

Drag Ain't Drab:

How Best to Beat the Winter Doldrums

by Constance Craving

BURLINGTON — Constance Craving, that drag queen who finds the most annoyingly indirect ways to draw attention to herself, is at it again. Due to the fabulous success of last year's Drag Ball extravaganza, she has been persuaded to somehow try and chase away some of those winter blues once more.

So mark this date on your calendars: February 15th. Start shopping now, and remember: one can never have too many hats, shoes, and gloves. Tanning beds are OK, but the best cure for seasonal affective disorder, Constance has found, is wearing bright colors, enjoying a great show, and dancing one's booty off. This can surely make up for that drab-colored rodent crawling back into its hole for another month or so.

"But what is Drag?" Constance has been asked. "I don't look good in a dress," she has heard from both men and women who believe themselves too butch for sequins and hose.

Drag, Constance replies, is anything that you don't wear on a daily basis. It's that tuxedo or the UPS uniform or anything else that somewhere deep in your hippocampus lies a thriving desire to don and show off. Drag is a cocktail dress or Prom Dress or bubble wrap or a union suit, or curlers and a house coat. Drag is an ace bandage across the chest, or condoms filled with water. (One drag queen's secret last year was forty pounds of lentils in balloons.) Drag can be a fez and a tutu, or can be dressing like Desmond Tutu. Hell, come as Boutros Boutros Gali if you wish. But honeys, just leave the baseball hat and T-shirt at home. Even if you can't support the cause of glamour, come and enjoy the show dressed as you wish.

Now, having gotten that off her forty pounds of lentils, Constance can continue. This year's entertainment will be more exciting than ever. Burlington's next up-and-coming band Wide Wail will show us what all the buzz is about. Vermont's (not to mention Germany's) performance diva, Janice Perry AKA Gal, will host and send her guardian leather queens to drag from the stage any performers who go over their time limit (you know who you are!). Endora is back, spinning her magic arias, as is Agnes de Garron, spinning. This time she has promised to bring out her other half, the irrepressible Sticky Dickford. Yolanda will be there, wrapped for immediate consumption and singing his/her booty off. Steph Pappas will spread her magic, as will the sisters LeMay, Amber and Marguerite, and of course Noël, Noël, Noël!

The theme for the Drag Ball will be "Duets." Constance felt it was appropriate, being the sequel and all. Two is a great number isn't it? Much better than one. Rumors are spreading that Endora will sing with Judy Garland, newly back from the grave; Tamah and Cherie Tartt will see who can do what better than whom; plus a number of surprises still in the works.

Then later, after dancing, the next Drag King and Queen of Burlington will be crowned. Many prizes are up for grabs. Last year the competition was intense, so start planning now.

And all of this is for a great cause, and I don't just mean glamour — I mean Vermont CARES. Tickets are twelve dollars in advance and sixteen at the door, and are available at the Peace and Justice Store on Church Street in Burlington or at Vermont CARES itself. All proceeds after expenses go directly to Vermont CARES. ▼

Vermont Area Resources

Please help us keep this list current by advising us of changes in your group's status or address. All phone numbers are area code 802 unless noted. A "»" symbol before the group's name indicates a new or updated listing.

