Newsletter

"Girls of the Mid Atlantic"

February Issue



Our hearts beat to the sound of a different drummer... to the cadence of style, grace and femininity

This Newsletter is dedicated to the expression and education of "Ladies of Duality", a forum for the feminine side . . . *in us all.*

From the President

BY
ANNABELLELEE

Dear Ladies:

We have some fun times coming up in the next few weeks.

This month we will be honoring our spouses and significant others. We may possibly be honoring some others as well. It is they who make what we do fun through their support and they deserve any honor we can give them. We are working on that and will let you know at the February 21, 2004 meeting.

Next month will be our annual Fashion Show. This will be held on March 27, 2004. The date was pushed back one week due to the hotel being booked on our weekend with a large church group. Wouldn't that had been fun!

I want all of you ladies to get your outfits together and plan to be in the Fashion Show. We would like for all of you to be in at least two events. It would be nice if you want to be in more. It is a lot of fun and you will enjoy it. Especially, the changing room. It is bedlam in there but we

have a ball. All of the wives and S.O. will be the judges. Prizes will be awarded for each category. Please plan on being there and participate. We have already had responses from our sisters in Baltimore and some of them will be here and be in the Fashion Show

There will be no need to bring any food. The hotel will be providing the food as part of the package. We will let you know the price per person before the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there. We may be having some new member in attendance.

Hugs,

Anna

FEATURED ARTICLES

Relationship Myths..... page 5

Lip Magic page 6

*The Difference a Hyphen Makes
.....page 7*

DEPARTMENTS

[From the President](#) page 2

[Executive Committee](#) page 3

[Meeting Calendar](#) page 4

[Special Events](#) page 4

[Recipe Corner](#) page 8

[From the Editor](#) page 9

Executive Committee 2003 - 2004

President: Anna

Vice President: Angela

Secretary: Catherine

Treasurer: Robyn

Program Co chairpersons: Audrey Carol and Shirley

Web Mistress: Tiffany Michelle (non-voting member)

Editor: Rita (non-voting member)

Rho Tau Meeting Schedule

February 21st - Thanks to the efforts of Catherine, we have a new home. We will have more room and a very CD friendly staff to cater to our needs. Don't forget to ask for the RHO TAU discount rates if a room is needed for your stay.

March 27th – FASHION SHOW!!!!

For more detailed directions to the meeting location, please contact Anna @ annabelle5548@aol.com or Robyn @ robyn-paige@cox.net

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Special Events in the Transgender Community

Dignity Cruises - Cross-dressing events (For more information write melp@mindspring.com)

Sept. 18, 2004	7 Days	Barcelona Spain to Nice/Monte Carlo, Florence/Pisa. Rome, Naples and Malta aboard Royal Caribbean's <i>Splendor of the Seas</i>	From \$644
Sept. 24, 2004	12 Days	Vancouver to Hawaii, aboard Carnival's <i>Spirit</i>	From \$910

Tri-Ess and its Chapters

Holiday En Femme - November 5-9, 2003 in Denver, Colorado – Sponsored by Tau Sigma Kappa - for more information: <http://www.holiday-enfemme.org/>

Please help us by contributing information about additional events.

Relationship Myths

Excerpt taken from a listing by Dr. Phil

This is the eighth of the ten Relationship Myths by Dr. Phil, a well-known psychologist who now has his own TV show.

MYTH #8: A GREAT RELATIONSHIP CANNOT SURVIVE A FLAWED PARTNER

Nobody's perfect. As long as your partner's quirks are non-abusive and non-destructive, you can learn to live with them.

Instead of focusing on your partner's shortcomings, remember the qualities that attracted you in the first place. Perhaps some of these idiosyncrasies were part of the attraction? Just because a behavior isn't mainstream, doesn't mean that it's toxic to the relationship.

Be careful to distinguish the difference between a partner with quirks and one with a serious problem. Serious problems that are destructive and abusive include substance abuse and mental/physical abuse. Unlike idiosyncrasies, these are not behaviors you should learn to live with.

