Renaissance News™

Volume 4, No. 11 | Vision - Integrity - Quality | November 1990

New membership cards to be used

It only took three years but Renaissance has finally developed a workable membership card system.

The system, approved by the national board at the September 16 meeting, uses a multi-part form to keep track of what and who goes where in terms of dues and records.

The form was developed by Gloria A. Lange, Greater Philadelphia Chapter treasurer, and Charlene Galanti, national treasurer.

Without going into the boring details of the mechanism involved, suffice it to say that both chapters and national will have a much easier time tracking down problems with memberships—especially multiple chapter membership — and subscriptions.

The important thing for members to remember is that they will now be issued a membership card. Cards will come from chapters or national for newsletter-only subscribers. When a person arrives at a chapter meeting s/he will be asked to present her/his membership card. If they do not have a chapter card or if they have a national card, the person will be asked to make a contribution toward the meeting costs.

If a person belongs to multiple chapters, they will end up with multiple cards. Sorry, but it really is easier this way.

Each card is sequentially numbered, but — and this is important — the number is **not** a membership number. It is only for tracking and record keeping purposes.

Member input was solicited in the design of the form. The member will receive an elongated card with a portion of the top perforated for tear off. The top section of the card is the member card to be carried. The bottom section serves as a receipt. The membership card portion of the form does not make any reference to Renaissance. Only name, zip-code, expiration date and chapter affiliation appear on the top part of the card.

Renaissance and friends: DelMarVa

Is it possible that there are cross-dressers and kindred spirits in the Eastern Shore — DelMarVa peninsula area who would like to meet occassionaly for social purposes?

That's a question Gayle Edwards was asking Alison Laing at a recent Renaissance meeting.

Gayle has asked that anyone who lives in or near that general area who also might be interested in a purely social gathering contact her. She will need to know from you the best time for such a meeting. She will then get back to you with a date, location and time.

Write to Gayle at 1414 Laurel Highway, Seaford, DE 19973 or call her at (302)-628-4032.

Should she get sufficient response, there may be the makings of a Delaware chapter here.

Chapter elections this month

New officers for the Greater Philadelphia and South Jersey Chapters will be elected at the respective November meetings. The official nominations were opened at the September meetings. Nominations for Greater Philadelphia offices will remain open until just before balloting this month. Nominations for South Jersey offices were closed at their October meeting.

Candidates are still being accepted for all Philadelphia chapter positions: Managing Director, Treasurer, Membership, Outreach, and Secretary. Tenure is one year.

Only a fully paid member of a chapter may vote or hold a position.

It is a Renaissance tradition to turn over the leadership to prevent stagnation and promote new ideas. Therefore, everyone has the opportunity to make a contribution.

Even if you are not interested in running for an office, please be sure to attend the November meetings to vote. No ballots will be accepted outside the November meetings.

Subscription fees redefined

The board was busy in September. Among other actions taken were a rescheduling of subscription fess for the national newsletter.

Formerly, subscription rates were halved beginning July 1. Now, subsciption rates will be kept on a quarterly schedule: 12 months - $12, 9 months - $9, 6 months - $6, and 3 months - $3. Any monies received in excess of the fee for the current period will be kept as a donation.

CHAPTER INFORMATION

New Jersey

South Jersey: Kelly Harris, chapter leader. Write Renaissance SJ, c/o P. O. Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 641-3782.

*** * *IMPORTANT * * ***
Until Further Notice
The Reading Chapter
Has Suspended Operations

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia area: Angela Gardner, chapter leader. Write Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Winter hours: starts at 8:00 p.m. Call (215) 946-8887.

Pennsylvania

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Brenda Davidson, chapter leader Write Renaissance LSV, Box 7412, York, PA 17404. Meets the first Saturday of the month in Camp Hill, Pa. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Call (717) 767-4095.

NATIONAL INFORMATION

✔ Renaissance has a new mailing address, please correct your records: P. O. Box 552, King of Prussia, Pa., 19406.

✔ Renaissance has a new phone number as well. Call (215) 630-1437 24 hours a day for current information about events and activities.

✔ The board of directors has approved a new policy for the development of chapters and affiliates.

— Any group that wishes to become a Renaissance chapter must be incorporated as a non-profit institution in their home state (except Pa.) before asking for chapter status.

— Any group that wishes to become a Renaissance affiliate will pay a small annual fee for services normally afforded to chapters for free. Affiliates have no legal connection to Renaissance and remain autonomous. Services include unlimited access to reference publications and newsletter copy.

Write for details to Alison Laing, Co-director of Outreach, P. O. Box 552, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406.

AND, DON'T FORGET ABOUT...

- Background Papers are available for $1 each plus $.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing, 2-Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 7-What Is Renaissance?, and 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics.
- 3R addiction recovery support group meets at King of Prussia on third Sat. of the month.
- The Pen Pal Project. If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please inform Mary Ann Kirkland or write to the office, c/o Dept. PP.
- A few copies of the Deluxe Edition of Dr. Benjamin's *The Transsexual Phenomenon* are still available at $39.95 postpaid. Make checks payable to Renaissance.

Renaissance News

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For current information call (215) 630-1437 24 hrs. a day.

Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the gender community at large.

Events Calendar

November
3rd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
3rd Ren. LSV Chapter
17th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

December
1st Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
1st Ren. LSV Chapter
9th Holiday Party @ The Inne
15th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

January
5th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
5th Ren. LSV Chapter
19th Ren. Gr, Phila. Chapter

February
2nd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
2nd Ren. LSV Chapter
16th Ren. Gr, Phila. Chapter
22-24 Texas "T" Party B&P, San Antonio, TX

JoAnn Altman Stringer SURVIVAL™

TRANSITION AND TIMING

The two most difficult decisions for any transsexual to make in his or her life are deciding what route to take with their life and when to do it. As the first decision has virtually endless possibilities, and is quite a personal choice, let's discuss the issue of "when".

