



Karnevalsgesellschaft

# MASQUERADE BALL

Rheinischer Verein Chicago



Sat. Feb. 9, 2002



# Karneval In Chicago

STORIES FROM OUR MEMBERS



WEIBER FASNACHT  
by Helmut Mueller

Karneval, Fasching, Maskieren, Närrisches Treiben, you can call it whatever you like, Weiber Fasnacht, once a year, is and will always be one of the highlights of Mardi Gras. I think it is the ultimate in make believe. It takes some courage already to go and dress up, but then to do it right you need to shave your arms, chest, find artificial boobs, get a bra, ladies clothes, shoes, eyelashes, make-up, fingernail polish, lipstick, jewelry, hand bag and many other things to make a fine Lady of Rank and Statue. Now that you are made up, your personality starts to change as well. The fun is when all the others and some guys start whistling after you. I don't understand why some of the girls are complaining, I find it great. When you walk down the aisle, you wiggle your butt like Marilyn, get to go to the ladies room and scare the wits out of some of them, let's say, so called real ladies, or in some case people don't even recognize you, who you are. I am telling you it is fun, but then you have those that try to grab you, these are the ones that otherwise do not have the courage to go for those real ladies. You can see there are all kinds of people. Dancing is a very common enjoyment as you know, but as a Lady it is just a bit more difficult in high heels and doing everything backward. Not to speak if the band is playing a slow and romantic dance, perhaps you even get kissed, so you see it can have its complications. But all in all, no matter what anybody says, it is a lot of fun, especially if you try to go home after midnight, driving your car to the best of your ability, with all the good spirits in you, and God forbid you get stopped for no reason, or your car can't find it's way home by itself and you end up immobile. I have to tell you as in my case, if you are a Lady you have a better chance not to get a ticket. I had three police cars present as I was immobile. They did check me out, from top to bottom. Perhaps they wanted to know if I'm real or not. They kept questioning me rigourously and at the end they asked me to join them in one of their police cars so I wouldn't catch a cold. They said, ha, but who knows what else they might have come up with if I did. They made me wait until the tow truck came, but a ticket I didn't get.

EX-PRINZESSIN  
by Sonja Meisen

It was November 11, 2000 and as S.t. Prinz Cornel was handed a single glass slipper, he was told a magical tale. Three women would be brought to him, and one by one he must try the slipper on each of them. The slipper would only fit one of these women; and that woman is to be his Prinzessin.


Just as S.T. Prinz Cornel was about to give up, with unsuccessful results from the first two women, the third woman is brought to him. As she sits before him, he kneels before her with the glass slipper in his hand. His royal subjects are silent, waiting in anticipation, focused on the glass slipper. When they realize that the slipper fits, they cheer as S.T. Prinz Cornel presents the woman to the crowd. Alas, a Prinzessin has been found!

I was truly honored to be that Prinzessin and to represent the K.G. Rheinischer Verein of Chicago in it's 111th anniversary year alongside Cornel. It was a year full of travel and celebration in tradition of German Mardi Gras. From Milwaukee to Las Vegas, and downtown Chicago to the Governor's Mansion in Springfield, we received true royal treatment. What was even more magnificent than the support we were shown by other various clubs and dignitaries was the overwhelming support we received from our fellow club members here in Chicago. Seeing so many people volunteer their time and effort to keep up such a wonderful tradition makes me even more proud of my heritage as a German and an Austrian.

I'd like to take this time to wish our current Prinzenpaar, S.T. Prinz William III and I.L. Prinzessin Elizabeth II a spectacular and fun-filled year.

And to all of you, I wish you a joyous New Year. I look forward to seeing you all at the German Mardi Gras festivities yet to come.

Sincerely,  
Sonja Meisen

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