Editor's comments:

This is probably one of the most important "myths", but also one of the hardest to overcome. We believe that the things that separate us from the "normal" people on our streets make us outcasts or worse, when we really need to remember, there is no "NORMAL", except, as my Dear Hubby likes to say, on the cycles of a washing machine.

We all have our own little habits or ways of doing things that can drive our partners crazy – unless we learn to love enough to accept them just the way they are.

Since acceptance is the only way that I can keep this sweet and tender man that I have married, I think I will try to leave unsaid the spiteful and hurtful things that sometimes spring to my tongue when I wish that he would not wear his night gown just one night or when he tunes me out when he is so engrossed in the latest clothing catalog. (After all, don't girls like to look and feel feminine?)

This is the way he was, is and will be, so I think I'll love him just the way he is.

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Reinhold Niebuhr

Lip Magic

Tips compliments of Sacha Cosmetics

Lipstick is a makeup artist essential. Indeed, the most popular beauty product world over is lipstick. From the corner store to the largest cosmetic counter you are sure to find lipsticks available. There is a wide variety of brands, colors, textures and finishes to create those much sought after lush, beautiful lips.

You can find lipsticks in traditional tubes, pots, pencils, and even wands with innovative designs emerging daily. While color selection is a personal choice, current fashion trends also play a big part in influencing a woman's choice of lipstick.

To create that perfect pair of lips you should start by lining with a neutral colored pencil following your natural lip line. Using a lip brush fill in with lip color of your choice. Use your lip brush to blend the two so that there are no harsh edges.

Lipsticks come in cream, frosted and matte shades.

The secret of creating the picture-perfect lips lies in the choice of color and correct application.

TIP: Try to find a good Vitamin E Lip Protector before application of any

type of lipstick. It moisturizes and nourishes the lips preventing dryness and cracking.

TIP: To create your own smudge-resistant lipstick, blot your lips with one sheet of two-ply tissue. Reapply lipstick and blot again. This will absorb the oils in the product and leave the pigment and matte waxes.

TIP: If you are over 40 we advise that you should avoid wearing matte lipsticks. You will look best with a little shine on your lips. Always use a lip liner since it builds a dam that keeps the lipstick from 'bleeding'.

TIP: If you are not fortunate to have full lips, wear the lightest, frostiest lipsticks you can find. They will cause your lips to look fuller. Follow with a lip-gloss.

TIP: Apply lip gloss over lipstick or alone. Remember that gloss would emphasize and therefore make your lips appear to be fuller.

TIP: Women with extra-full lips should use lip-gloss very sparingly.

TIP: To remove lipstick from clothing, apply glycerin on the spot, rub lightly and wash as normal.

Now ladies, just pucker up, pout and show off those kissable lips and get ready to get and give lots of kisses on Valentine's Day.

The Difference a Hyphen Makes

By Jamie Roberts

I love, respect, honor, and revere words. I love them so much that there are certain books I return to again and again, not to reread them, but to experience again the breathtaking beauty of an especially memorable sentence or paragraph, recalling them the way one recalls that first kiss. Those noteworthy passages, free of anything extraneous, have the strength of a steel ball bearing, with the parts and whole integrated like a diamond and its facets, with a sound that when read aloud makes the greatest opera diva sound mute. So it won't surprise you that almost all of the time my laptop's CD-ROM drive holds, just one quick click away, the *Merriam-Webster's 11th Collegiate Dictionary*.

Because I respect and honor and revere language, I take to heart Mark Twain's dictum that "The difference between the right word and the nearly right word is the same as the difference between lightning and the lightning bug." I rely on this wonderful dictionary for assurance that I am using a word effectively or to suggest an alternative carrying the power of a lightning bolt. Yet I have a bone to pick with this and all of the other fine English-language dictionaries. It is their acceptance as standard the spellings "cross-dress," "cross-dresser," and "cross-dressing." (You have probably discovered that Microsoft Word's spellchecker also uses these hyphenated version.)

I don't hyphenate these words. Spliced together by a hyphen they languidly flash on and off like a lightning bug; sans hyphen they deliver the swift brilliance of a lightning bolt.

