

Greater Phila Chapter NEWS

BY DINA AMBERLE

APRIL '92

ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Celebrate Renaissance's Fifth Anniversary at the Center City Holiday Inn on May 9th. There are two admission plans: a \$60 VIP reception with open bar plus dinner; and a \$35 dinner and cash bar ticket. Special guest of honor will be Richard Docter, Ph.D. A special birthday salute is planned and it promises to be a great evening to celebrate our five years of success and continuing growth.

Reserve your space by mailing your payment by April 30 to:
Renaissance
P. O. Box 60552
King of Prussia, PA 19406

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RESTROOM USE IS STILL RESTRICTED

Michelle [REDACTED], our Chapter leader, reports that restroom usage within our meeting space is still restricted to the powder room located in the front hallway of our meeting area. Last month we told you about the ongoing problem with the building management over use of the general restrooms in the back hallway. Until our Board can work something out with the management, we will have to confine ourselves to the small single restroom.

Members and guests cooperated very well in using the facilities with speed and efficiency and nary a discouraging word was heard regarding the loss of the larger restrooms in the back hallway last month.

Keep up the spirit of cooperation and consideration by keeping your rest stops brief and tidy so that we can all get through this with a minimum of inconvenience.

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MAGAZINE DONATIONS

The Chapter received another generous donation of magazines which will be put out for re-sale as a fundraising tool. Past magazine donations and re-sales have been very helpful in providing additional funds for the Chapter to meet operating expenses. The Chapter Board invites anyone to make donations of magazines or other material that could be re-sold at our meetings to raise funds. See any of the Chapter Board members for donation offerings.

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1992 HOLIDAY PARTY SET

For those of you who plan way ahead, Michelle [REDACTED] reports that our Annual Holiday Party is set for Saturday, December 19 at The Great Valley Sheraton Hotel located just off the Rte 202 and Rte 30 interchange. (Not far from The Ship Inn). Watch for details in coming months.

DRAG STRIP:...We had a remarkable turnout for last month's meeting. Approx 110 members and guests were in attendance and we had visitors from Wash. DC and Long Island groups...The large crowd was also in evidence at the apres-meeting drink-a-thon at The Ship Inn where the spillover reached into the dining room and we filled up a half-dozen tables...Despite the big number of meeting guests, the restricted restroom situation went over remarkably well and hardly any bitching was heard - which surprised this reporter...Our fearless leader, Michelle [REDACTED], is just back from her European vacation. I wonder if she learned French and Greek while she was over there? I found out that while in Amsterdam she did go out dressed as Maid Michelle to Club Doma, a B&D theme nightclub...A great practical joke was played out recently but I'll skip the names to protect the guilty and the hoodwinked: one of our crowd was expected at a small house gathering and the early arrivees decided it would be funny to have one of the 'authentic' girlfriends answer the door while the rest of the crossdressed guests hid. When the unfortunate last guest knocked at the door, she was greeted with an Oscar-worthy performance of "I'm sorry you must have the wrong address. But since you're obviously lost, come in and we can figure out where you're supposed to be." The mortified and bashful crossdresser comes into the living room. The girlfriend then asks in a shocked voice, "Are you a guy?!" And the visitor admits that he is indeed a man in women's clothing, whereupon the rest of the practical-joking guests jump out and yell, "So are we!". To the innocent and guilty parties (and you know who you are) I can only say that payback is certainly justified, so beware...Maryann Kirkland and spouse Evelyn are headed for Detroit to tape a talk show but I'm not sure whose show it is or if it will air in this area...And Maryann Kirkland and JoAnn [REDACTED] went to Houston to represent us at the IFGE convention this past week. My spies report that JoAnn was issued a citation by the IFGE fashion police for her famous (infamous?) short skirt outfits. Message to all IFGE sisters out there: lighten up, willya?...A handful of theater lovers attended a performance of Kate Bornstein's 'The Opposite Sex is Neither' and had dinner beforehand at Overtures in Center City. The fun bunch included Angela, Michelle, JoAnn, Jamie, Lorraine, Rachel and Beth...Is it just me or are the girls on the cover of Cosmopolitan looking more and more like drag queens? I haven't seen so much heavy eye makeup since last Sunday's Miss WSC Club pageant...And speaking of the Miss WSC Club pageant: Angela, April, Dina and Betty and Joann Roberts attended the show. My gosh, the WSC ran the thing like it was the Miss America contest, complete with evening gown, talent and question segments. What, no swimwear?...I promised a review of Hardyhoo's, the new Chester County gay bar so here it is, straight from our own ace correspondent, April [REDACTED]: (and I quote) "It ain't that great."...I have absolutely no gossip regarding Samantha [REDACTED]'s activities (or her thigh-high boots) this month but it just didn't seem right not to mention her name in this column...Hey, girls, I really want to hear about your exploits in or out of drag (so that I can turn it into gossip-fodder for this monthly feature). If you've done anything that you'd like to see immortalized in print, please tell me all about it...

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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 530, BENSALEM PA 19020

PLACES TO GO

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY GALA Sat. May 9 at Center City Holiday Inn, 18th and Market sts. VIP reception at 8PM, dinner etc. 9PM. Advance tickets on sale \$60 VIP; \$35 regular. Deadline April 30. Tickets thru: Renaissance, P. O. Box 60552, King of Prussia, PA 19406

RENAISSANCE GREATER PHILA. CHAPTER MEETINGS Next meeting is May 18. Featuring Emily Sheldon speaking about the history of crossdressing in the Delaware Valley

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, the nightclubs listed above.

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RAP GROUP at the Woods is tentatively scheduled by Angela for Monday, May 11 at 7:30. Topic is still being considered but those interested can follow up via the Chapter phone (215-946-8887). As with the previous group discussion on Passing, cost is FREE.