My daughter, Jodi, just turned 13 years old in August. Like any teenage girl, she is giggly over New Kids on the Block and fusses over the way her hair looks. All of this is a sudden change in behavior. Just last Christmas her father and I gave her some Barbie doll items and I found out, much to my chagrin, that she has sold almost everything now. It's kids' stuff; not the trappings of a bonafide teenager.

Jodi and I were watching an old 1966 movie with Haley Mills the other day - *The Trouble With Angels*. In it, Mills is a young girl sent to a Catholic girls' high school. As the movie progresses, Mills comes upon a couple of turning points in her life that ultimately lead her into a decision to become a nun.

I told Jodi that sometime in the next two to four years she, too, would have some type of personal revelation that would change the course of her life forever. At this time, I couldn't tell her what it would be, but could only reassure her it would definitely come, and she would know it at the time.

It happens to everyone, everywhere; during adolescence something occurs that alters the course of history for that individual. This 'phenomena' happened to me too.

However, to a transsexual it may happen twice in their lives. The first occurrence may be that time in teenage-dom when everything is special and magical. It won't be till later in life when the second bolt of lightning strikes again altering history.

Something will take place that finally forces the transsexual to make the decision, once and for all, what to do with their lives. It doesn't matter what that decision is as long as it is made over a long period of deep consideration of the consequences and not made hastily. It's a decision that makes a difference.

Remember, Gender Dysphoria is a problem affecting the whole family, not just the individual. Everyone will be touched in some manner by what the individual chooses to do with their life. It's possible to affect a relationship with a family member, pro or con, according to the timing of the decision.

When you tell those you love your specific plans it would be best to tell each person individually letting them decide for themselves. They will appreciate the special attention you're giving them in trying to solve your special problem. Plus, it's best to tell everyone involved within a few days of each other. After all, when you tell the first couple of people, the whole family is going to know anyway, right?

My point is that you need to control the situation through the timing of when you tell significant others and how you tell them.

Timing can be other things as well.

The actual decision of what you are going to do with your life and the timing of when you get the ball rolling should be two separate decisions made and implemented two entirely separate times.

In my case, it wasn't medical school but military officer's candidate school. I had known for many years the course I would take but I also knew the timing of my transition would have to be exactly right. My dream was to re-enter the Army (after leaving once) as an officer, believing that the status of "officer" would help my future career plans. During my last years in college I decided to start transition after getting my commission.

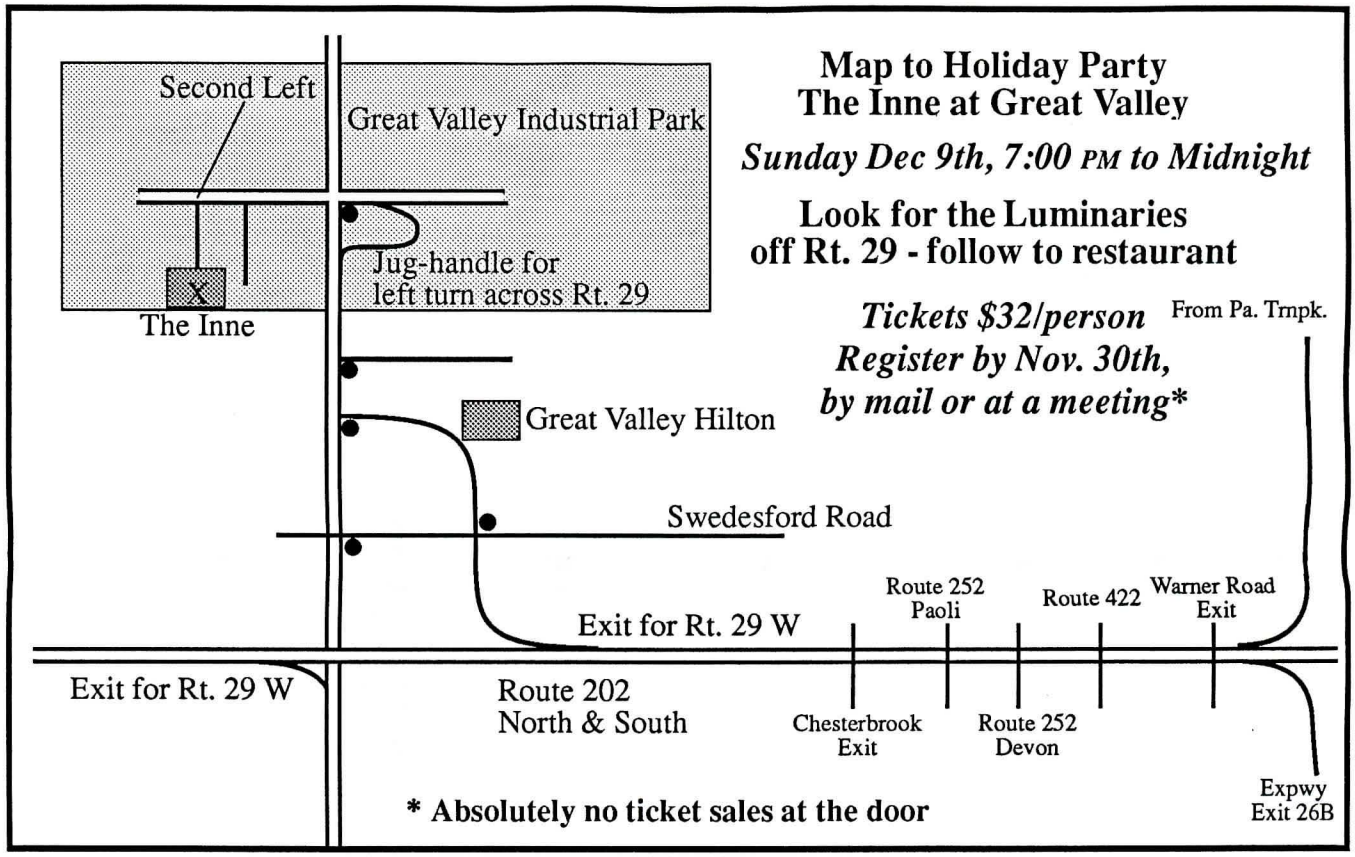
My plans worked out better, initially, than I had hoped. I was accepted into both the Army and Navy officer programs, and chose the Army. Twelve grueling weeks in later I was commissioned a shiny, new, Second Lieutenant. My children were only about three years old at the time. I decided to wait a little before taking the next step.

