

2006 and a Look back to 2005.

A number of things happened in 2005 upon which I shall only touch in passing although their import deserves more than a passing reference. A concatenation of issues and events brought about the end of my current, and last, family relationship. In May of that year I took up my current residence. I was a major basket case for intensely personal reasons which were closely tied to the trigger event which separated me out of the family. A baby died of SIDS. My son in law and I were baby sitting yet, due to my age and experience, I was held responsible. While I was held responsible, I was also told that there was nothing I could have done. In fact, I kept a journal during that time which gradually had longer times between entries as I returned to some semblance of normalcy. I do not know, nor indeed can I know, to this day, if there was anything I might have done differently or at all that would have changed that single event. Still that was only the proverbial straw that broke the camels back event. Other personal issues along with my own stupidity factored into that as well.

Moving out did allow Rosaliy to start to grow. Now on my own, I did not feel a need to confine that part of me to a box buried in the closet. I hung her clothes in the closet along with the rest of my clothes. Freed of the fear of discovery, I began then to dress at home, although I refused to call this apartment home for the longest time, and enjoy the freedom of being able to do so. At that time, Rosaliy used slightly less than half of the available closet space.

How did I survive a next 8 months? My friends on the net. I was running on short sleep, usually 2 to 3 hours a night. I simply could not shut down my mind long enough to get the sleep I needed. My emotions, long under control to keep me out of trouble, were now out of control. A phrase in a story I would be reading, a piece of music, even seeing someone my wife worked with, would all trigger intense response and sometimes tears. There were a lot of times I simply had to remove myself to the back room at work to get a grip on myself. Between my journal, my friends and my work of course, I managed to come to grips with the situation. I began to stabilize and eventually started sleeping better. I also began to relax and found myself become better balanced overall. Rosaliy's wardrobe slowly began to grow. Along with all that, I began to approach that balance I had never really had before. It began with accepting that my femme side was as important to me as my male side.

Today, my immediate family consists of myself and two cats. I had three but one passed away a while back. The other two are starting to settle down but clearly still miss their brother.

The year 2006 was a busy year. I put in a lot of work hours but found it difficult to try to start a second job because my schedule was not consistent enough to do so. I joined a local chapter of Tri-Ess and began to have a social life. I became more secure in the girl I am and much more balanced in both male and female roles. I finally made my status known to a couple of special close friends and found their acceptance and support invaluable. As much as I would love to "go home" I knew it was not possible. Indeed it was inevitable since my femme side would not be accepted there. The more Rosaliy grew, the more it became clear that this marriage would also end. I can accept that now but it was a long time reaching that acceptance.

I participated in DLV in 2006, my first and last experience, as I shared that time with my friend from California. We had a great time until the next to last night of DLV when the chief organizer of the event chose to treat me in a disrespectful manner.

Among other firsts: I drove to the airport to meet a friend on her way home with a layover in Vegas. We had lunch while waiting for her next flight and then I went back to the apartment.

In September I attended a get together for a chat room group in which I participate. There was a guy from Texas and 3 other women. We had a fun time. The most fun was had by the other women watching people watch me. As for me, I just smiled and laughed and went about my business. It was such fun to be able to be out with friends en femme AND find acceptance among them.

In 2006 I once again entered the Halloween Costume Judging at Zingers. When the category of scariest costume was called I walked up to the bandstand. As others approached, I reached out my arms, waving them slightly, my witches broom in my left hand, as if casting a spell. It was a most effective spell too since I walked away with first prize for scariest costume. It was the face makeup. I spent some time on it and it really made me a scary witch. Unfortunately my digital camera was a cheapy and did not always take good clear photos but I do have some at any rate.

Closing out the year 2006, I was at Zingers for their New Years party. I went back to the apartment shortly after midnight.

During the year I had tried to sell life insurance. The testing, licensing and so on cost me a bit but I did not make a sale and was cut loose same as I had been cut from the car dealership. I also started into a work at home business selling Herbal Life products. That one required a large up front cost and, despite being billed as a job you can work part time from home, seemingly required nearly 80 hours of work along with my regular job. I let that one fall by the way side. Unless something comes up – that seems to be a lost cause, at least for now.

And so 2006 came to an end.

Looking back over the year it seems to have been a major growth period for me as a complete person. I've gone from being nearly totally closeted, except online where I have been en femme for years, to a very public woman. From timidly going out at night to boldly going out during the day. As for my wardrobe. That has grown as well but even at the end of 2006, Rosaliy only took up a little more than half the available closet space. One thing is certain however. She is here to stay and stay she will.