- Addison County Women in Crisis**
53 Court Street • Middlebury VT 05753 • 388-4205
- Active Lesbians of the Monadnock Area (ALMA)**
PO Box 6345 • Keene NH 03431 • (603) 363-4961
- »**ALANA (African, Latino, Asian, Native American) Community Program**
8 Williston St. • Brattleboro VT 05301 • 254-2972
- Amelia Earhart**
PO Box 746 • Lebanon NH 03766
- »**American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**
110 E. State St. • Montpelier VT 05602 • 223-6304
E-mail: acluvt@aol.com
Web Site: <http://members.aol.com/acluvt/home.html>
- Battered Women's Services, Inc.**
PO Box 828 • Montpelier VT 05601
24 hour Hotline: 223-6855
- »**Beacon Club (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Straight Alliance)**
Lyndon State College, LSC Box 7335 • Lyndonville VT 05851
- »**Big City Players, Inc.**
PO Box 1012 • Burlington VT 05402 • (888) 212-5884
- Brattleboro Area Gays and Lesbians**
PO Box 875 • Brattleboro VT 05302 • 254-5947
- Brattleboro Area Lesbian Center**
71 Elliot St. • Brattleboro VT 05301
- Burlington Police Department Community Based Police Officer**
Lieutenant Bill LaWare • 658-7658
- Burlington Women's Council**
City Hall • Burlington VT 05401 • 865-7200
- »**Chiltern Mountain Club - Vermont Chapter**
Bob Bland • 333-9448 • E-mail: bland@sover.net
Web Site: <http://www.chiltern.org/chiltern/>
- Christ Church Presbyterian-More Light Church**
UVM • Burlington VT 05401 • 862-1898
- CRONES (for women over 40)**
PO Box 242 • Winooski VT 05404
- DaGLO (Dartmouth College)**
Hanover NH 03755 • (603) 646-3636
- Dignity Vermont**
PO Box 782 • Burlington VT 05402 • 863-1377
- East Coast Wrestling Club**
PO Box 40868 • Providence RI 02940
(401) 467-6737 • ecwc@blockparty.com
- Friends in Adoption**
44 South St. • PO Box 1228 • Middletown Springs VT 05757 • 235-2373
- Gay Fathers' Support Group**
PO Box 234 • Essex Junction VT 05423 • 879-7883
- Gay Info Line (NH)**
Box 181 • Concord NH 03301 • (603) 224-1686
- Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance**
Goddard College • Plainfield VT 05667
- Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance**
Landmark College • Putney VT 05346 • 387-6752
- Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Legal Association**
c/o Blackwood and Kraynak • 863-2517
- »**Gay/Lesbian/Straight Teachers' Network (GLSTN)**
PO Box 930 • Amherst MA 01004-0930
S. VT: RR3 Box 708 • Putney VT 05346 • 387-1712
- Gay/Lesbian Victim Assistance Hotline**
(800) 259-1536 • 24 hrs. a day • AVProject@aol.com
- Golden Threads (Lesbian Contact Publication)**
PO Box 65 • Richford VT 05476-0065 • 848-7037
E-mail: goldentred@aol.com
- Hear Us OUT**
PO Box 285 • Brattleboro VT 05302 • 257-0332
- Huntington Open Women's Land (HOWL)**
864-5595
- »**Interweave (Unitarian Universalists)**
152 Pearl Street • Burlington VT 05401 • 862-5630
- Kwanzaa**
PO Box 583 • Burlington VT 05402-0583
- Keene State College LBG Alliance**
Keene State College • Keene NH 03431
- »**Men's Health Project**
PO Box 5248 • Elmwood Ave. • Burlington VT 05401 • 863-2437 • (800) 649-2437
- Men Alive!**
PO Box 423 • Burlington VT 05402 • 865-2247
- Middlebury GLB Alliance**
Middlebury College • Middlebury VT 05753-6033
- Monadnock Gay Men (MGM)**
PO Box 1124 • Keene NH 03431 • (603) 357-5544
- Mountain Pride Media, Inc.**
PO Box 177 • Burlington VT 05402
- NH Citizens' Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights**
PO Box 730 • Concord NH 03302 • (603) 224-1686
- Old Lesbians Organized for Change (OLOC)**
PO Box 242 • Winooski VT 05404
- One in Ten (Castleton State College)**
468-5611 x.392
- »**Out in the Mountains**
PO Box 177 • Burlington VT 05402
388-6503 • oitm@together.net
Web Site: <http://members.aol.com/oitm/>