When the children turned four, I told my spouse that I needed a divorce to do what I must with my life. Though heartbroken, she knew this was best for me. Still in the Army and now a Captain, I started my transition on active duty. After moving out of the house, I lived on a small post in Bachelor Officers Quarters as a female officer. At work my commander and subordinates started to question my gender.

When I finally told my commander the story and he told me the grim consequences of what was to come of my military career, I didn't flinch. It was expected. I handed in my resignation and got the boot with an honorable discharge in one hand and a recommendation for reassignment surgery in the other.

This was something I had planned for many years. I served my stint as an officer with all of the pomp that position holds. My dream of getting my "ticket" punched had been achieved on the road to future successes. Though divorce and leaving my children was very difficult, I planned for it at the best possible time for everyone concerned.

This journey is never an easy one. Some people are going to get hurt along the way and your future may be blocked forever if you make the wrong choice in timing your transition. It's something that needs a lot of planning up front, proper goals set, and a good plan to follow. If done correctly, your significant others will be hurt the least and your survival on this planet will be well executed to everyone's benefit.



Map to Holiday Party
The Inne at Great Valley

Sunday Dec 9th, 7:00 PM to Midnight

Look for the Luminaries
off Rt. 29 - follow to restaurant

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THE NEWSQUEEN™ Paula Jordan Sinclair

The biggest story of the month has got to be the Colorado tale of the 26-year-old man who posed, either successfully or unsuccessfully, depending on whom you ask, as a female high school junior.

For eights days, Charles James Daugherty dressed in blazers, skirts and high heels and plastered his face with makeup to attend classes at Coronado High School in Colorado Springs under the name of Cheyen Weatherly. Cheyen even performed with the school's cheerleaders at two pep rallies. Her 5-foot-9, 164-pound frame was invaluable to the squad's human pyramid.

School officials said they became convinced that Cheyen was a man after two days, but allowed her to attend classes for another six days while police conducted an investigation. After she was arrested and charged with third degree forgery and criminal impersonation, some students expressed surprise and shock. But others said they knew all along. "I could see hair on his chin through all the heavy make-up he wore," a math classmate said. But all students, with the exception of the cheerleaders, took the incident as a big joke.

Police said that Daugherty had a long record of passing himself off as a woman. For a period last year, he was a cheerleader with the Colorado Springs Spirit, a now-defunct minor league football team. He has a theft and criminal impersonation record going back to 1983.

♣♣♣

Sometimes even the most passable transgendered person has trouble with the law. Take the story of Tula, the British actress and model who was one of the "Bond girls" in the movie *For Your Eyes Only*. Fourteen years after her sex change and after becoming a lust object for men all over the world, she is still officially a man in the eyes of British law. Recently the European Court of Human Rights has ruled that her rights are not violated by that policy eve if it means that she cannot marry.

Tula's case first made headlines in the London tabloids after her 1989 marriage was broken up by her new mother-in-law who discovered Tula's past. At the time, the authorities who granted the license and those who performed the wedding did not know that Tula was born a man.

"I could consummate a marriage with a man, but it would be illegal," she said shortly before the ruling was announced. "I could marry a woman legal, but I couldn't consummate the marriage, so it would be null and void, which is really silly."

♣♣♣

An Argentine woman probably wishes that her country had the same restriction on transsexuals — her former husband has become a woman and now want's to marry the woman's father.

Following her sex change, and two days after her divorce from Chica Zuvella, Manuela Zuvella announced her engagement to her widowed former father-in-law.

"Papa and Manuel always got along great," Chica was quoted. "But this is the sickest thing I ever heard of. I can't believe Papa is going to sleep with with the man who's the father of his grandson." But Manuela sees no reason why she should not marry the father of her ex-wife. "I'm a single woman," she said.

♣♣♣

Those who believe that transsexuals still retain the gender they were born into evidently haven't read a recent "Dear Abby" column. In response to a letter from a bureaucrat inquiring how to address transsexuals who ask for copies of their birth certificates, Abby replied. "Address him (or her) by his (or her) legal name."

♣♣♣

The mater of a legal name is the least of the legal problems facing Olivia St. John, a Chicagoan who dresses and describes himself as a woman. In May, she was involved in an altercation with police officers, biting one of them and scratching another and allegedly yelling "I have AIDS and (now) you have it too." In addition to being charged with aggravated battery to a police officer, she is also the first person charged under an Illinois law with criminal transmission of AIDS.

But, after conferring with medical experts, the Cook County state's attorney recently dropped the AIDS transmission charge. "We could not prove that this transmission could take place," Cecil Partee said.

