

The *Renaissance* Education Association, Inc.
GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER
Box AD • Bensalem, PA • 19020
215/ 946 - TVTS

JAN. '92

THE NEW CHAPTER BOARD: AN INTRODUCTION

MICHELLE [REDACTED]: New Managing Director. Came to Renaissance three years ago via Central Pennsylvania and the USAF. Served past two years as Director of Meetings and Programs. A former Princess of the Poconos. Recently traveled to Canada to visit a friend and model for a TV clothing boutique. Something to watch for in 1992: Michelle vacuuming the meeting place in her French Maid's outfit.

SAMANTHA [REDACTED]: New Secretary. Elected to Chapter Board in her first year as Renaissance member. Is also active in two or three other TV support groups in New Jersey. Another former Princess of the Poconos. (Is this a new prerequisite for Board members?) Samantha profiled: so young, so beautiful, so believable...makes the rest of us old queens feel like, well, old queens.

JOANNE [REDACTED]: New Treasurer. A close personal friend of Michelle [REDACTED]. (That's probably how she got the job). An accountant by trade, a lady by choice. Enjoys talking to new members and curious onlookers at the Hilton. Has been known to appear in public in skin tight vinyl ensemble. A tip to all dues paying members: keep your eye on Joanne. She's carrying our money around with her.

ANGELA GARDNER: New Meetings and Programs Director. Angela is also this year's Managing Director of National Board. Moonlighting (or is it spying?) as Chapter Board member this year. Appeared on the Morton Downey Jr. show and survived the experience. A union card carrying actor, Angela's appeared in films crossdressed. (No, not those kinds of films - real Hollywood movies).

MARYANN KIRKLAND: New Outreach Director. Maryann replaces Gloria [REDACTED] who had to step down from her newly elected position as Outreach Director for personal reasons. Maryann was 1991's Outreach Director also so she's been here before. Remains the Chapter's representative to the IFGE and attends their conventions annually. Interesting fact: Maryann is one of the few people who knows what I.F.G.E. really stands for.

RENAISSANCE GETS FREE PLUG IN AN UNLIKELY PLACE

Thanks to Charlene [REDACTED], National Board Treasurer and member of the Gr. Phila. Chapter, Renaissance got some free publicity from - of all places - WIP AM, the all sports talk radio station in town.

Here's how it happened: WIP's morning drive time host, Angelo Cataldi made a bet with co-host Tom Brookshier and the listening audience that the Dallas Cowboys would defeat the Eagles in their December rematch or he would wear a dress to the Eagles game against the Redskins at the Vet the following Sunday. The bet became a hot topic of discussion on the show for the week leading up to the Cowboys game and many listeners were giving Angelo advice on fashions and donating lipsticks, etc. for what all Eagles' fans beleived to be a sure thing. Namely, that the Eagles would win and Angelo would don female duds the next Sunday. Unfortunately, the Cowboys beat the Eagles and Angelo was spared (?) the pleasures of crossdressing in public.

Charlene wrote Mr. Cataldi a letter afterwards, with a photo of herself included, and offered him the opportunity to fulfill his secret desire to crossdress by attending one of our monthly meetings. The letter, which was read verbatim on the air at about 7:30AM, mentioned our group's name and mission and the 150-plus active members we have.

Angelo, of course, denied any latent interest in crossdressing and hid behind the 'bet' as his sole reason for mentioning dressing in female clothing. He also called Charlene and the rest of us 'perverts', which isn't too surprising since Cataldi affects an obnoxious demeanor as his on-air personality. Tony Bruno, another co-host in the studio that morning, stuck up for us a little bit and implied that maybe Angelo should visit our group to get this crossdressing thing out of his system.

But the free publicity continued on the evening drive time show hosted by Howard Eskin. Howard read Charlene's letter, which must have been left in the studio all day, again at about 6:15PM. Interestingly, Howard, who has a reputation as a lady's man, gave Charlene the supreme compliment after viewing her photo. He said that if he hadn't read the letter, he would have never thought Charlene was anything but a real woman and seemed amazed at her display of cleavage, and was trying to figure out how a man could look so bodacious. And then he said, 'actually, she's kind of cute'.

Charlene declined my urging to call Howard to ask for a date on-air. But it was good fun and great publicity for our group and Charlene is to be commended for her courage to boldly go where no queen has gone before: all sports talk radio.

PLACES TO GO

RENAISSANCE GREATER PHILA. CHAPTER MEETINGS February 15, Ariadne Kane, Director of The Outreach Institute and The Fantasia Fair will speak on general transgendered issues; wear red for Valentine's day if you wish; March 21, Dr. Sheila Kirk, Director of TransPitt and author will speak about hormones

THE CARTWHEEL "DRAG SEARCH '92" Every Monday night, 11:30 PM amateur contest leading up to Miss Cartwheel pageant in Sept. The Cartwheel, Rte. 202, 1 mi. west of New Hope Center, New Hope, PA; Call 215/862-0880

GATSBY'S Popular nightclub and disco features something different each night of the week, including drag shows on 2nd and 4th Thursdays of month. Gatsby's, Cuthbert Blvd, between Rtes 38 & 70, Cherry Hill NJ. Call 609/663-8744

WSC CLUB Roomy nightclub has different attractions throughout the week. WSC Club, 624 West Main Street (in rear), Norristown, PA; Call 215/278-9646

CHECK OUT The Philadelphia Gay News (75¢) and Au Courant (Free) for current events at clubs, etc. Available in Center City and various spots around the area, including many of the nightclubs listed above.

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BRIEFS:...Angela reports that Club Edelweiss, the notorious New York drag bar, is moving to new digs on 20th street and will feature four floors of activity, to open sometime in February...Charlene and Chrissi drove cross country to southern Colorado during the week between Christmas and New Year's. Chrissi is staying out there for awhile to live and work. And Charlene? She couldn't wait to get back to civilization...Lynn, formerly of LSV, has moved into this area and has found a job en femme. We don't know who's luckier: Lynn or her new coworkers...Dina was featured recently on the cover of the magazine TRANSACTION, and in a full-page ad for a '900' number. 'Call now'... Speaking of magazines, Joann Roberts has launched a new magazine for the international TV/TG community called TRANSCRIPT...Spotted one night at The Cartwheel recently: Angela and Michelle [REDACTED], Charlene and Coco, Joann Roberts and a table of unidentified guests. It's getting so that you can't tell the queens without a scorecard...Have you seen the commercial with a talk show takeoff about 'accountants who dress like clowns - and the women who love them'? Yes, talk show transvestism has become that much of a cliché...

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IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS OR SHOPPING BARGAINS - OR QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS OR GOSSIP (ESPECIALLY GOSSIP) - THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PASS ON FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER, SEE DINA AMBERLE, OR WRITE ME AT:

RENAISSANCE, GR. PHILA. CHAPTER, BOX AD, BENSALEM PA 19020