- Outright Vermont**
PO Box 5235 • Burlington VT 05402 • 865-9677
Youth Hotline: (800) GLB-CHAT (452-2428)
E-mail: OutrightVT@aol.com
Web Site: <http://members.aol.com/outrightvt/>
- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)**
Brattleboro Area
J. Cram • 409 Hillsinds • Brattleboro VT 05301
257-5409
Central Vermont
New contact to be announced.
Lake Champlain Chapter
Lil Venner • 23 Birchwood Lane • Burlington VT 05401 • 863-4285
Manchester Area
Mae and Jay Morrow • PO Box 92 • Manchester VT 05254 • 362-4400
Rutland Area
Julie and Peter Cooper • 11 North St. • Rutland VT 05701 • 773-7601
- Peace and Justice Center**
21 Church St. • Burlington VT 05401 • 863-8326
- »**Radical Faeries**
RR2 Box 1640 • Plainfield VT 05667 • 454-1635
PO Box 812 • Burlington VT 05402 • 863-2307
PO Box 224 • Brattleboro VT 05302 • 257-4871
- Radical Faerie Camp Destiny**
c/o Endora • RR 1 Box 30 • Bristol VT 05443
453-5760
- »**Rainbow Business Association**
PO Box 1776 • Burlington VT 05402 • 351-5527
E-mail: rba@pwsolutions.com
- SAGE (for gay men over forty)**
PO Box 863 • Burlington VT 05402 • 860-1810
- Social Alternatives for Gay Men (SAM)**
PO Box 479 • Norwich VT 05055 • 649-3133
- »**Take Back the Trails**
Local Contact: Mel • (603) 543-1700
Web Site: <http://www.princeton.edu/~rcurtis/aetrail.html>
- »**TRANS (Transgender Radical Action, Networking, and Support)**
PO Box 5687 • Burlington VT 05402
E-mail: transvt@aol.com
- »**Umbrella Women's Center (Research, referral, and support groups for lesbians and lesbian parents)**
16 Main St. • St. Johnsbury VT 05819 • 748-8645
- University of Vermont GLBA**
656-0699
- Vermont Bisexual Network (BiNet)**
PO Box 8124 • Burlington VT 05402
658-9554 or 865-3062
- Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VCLGR)**
PO Box 1125 • Montpelier VT 05602 • 454-8552
Co-liaisons to the government:
Virginia Renfrew
Keith Goslant • 454-8552
- Vermont Education Association Network of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Educators and Their Allies**
Contact Rose-Marie at 442-3978
- Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force**
PO Box 1312 • Middlebury VT 05753 • 388-6356
- Vermont GLBT Pride '97 Committee**
PO Box 5113 • Burlington VT 05402-5113
865-3734 or 658-1602
- Vermont Gay Men's Spiritual Support Brotherhood**
5 Raymond Pl. • Burlington VT 05401 • 863-9684
- Vermont Gay Social Alternatives (VGSA)**
PO Box 237 • Burlington VT 05402-0237
865-3734
- Vermont Human Rights Commission**
133 State St. • Montpelier VT 05633-6301
828-2480
- Vermont Lesbian and Gay Parents**
131 Richardson St. • Burlington VT 05401
860-1922
- »**Visible in Vermont Arts (VIVA)**
PO Box 812 • Burlington VT 05402 • 865-0385
- Women Center**
5 School Ave. • Montpelier VT 05602 • 229-6202
- Women's Crisis Center**
PO Box 933 • Brattleboro VT 05302 • 257-7364
24 Hour Hotline: 254-6954
- Women Helping Battered Women**
PO Box 1535 • Burlington VT 05402 • 658-1996
- Women's Information Service (WISE)**
79 Hanover St. • Lebanon NH 03766
(603) 448-5922 • 24 Hour Hotline: (603) 448-5525
- Women's Rape Crisis Center**
PO Box 92 • Burlington VT 05402 • 864-0555
- Women of the Woods (WOW)**
RFD 1 Box 5260 • Worcester VT 05682 • 229-0109
- Youth Aware of Addison County**
c/o PO Box 646 • Middlebury VT 05753
(800) 452-2428 (Outright Vermont)

The next issue of OITM will be out on March 1. (There was no January issue.)