The AIDS activist group ACT UP took credit for the dropping of the charges because of their demonstrations at several of St. John's court hearing. A group spokesperson said that St. John "is kind of an outcast of society — she's black, gay and a drag queen. We feel she is the kind of person the police department and the court system would not care about ... an easy person to flush down the toilet."

St. John, who as denied that she carries the AIDS virus, admitted that she fought with police. She said the fight began when one officer pulled out "the hairpiece that was sewed into my head."

♣♣♣

Police in San Diego have their hands full with another kind of transgendered problem. Since May, four transgendered people have met violent deaths. The most recent victim was run over by a car driven by a minister. Police say the latest incident was an accident.

The Rev. Fred Ray Belloff operates a ministry or homeless people. According to his wife he was cruising the streets looking for members of his flock when he encountered

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Lower Susquehanna News

Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter of The Renaissance Education Association, Inc.

Volume 2, Number 9 - November 1990

Elsa Larson, Editor
Address correspondence to:
LSV - Renaissance
P O Box 2122
Harrisburg PA 17105-2122

Chapter Meetings

LSV meets the first Saturday of each month at Classic Designs Hair Care Center, 250 S 15th St, Camp Hill. **Doors open 8:00** p.m. Program 9:00.

Directions: I-83 to Exit 22-Lemoyne, right at light onto Third St. (from I-83 N, you can only turn right), at second traffic light on Third St., turn left on Market St. (Hardees), bear left onto State St. (Hess gas) and go about a mile to Classic Designs, on the right just past the West Shore Plaza and a NAPA auto parts store. Use the parking lot on the west end of the building. Enter door facing the parking lot.

Phone Changes

In addition to the new mailing address above, by the next chapter meeting, we will have a Harrisburg phone with several informational messages. For specific information, call the following:

Brenda in Mechanicsburg at (717) 766-8527 for chapter information and carpools to King of Prussia meetings.

Heather in Carlisle at (717) 249-5841 about meeting programs & events.

Elsa in York at (717) 767-4095 for membership and outreach information.

Classic Designs

250 S. 15th St., Camp Hill

offers full hair, wig, cosmetic and electrolysis services to our community. Private areas available for all services. Phone (717) 761-2284 or (717) 761-2285. Treva specializes in wig styling. For other salon services ask for Vicky. For electrologist, Tracy Evens, call (717) 763-8254. Tracy also does permanent makeup - great for eye liner, lip liner or replacing pigment in scars.

LSV Elections

Election of 1991 officers will be held at the November 3 meeting. All 1990 officers are running for their current offices. All 1990 members are eligible to vote as are those joining for 1991.

On October 6, Linn V. and Rose Parsons were nominated as additional Directors-at-Large. Rather than wait until 1991 for them to assume office, they were elected for the remainder of 1990 as well. Linn will be helping with outreach in Williamsport and State College areas. Rose will be a valued liaison with the gay and drag communities.

Current Directors are:

Brenda Davidson - Chapter Leader, Heather Brown - Program/Meeting Coordinator, Dawn G. - Treasurer, Richelle B. - Secretary. Allison Lovell, Delma W., Linn V., Rose Parsons and Elsa Larson are Directors-at-Large

Additional Directors-at-Large may be added so long as the total board is no more than 50% of the membership.

Nominations will be open until the election. If you wish to run but will not be at the November meeting, please notify any board member.

Valley Gossip

September 21, Dawn and Elsa saw Beulah Lamont and Friends at Altland's Ranch doing a warm-up for the Miss Universe at Large pageant.

October 6 LSV meeting attendance was 20 persons. We now have 40 members.

October 17, Elsa spoke to Gay & Lesbian Switchboard. They're nice people providing a valuable service and deserve our support.

At presstime, Heather is at Dressing for Pleasure. We hope they're ready for her. Her report next month.

Susquehanna Calendar

- Friday, November 2 Brenda and Elsa will appear on Friday Live on WGAL-TV 8 at 10:00 a.m. Set your VCR.
- Saturday, November 3. LSV Meeting. Election of 1991 officers.
- Sunday, December 9 we will join with our sisters from Greater Philadelphia for their Christmas party at the Inne at Great Valley.
- Monday, December 31, New Years Eve dinner being planned for a location north of Harrisburg.

Outreach Opportunities

Can you get time off during the day to speak to college classes?

May we give your name and phone number to persons calling LSV for information or carpools?

Volunteers always needed at Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg.

