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# The New Meet Market



By Janet Davies

November 19, 2002 — The singles scene— ads, the Internet, bars— just a few of the old staples for meeting a potential date. Well move over, there are some new options in town for meeting your bachelor or bachelorette.

How about a throwback to your elementary school days. Fast-Tag just debuted in Chicago last week. All you need is a photo and self-confidence!

Would-be daters bring a picture of themselves to a predetermined venue. Your photo is placed on the wall next to an envelope where a potential he or she places an "I want to meet you" card in the envelope next to the picture. At the end of the evening you collect your envelopes with a potential dates first name and email address.

If you are pressed for time and need to meet the maximum amount of people in one night, three minute dating might be for you—

"Three minute dating is an efficient way of meeting a lot of people in a short period of time, they come in and sit at little cocktail tables and talk to each other for three minutes," said Paula Eisen, president of Dreammakers 3 Minute Dating.

After the three minutes are up, you move on to the next table. Each person has a score sheet and at the end of the evening the sheets are handed in and you are emailed your matches within a few days.

"I think it's hard in this day and age, I am not into the bar scene, I think dating services are expensive and I read about this and thought it would be a great way to get out and meet new people in a different way," said Ginny Alessi.

Another trend that's been around for a few years is the social club. You join the club for a fee and then go to its planned events. It's like having a date with a number of people but no pressure.

"Chicagoshakers is a social and adventure club for active singles and what we do is plan a diverse group of events each month, things from Latin dance lessons to kayaking, biking, hiking," said Lana Leone, Chicagoshakers Director Of Fun.

The membership base of Chicagoshakers and all shaker events are kept at a 50 percent ratio of men to women. Tonight, this group of singles is sampling Butterfield 8 - a hot new Chicago restaurant.

"Chicagoshakers is a great way to meet people and make new friends if not a love connection," said Martha Garcnica, Chicagoshaker.



ABC7's Janet Davies

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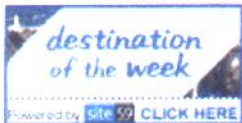
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  - Store offers free cl willing to shop naked
  - Man teaches dog l
  - Man gets busted a large cash payment
  - No shirt, no shoes
- >> More strange nev

### MR. FOOD RECIPE

- Ham & Cheese S
  - Sesame Snow Pe
  - Breeding Made E
  - Caramel Corn
  - Fresh Tomato Fl
- >> More Mr. Food R

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- 'If I Had Only Know





**How can you  
answer the  
President's  
Call to Service?**

"I think every single guy is looking for love in a relationship, but again that's not really why, alright I'm looking for love and a relationship, I would kind of like that, I'm Derryl Glaze, I'm single," said Derryl Glaze.

But, if you are looking for a little one-on-one direction, Patti Feinstein might be your lady, or coach shall we say, yes, a dating coach.

"I think a dating coach could be for everybody, because everybody can benefit from having that secret person they talk to about their secret problems regarding dating and it doesn't make them desperate and it doesn't make them mentally ill, it doesn't mean they need a psychologist, it means they need someone who understands what it is like to be single and empathize with them," said Patti Feinstein, dating coach.

For the past three months Joanie Edelberg has been coached by Patti Feinstein.

"I did the personal ad in the reader, I did the computer dating service, the bars and it just wasn't getting me anywhere," said Joanie Edelberg.

Frustrated on the dating circuit, Edelberg's dates have jumped from 2-3 per month before the dating coach, to 3-4 times a week with the help of with a dating coach.

"It wasn't working and I wasn't having any fun and decided I needed to get out and have some fun. And I needed someone to spur me on and help me do that," said Edelberg. "One of the things that patty has done is she had guided me into areas that I was already interested in and just pushed me along."

"I'm not the matchmaker that doesn't care about you, I'm a person that really wants to see you succeed," said Feinstein.

**Resources:**

- ChicagoShakers: [chicagoshakers.com](http://chicagoshakers.com)
- Fast Tag contact info: [fastdater.com](http://fastdater.com)
- 3 Minute Dating: [3minutedating.com](http://3minutedating.com)
- Dating Coach: [PattiFeinstein.com](http://PattiFeinstein.com)

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