What's the difference? To me it is the difference between viewing crossdressing as something that is somehow apart from the individual who crossdresses (a hyphenated word for a hyphenated person) and viewing it as an expression of something integral to that individual's identity and personality (a unified word for a unified person).

You may remember our August 2003 meeting when Maggie Chubb joined us. Shirley raised the question (and I paraphrase): "If you could live your life over, would you be a crossdresser?" I and several others responded along these lines—that sort of radical personality make-over would make us someone other than who we are. We would, however, want to come to accept this rare gift of transgenderedness at a much younger age, to learn from it, to enjoy it without guilt, and to embrace it as an integral part of who we are.

That's why I wish the wonderful lexicographers at Merriam-Webster and in every other dictionary editorial office would remove that intrusive hyphen. It implies that I am something and someone less than I am. Or to use a fashion analogy, inserting that hyphen has the sort of negative effect that wearing a thick leather belt around the waist has on the beauty of a long, wispy, flowing, shimmery evening gown.

(Incidentally, *Merriam-Webster's 11th Collegiate* does *not* hyphenate

“transgender” and its variants, perhaps because transgender is newer to the language. But I know I wouldn’t be a crossdresser if I weren’t transgendered!)

RECIPE CORNER

SHIRLEY'S SWEETS N SOURS
from Grandma's Kitchen

SAND TARTS

Sand Tarts, of Pennsylvania Dutch origin, have been a Christmas tradition in my family through at least four generations. I am sure that I have made or helped make them every year since I can remember. They are a good way to involve the whole family in a season activity. Even the youngest child can put on the pecan. The next older can sprinkle on the cinnamon/sugar. The next older brushes on the egg white. The next older helps with the cutting. A 10 year-old can do the cooking and removal from sheets. Rolling is the most difficult.

3/4 Lb. Butter
1 Lb. Sugar (About 2-1/3 Cups)
2 Whole Eggs
1 Lb. Flour (About 4-1/2 Cups sifted)
Pinch Salt
2 Whites of Eggs
? Amount Cinnamon & Sugar Mixture
? Amount Pecans

Cream butter and 1 Lb. Sugar.
Add 2 whole eggs and beat well.
Add salt.

Add flour gradually, mixing well. Separate the mix into 5 or 6 relatively equal parts, forming each into a round wafer about a half-inch thick. Wrap each in saran wrap and refrigerate overnight. Otherwise the mix is too sticky to roll.

Roll out each wafer uniformly thin (one-sixteenth inch) using as little flour as needed to prevent sticking. Cut with a fancy wheel cutter into small (approx 2" X 3") parallelograms and place on a cookie sheet. DO NOT GREASE SHEETS!! Save the waste from the edges and re-roll as one last batch (after placing in the freezer for about 5 minutes).

Brush egg white on each piece being careful to keep it off the cookie sheet (egg white baked on a cookie sheet sticks). I use a 1" paintbrush.

Place a piece of pecan in the center of each cookie. Mother used to say that the larger pieces deserve a larger pecan piece. Use no more than half of a half. Spread a coat of the cinnamon/sugar mix over the entire surface of each cookie. I use a saltshaker with relatively large holes.

Bake at 350 degrees for 7 to 8 minutes says Mam-mam's recipe. However, I have experienced times varying from 5 to 10 minutes depending on the type of cookie sheet and rolled thickness. You must monitor the cooking and remove as soon as the edges brown slightly. Some cooking will continue after removal from oven. Allow sheets to cool for 5 minutes before removing cookies.

May be kept for long times in freezer, 2 months in refrigerator.

CAUTION: KIDS LOVE THE DOUGH!! So do most adults.

From the Editor

It's been a very difficult few months for me physically, as most of you well know, and with each passing day, I realize more and more the wonderful qualities of this very special person that I married. Even after putting in a very full day, he still finds the energy to help me with the house, dinner or whatever needs to be done – often without my even having to ask. He does this without making a big production of it, never seeming to expect anything in return. He accepts my grumpier moods with grace, knowing, I suppose, that the pain makes me more short-tempered than usual.

He shows patience always, loves without reserve and makes me feel that he is my rock. For these and so many other reasons Honey. . . thank you! I love you with all of my heart.



Rita

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