Board News

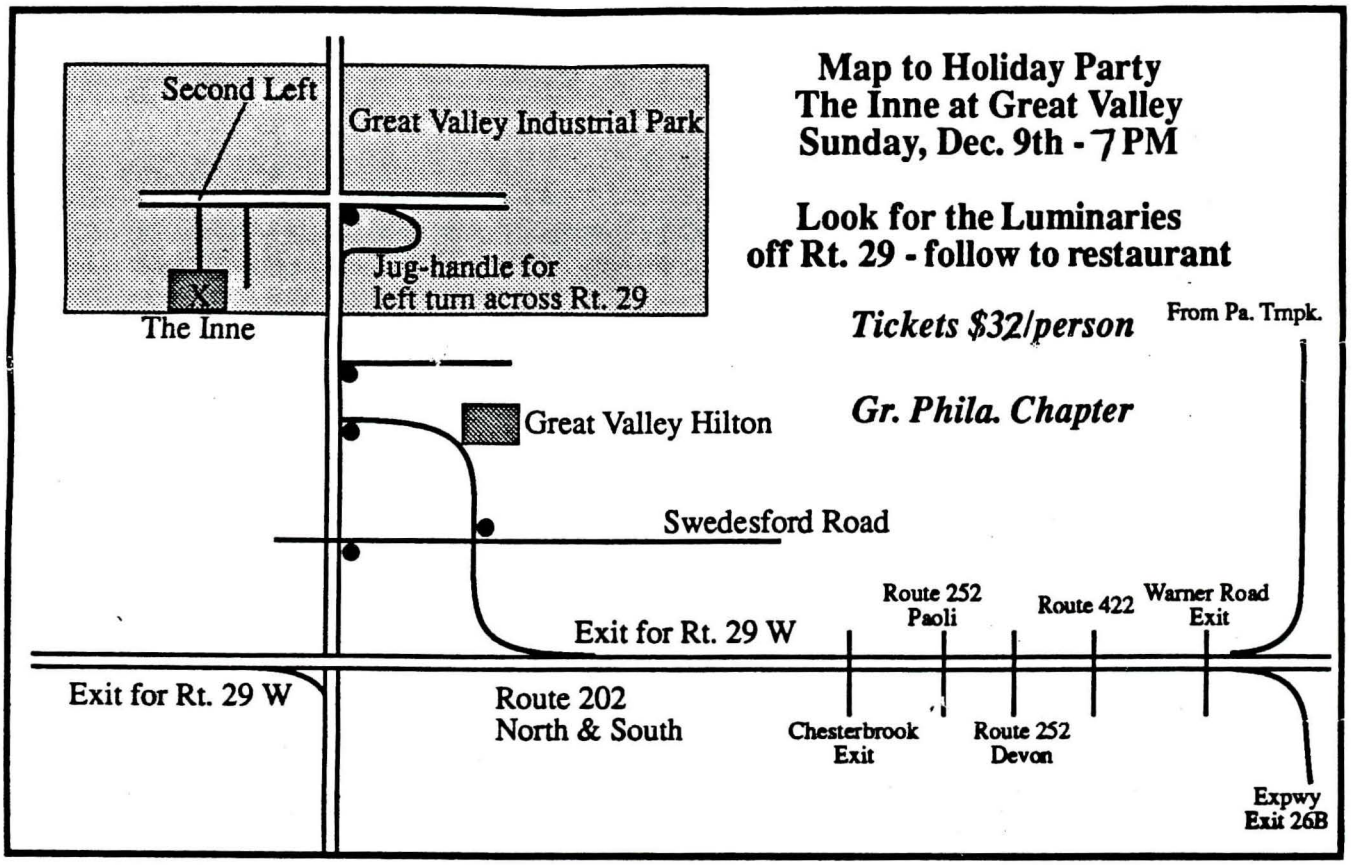
September 30, LSV board met at Brenda's. We're one year old and ready to expand our membership. With anticipated expenses for rent, refreshments, newsletter and phone, we will need at least 60 members by this time next year.

Chapter dues beginning 1991 are increased to $20/yr and will be prorated by quarter to match prorations of $12 National dues.

Newsletter distribution via *Renaissance News* looks more expensive than first class mail to chapter members only. We would appreciate any comments from members or non-members.

We now welcome members from Reading and Allentown. We have a member in Reading who wishes to do outreach.

HOLIDAY PARTY



RENAISSANCE HOLIDAY PARTY
SUNDAY DECEMBER 9
7:00 PM
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Enclosed please find my payment for the party:

Number of tickets _____

Amount of payment @ $32 per ticket _____

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Mailing address _____

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Mail coupon and payment to: Gr. Phila. Chapter Renaissance
P. O. Box AD, Bensalem PA 19020

NewsQueen...

Donald Pierce who reportedly worked the City Heights neighborhood as a crossdressed prostitute. Pierce got into Belloff's car, then fled after robbing the minister. A witness said Belloff ran over Pierce, dragging him 50 feet. But because authorities could not prove that Belloff intended to harm Pierce, they could not charge him with a crime.

♣♣♣

Police in another Mecca for transgendered persons also had their hands full recently. In an early morning melee that reminded some observers of the Stonewall Riots in New York City more than 20 years ago, an angry crowd in Provincetown, Mass., pelted police with pizza, garbage and coins after police arrested a drag queen. The arrest, some say, was part of a pattern of police harassment of lesbians and gay men in the reportedly tolerant Cape Cod town.

The incident began following a lesbian and gay community awards ceremony during which a drag queen named Vanilla was given the spoof "Golden Plunger" award. As she left the ceremony at the Crown and Anchor bar, Vanilla tried to stick the plunger on a van owned by her friends. Police, perhaps believing that a drag queen armed with a plunger constituted a menace to society, arrested Vanilla and a woman who came to her aid. The arrests sparked the angry outburst from the crowd and $3,000 in damages to the police car.

♣♣♣

We now turn closer to home for news about more angry drag queens — Pittsburgh is the location and the disappointed contestants for the 1990-'91 Miss Gay Continental Pennsylvania pageant are the usual suspects.

The winner of the contest was Diva of Greensburg, Pa. But no sooner was the crown pinned to her wig than the criticism started.

First to come under fire were the judges, many of whom allegedly belong to an organization called The Academy that has the reputation of awarding titles to its members. Then the complaints got really bitchy.

"That *was* a wedding dress with pink Isotoner slippers that won the honored position of representing Pennsylvania at the national competition," one observer said. "Let's hope that a peignoir hits the racks at one of our vintage clothing stores so our Miss Pennsylvania USA has something more appropriate to go with her slippers at the finals."

At least the bitches in Pittsburgh didn't throw pizza.

♣♣♣

Two correspondents from Colorado brightened Miss Sinclair's day with their welcome contributions to this column. You could do the same by sending articles about crossdressing to her at the Renaissance office. Be sure to note the name and the date of publication.

