

GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Editor: Dina Amberle

May 1992

WINE TASTING AT CHADDS FORD

One of our most popular social events was a wine tasting and winery tour at Chadds Ford winery. The Renaissance Board will host another of these unique outings on Friday evening June 11.

Located in a pleasant rural setting, the winery will offer several varieties of wine to taste with cheeses, breads and pates to clear your palate. A tour of the winery and enlightening talk on the art of wine-making will be included.

Chadds Ford Winery is well-respected and has won good notices from several publications for its quality. The peaceful setting and comfortable surroundings of the historic building in which it is located offers a very nice opportunity for an elegant night out in the country.

The cost is \$16 per person in advance by contacting Renaissance National or Philadelphia. Please note that the address for reservations is Renaissance, P. O. Box 60552, King of Prussia PA 19406. The event begins at 8:00 PM, Friday, June 11.

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BIG SISTERS: ALWAYS NEEDED

By Maryann Kirkland

I would greatly welcome anybody's suggestions for making our monthly meetings less of a closet, where anonymous souls pass each other in disguise. We are supposed to be a community of sisters and brothers who should need the support of each other.

Now a question to the general membership: Could we try a Big Sister/Little Sister program and for more than four hours a month? I believe we are transgendered 24 hours a day (yes, even in the shower!) so why not make friendship last as long? Because of the different privacy needs of people, this concept is solely voluntary.

Desirable qualities in a Big Sister include: comfortable interaction with people in both male and female personas; willingness to help others without monetary returns; and frequent attendance at monthly meetings.

A little encouragement towards a new person goes a long way. An excellent example of this is myself. Back in 1987, Joann Roberts twisted my arm to join until my moustache fell out. Because of my fossil status, very few current members have any idea of the enormous personal growth I experienced thanks to the nurturing of a few good people. (Hey, Joann, I still have those cute pink lace hair bows!)

RAP GROUPS ENCOURAGED

By Maryann Kirkland

Do you think you and others could obtain more enjoyment and benefit from our monthly meetings? Have you ever felt alone in a crowd of one hundred at our meetings? Would you enjoy a forum in which everybody could contribute?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, perhaps participating in a 'rap group' is for you. It is very nice to socialize and eat the munchies but hey! somebody else may have the same unexpressed thoughts as you. Often we forget that Renaissance has educational and personal growth objectives. Each meeting contains the opportunity to obtain validation of your femme self if you reach out and tell others about yourself.

We are looking for rap group leaders to discuss books, films, news, or any of the thousand concerns about being transgendered. As done in the past, these rap sessions will be held as an alternative to other meeting programming or on a different night completely. Please pass on any comments and suggestions you may have to me.

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LIBRARY COMMITTEE FORMING

Lee Etscovitz, our National Librarian, is looking for volunteers to staff a Library committee. The Library stocks books, magazines and videos on transgendered topics. It operates at each meeting where members may borrow titles for reading or perusal with return at the following meeting.

Keeping track of the materials and working at each meeting is overwhelming Lee, so she's looking for some help in administering the program. If you're literary-minded or just want to lend a hand with the Library, see Lee or any of the Chapter Board members to volunteer your services.

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PLACES TO GO

RENAISSANCE GREATER PHILA. CHAPTER MEETINGS Third Saturday of each month. June meeting on the 19th, speaker Susan McPhie, Cosmetologist, on Makeovers. July meeting on the 17th, speaker Selma Blaker on Hair and Wigs, care and styling. Doors open at 8PM. Call 215/630-1437 for further info

RENAISSANCE WINE TASTING AT CHADDS FORD WINERY Friday, June 11 beginning at 8 PM. \$16 per person. (See article on Page 1).

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\$92 WAS COLLECTED FROM LAST MONTH'S RAFFLE.
THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!

DRAGLINES...I caught a few gals cheating last month. They skipped the general meeting and went right to the Ship Inn. They said something about getting a late start for the meeting and blah, blah, blah but I knew that what they were really interested in was getting a choice spot at the bar...Michelle [redacted] and ladyfriend Jane visited the Spectrum for a sporting event recently. No, not the monster truck pull nor the WWF grudge match, but the Olympic figure skating tour. And Michelle was helped to her seat by a chivalrous gent in the same row. Well done, Michelle...Samantha [redacted] was up in the Big Apple for the 'Moonlight in Manhattan' extravaganza April 23-25. She said it was a good event and pretty well-attended overall. Charlene and Jodi from our gang were also enjoying the bash which included bar-hopping by charter bus on Friday night and a very good drag show and dinner on Saturday at the mid-town Days Inn...Speaking of Charlene and Jodi, this husband and wife team is becoming two of our brightest new members. They come from a long distance and are really getting around, including shopping in the downtown Wanamakers, where they are getting known by the salespeople. Considering it's their first year 'out' together, they've dived right into the fun of it all together...Adventurous April [redacted] discovered one of the very best singalong piano bars when she dropped into Rodz one Saturday night downtown. It seems that many of the touring theater casts frequent the place and some of the boys can sing. Especially the high notes...Renaissance's librarian, Lee Etscovitz, said that one of his co-workers asked 'are you a woman in drag?' because of her androgynous look even during the 9 to 5 on the job...An installment of 'Unsolved Mysteries' carried a story about Liz Carmichael, a mid-70's female swindler who only recently was found after lamming on her investors. It turns out that 'Liz', who was described by her victims as a very large-framed woman, was really a man named Jerry Dean. The re-enactment scenes on the show featured a male actor in drag - and not bad-looking either...I got 'scooped' on two stories by Angela and Joann in the National News: first was the death of Phila. area native Kevin Boyce who became a sensation in the fashion biz as a man who worked as a fit model for many womenswear designers because of his perfect size 8 frame; second is the notice to watch out for the new Aerosmith video "Living on the Edge" which concludes with a leggy model pulling on dark stockings - then reveals it to be a young man. It's a 'don't miss' video...The WSC Club in Norristown is advertising Sunday nights as a 'Leather, Levis, Trucker' night. The postscript in the ad says 'No Drag Please'. Don't worry fellas, no self-respecting drag queen would go to a place where the guys are trying to look like truckdrivers anyway...The fellow who writes the 'Almost Queer' column in the Phila. Gay News did a piece on the IFGE convention and how it brought back memories of trying on his mother's dresses and shoes and nearly getting caught...There is a boomlet in theater productions featuring men doing 'one woman' shows. First we had Bette Davis, then Joan Crawford, and now Tallulah Bankhead, all portrayed by male actors. The success of the shows has prompted some new productions: casting for "An Evening with Brooke Shields" is looking for a tall man with very heavy eyebrows and no particular talent to portray the starlet; a middle-aged queen with a noticeable lisp is sought to portray Barbara Walters in "Bawbwa on B roadway"; and producers of a show to be called "What's Going Down with Linda Lovelace" are looking to cast the role of the legendary porno star with a queen who has a very deep voice. What's that? Not a deep voice, a deep...oh, well, yes, I see.....