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Local club honors Renaissance contributions

From its very beginning, Renaissance has made it one of its prime objectives to become a part of the sexual minority community in Philadelphia. The founders recognized that a transgender support group would not be able to work alone to bring transgender issues to public awareness. In order to gain wider support for Renaissance activities, the group would also have to support the activities of other sexual minorities. This goal fit in with their non-discrimination policy.

Accordingly, just five short months after its formation, Renaissance held its first AIDS benefit. Since then, Renaissance has participated in the Gay And Lesbain Arts (GALA) festival for two years and has a member seated on the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission for Sexual Minorities. That member also chairs the Transgender Workgroup for the commission.

Renaissance also makes regular contributions to the food bank at the Philadelphia Community Health Association and the group was nominated for a Lambda Award last year as best support group in the metropolitan area. The Lambda Award is a community service recognition award.

The community service efforts have paid off in many respects for the group and its members. Now, one of the best local clubs is going to honor Renaissance and its contributions to the community.

The management of Gatsby's, a well know gay/lesbian dance club, is hosting a Renaissance Recognition Night on Friday evening, Nov. 23. (Yes, the day *after* Thanksgiving.)

The festivities begin at 6:00 pm with an open bar until 7:00 pm. This will be followed by a FREE Dinner Buffet. After dinner, drinks will be only $1. There is no cover charge.

Gatsby's is located on Cuthbert Blvd. in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, just minutes from downtown Philadelphia. Take the expressway to Vine St., and follow the signs to the Benjamin Franklin bridge. On the Jersey side of the bridge, follow signs for Routes 38 & 70 East until they branch. At the branch of 38 and 70, take Route 38 East to Cuthbert Blvd. and exit southbound. Gatsby's is about 3 blocks down on the right. Their number is 609-663-8744.

PFLAG hosts a "Coming Out" workshop

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support group dedicated to helping parents (and families) accept and cope with the sexual orientation of their children. Many of the problems and issues that transgendered people have in "coming out" to their families are the same as experienced by gays and lesbians. PFLAG can help ease the pain of the process.

On Sunday, Nov. 18, PFLAG will host "We'll Help You Come Out to Your Parents." A fee of $5 is required to help defray costs.

Phila. PFLAG president, Tom Sauerman said, "This is our most important event this year. Preparing young adults in advance enables them to better understand and anticpate [parent's responses]; it prepares them to help their parents through the process."

Parents will make presentations about their experiences and will be available to meet in small discussion groups. A "survival kit" of important imformation will also be available.

The workshop is from 2:00 to 5:30 pm, Nov. 18, at 2111 Sansom St., Philadelphia

PFLAG offers a free booklet, "Coming Out to Your Parents." Send a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P-PFLAG, Box 15711, Phila., PA 19103

Parents of transgender children support group forming

Parents of young gay and lesbian men and women are lucky to have PFLAG to help them understand their children's sexual orientation.

Parents of transgendered children are not so lucky and PFLAG does not really address their issues, since transgendered behavior is not a sexual issue but one of gender and social roles.

Most transgender groups offer support for the transgendered person only and not their family. While Renaissance provides much information of value to parents, it does not provide a peer support environment for parents.

Nancy Goodman (A.C.S.W.) a therapist from northern New Jersey, prompted by concerns of a client whose child is a transsexual, recognized the need and is forming a parents peer support group.

Goodman practices in Hackettstown, N.J., and can be reached at 201-852-9000.

If your parents are having trouble dealing with your transgender behavior, try to get them in contact with Goodman.

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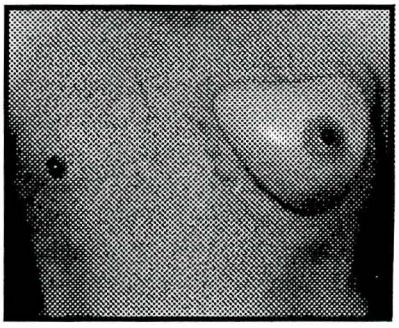

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Whaddaya wanna do ta-nite? A guide to local clubs

Courtesy of the Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter

For those of you who sometimes find yourselves "all dressed up with no place to go," here's a list of some tried and tested places in the metropolitan Philadelphia area that are open to crossdressers.

Remember, though, whether you're a "virgin" or a seasoned partygoer, it's always wise to travel with a friend, rather than go alone.

Many places listed here offer dining and the opportunity to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere. Phone numbers are included if you wish to make dinner reservations, confirm hours or special events.

• • •

THE CARTWHEEL: 437 York Rd., New Hope, Pa. Dining from 6 to 10 pm. Disco from 9 pm to 2 am.

The Cartwheel is classy and very popular. It offers the best of many worlds: elegant dining, a party-charged disco, and an intimate lounge. Features weekly drag contests (Mon. nights) and frequent drag shows (Wed. nights).

Call 215-862-0880

GATSBY'S: Cuthbert Blvd. (between Routes 38 & 70) in Cherry Hill, N.J. Gatsby's circular bar and two-tiered disco area is fabulous. There are also a game room and piano bar for those more quiet moments.

Gatsby's has a different program every night of the week, from drag shows to women's night with male dancers.

Cover charges vary by event. Sometimes events include a buffet and inexpensive drinks.

Call 609-663-8744

HEPBURN'S: 254 S. 12th Street, Phila. Hepburn's is a women's bar catering to the lesbian community. It offers a unique and enjoyable experience with bars on two floors, a mirrored disco, gameroom and women-oriented events.

Call 215-545-8088

THE NEW KURTS': 1229 Chestnut St., Phila. In the heart of downtown Center City is a roomy club with a great dance floor, multiple bars, video room and lounge.

Kurts' has an event every night of the week with cover charges most nights. Some events include a buffet and inexpensive drinks.

Call 215-751-0009

THE NEW PRELUDE: Jct. of Routes 202 and 179, New Hope, Pa. The New Prelude is very special to Renaissance: they are the hosts of many of our parties.

The 'Lude is more quiet than other bars and very comfortable. It has an excellent sound and light system, a sedate lounge area and a great atrium restaurant.

Usually no cover and most any Saturday night will find several Renaissance members there.

Call 215-862-5171

THE RENAISSANCE BAR: 107 W. 6th St., Wilmington, Dela. (Take Delaware Ave. exit off I-95 and go right onto Washington.) This club is often overlooked. The club promotes drag shows on Thurs. through Sun. They also sponsor special events.

Dining is available from 5 to 10pm. Last call in Delaware is 1am.

Call 302-652-9435

VOODOO: 2121 Arch St., Phila. Voodoo is a relatively new club on the scene. It has a mixed straight/gay, very avant-garde crowd.

Voodoo has two floors: downstairs is a HOT disco with two bars; upstairs features table seating, munchies and the show stage. Sunday is *Bad Boys Night* with a midnight drag show. This a very popular place and it fills up *fast*.

Call 215-569-1123

RAFFLES: 243 Camac St., Phila. Camac St. is a tiny alley between 12th and 13th. Raffles is a rustic and friendly place with two floors. Upstairs is the dance floor while downstairs is the piano bar.

Call 215-545-6969

W.S.C.CLUB: 624 Main St., Norristown, Pa. A very new gay club in the Montgomery Count Seat. The WSC features drag shows on Wed. nights with many performers from surrounding clubs.

Call 215-278-9646

THE BOTTOM'S UP: Route 322, (Blackhorse Pike), Mays Landing, N.J. This rustic club is situated near the Hamilton Mall and the South Jersey Renaissance chapter meets just down the street. It has a large bar up front and a small dance floor.

No phone number given.

Phila. Gay and Lesbian Task Force looking for legal pros

If you are a legal professional and you would like an opportunity to advance the civil and human rights of sexual minorities, the Gay and Lesbian Task Force needs you.

The Task Force committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Friends Center, 1501 Cherry St., in Philadelphia.

The current agenda of the Task Force involves research and public policy development on statewide civil rights, education equity, and child custody, as well as doemstic partnership, locally

The November meeting will start at 6:30 pm and run to 8:30pm.

Anyone interested in making a contribution should contact Rita Addessa, executive director, Gay and Lesbian Task Force at 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA. 19102 or call 215-563-9584.

Silence = Death

THE ICONOCLAST™

JoAnn Roberts

PHILADELPHIA, PA. — With the search for a new senior editor concluded, you didn't think we were going to let Ms. Roberts off the hook completely, did you? She'll be editing this column of community news and adding her familiar sarcastic comments. Now you'll know at whom to throw the darts.

•••

NEW YORK CITY — We received word that **David Tolbin** has resigned as advisor to **The Gathering**, formerly a TS-only support group but now sporting an open membership policy.

Taking the reins from Tolbin is **Jana Thompson**, who was a co-founder of The Gathering four years ago. It will remain to be seen whether the "open door" policy stays.

Thompson and The Gathering were co-sponsors with Renaissance of *Voices*, the ill-fated professional seminar cancelled in 1988. Shortly afterward, Thompson dropped out of The Gathering for personal reasons. Welcome back Jana.

•••

PORTLAND, ORE. — The Sept. issue of the **North West Gender Alliance** (NWGA) newsletter carried a tantilizing tid bit about a new book that confirms men and women don't speak the same language. (Are you listening Alison?)

They give the name of the book, *You Just Don't Understand*, but fail to mention the author or publisher.

Come on ladies, you tease us with this information and then we have to work to find it?

•••

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One of the benefits of this job is that we get to see all the different newsletters from other groups. Almost all are well written but few are well executed. (We like to think that this newsletter helped set the standard.)

So, we were pleased to see *The Pinnacle* back in print after a year's hiatus. This newsletter, well written *and* well executed, comes to us from the **Delta Chi Education Association** (DCEA), the support group originally founded by doyenne **Betty Ann Lind**. The current editor is **Barbara Thompson**.

DCEA meets the first Saturday of the month. Write to them at P. O. Box 16036, Arlington, VA 22215.

•••

HONOLULU — Need an excuse to visit Hawaii? How about checking out active volcanos? No? Well, how about checking out HTGO? Who? The **Hawaiian TransGender Outreach**, that's who.

Finally, the island state has an open transgender support group and with all the polynesian genes in the pool out there we bet they've got some really gorgeous members.

If you're intersted in making contact say "Aloha" to **Tracy Ryan** at 777 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 3114, Honolulu, HI 96813.

•••

SAN FRANCISCO — Fundamentalist non carborundum...

According to **Kim [Hellman]** writing in the Sept. - Oct. newsletter from the **Educational TV Channel** (ETVC), the oft quoted Biblical injunction against crossdressing was distorted in the 16th century when the King James versionof the Bible was written.

Deuteronomy 22:5 now says, "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God."

Kim says those words only bear a

continued next page

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THE ICONOCLAST™

JoAnn Roberts

slight resemblence to the original language written in the 7th century B.C. as rules for the tribes of Israel. The original meaning translates (approximately) to: a woman shall not wear men's clothes to impersonate holy men and men shall not dress in women's garb to go into tents to rape and pillage: to do so is an abomination to God.

This approximate translation has been corroborated by our good friend and advisor **Dr. Wm. R. Stayton**, who also happens to be a Baptist minister. Nice work Kim.

•••

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. — Get this one on our staff...

Many people in this community don't like to make waves and they don't like those who do. Some people want uniformity of thought, action and image: transgender Barbie dolls. Not so **Elaine Edwards**, editor of the newsletter for the **Indiana Crossdresser's Society** (IXE). You may remember these are the gutsy ladies that took on the gay bar owners here a while back when they were expelled from gay bars for being crossdressed.

Edwards says, "... 99.9% of anything you read about gender dysphoria is opinion. It doesn't make any difference what the source is — whether it comes from a Ph.D., or an M.D., or a post-op TS, or Virginia Prince, or Sister Mary Elizabeth; it is, for the most part, opinion.

"Nothing is ever as good as they say it is and nothing ever works exactly the same way it did for the other person. Getting educated is a wise decision, but beware of dogma."

•••

BALTIMORE, MD. — Some groups fade away and are never heard from again, while others seem to restore themselves. **My Choice** is one that seems renewed.

Shana Roberts let us know that the group is still operating in the area and meets on the second Saturday of the month. You must write or call for the meeting location. Contact Shana at 7S. Broadway, Apt 1A, Balto., MD 21231, or call (301) 732-4546.

•••

SAN ANTONIO, TEX. — One thing we won't tolerate is intolerance...

The girls at **Bolton & Park** are gearing up for the 3rd annual **Texas 'T' Party**, one of the better events in the country. But we caught this statement on the back of their brochure which caught us off guard, "RULES: Since we don't want to spoil anyone's efforts, we will allow NO VISIBLE FACIAL HAIR, either in or out of the Party. We are serious about this.

"... if you plan to attend outside functions, we expect you to exhibit a certain degree of decorum ... so as not to cause undue attention on the group as a whole."

Bet they never heard of the Renaissance Rule of Discovery which states, "The probability of being 'read' in public increase as the cube of the number of TVs in a group."

We understand the proscription on facial hair for public activities, but to exclude activities confined to the hotel seems overly strict.

But wait, there's more to this than meets they eye. Here is another quote from the **Heart of Texas Gender Alliance**, "Our first policy change is that all that attend our HTGA functions are to do so 'en femme.' The idea is that if they are not ready to 'dress,' they are not ready to attend our functions."

Well! Excuuuuuusssse ME!

We didn't realize that Texas trans were so snobby. Oh, the connection? The board of HTGA is also the board of B&P. Makes you wonder why they bothered with two groups.

•••

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. — As subtle as a bearded man in a dress...

The annual Octoboo (sic) issue of *Twenty Minutes*, the newsletter of **The (XX) Twenty Club**, carries a parody of the **International Foundation for Gender Education**.

Former editor and frequent contributor, **Veronica Brown**, takes her shots at **Merissa Sherrill Lynn** and IFGE with a "price list" for pseudo-publications from the **Interplanetary Federation for Gender Elitism**. The list includes such cutting wit as, "*The Sting*. By Merissa Sherbert Lyme. The secrets of avoiding life in the real world by building and living in a fantasy gender empire with MSL at the top."

Brown's dislike for IFGE and Lynn has been aired in *Twenty Minutes* frequently and it's getting tiresome. Some of the parody items are funny, but the descriptions of the publications usually degenerate into personal attacks on individuals.

Roasted in print are **Virginia Prince**, **Peggy Rudd** (*My Husband Wears My Clothes*), **Sr. Mary Elizabeth** (especially nasty remarks), **Mariette Pathy Allen**, **Dr. Richard Docter**, and **JoAnn Altman Stringer**. We're particularly upset that we didn't make the list.

•••

SANTA FE, N. MEX. — And if you're three months late, transvestites with Uzi's come to your house...

The **Fiesta Chapter** of **Tri-Ess** has a new club officer that sounds very un-feminine.

Sergeant-At-Arms is the position created to enforce a new club policy that lets members be only two months behind in local or national dues. After that, delinquent members get cut from the newsletter mailing list and are not allowed to attend local meetings.

What the Hell is wrong with this community? Why are groups like Fiesta and HTGA inventing ways of keeping people ***out*** of meetings instead of finding ways to get people ***in***volved and ***into*** meetings.

De Gustibus Non Disputandem!

The BACKPAGE

CCL founder abducted, feared dead

As reported in last month's National Gender News, the founder of the only French TV/TS support has been abducted.

The Centre of Christ du Liberateur (CCL) in Paris is one of the largest transgender support groups in Europe. Founded fifteen years ago by Pasteur Joseph Douce, a Flemmish-born gay Baptist minister, CCL's mission was to bring the gospel to all sexual minorities as well as to publish and sell books and magazines of interest to transgendered people.

Douce lived above the CCL headquarters at Place de Clichy with his lover Guy Bondar until six weeks ago when he disappeared. According to reports, police inspectors visited CCL shortly before Douce's disappearance and harassed customers. Next, inspectors began to harass Douce and Bondar at their flat. Finally, two inspectors came for Douce and he left with them. That was the last time Douce was seen.

A magistrate has ordered a police criminal investigation into the matter and police internal affairs is also involved.

In the ensuing weeks, Douce has not been found although it was thought he had been deported back to Belgium. However, his family has not heard from him and there is no evidence that a special prescription medicine that he requires daily has been purchased for him. Bondar believes Douce is dead.

No reason has been given for the abduction.

Bondar is appealing to all minorities for support in an effort to get French officials to perform a more thorough investigation. He is raising a petition to send to the French Home Office and would appreciate it if other support groups from around the world would prepare their own and send it to him.

The petition should contain a brief statement requesting the French government to take more positive action in the investigation. Signatures may be in male or female name. Send the completed petitions to: Guy Bondar, CCL, 3 Bis, Rue Clairaut, 75017, Paris, France.

This report was filed by Phaedra Kelly of the Gender Transient Affinity in Great Britain.

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