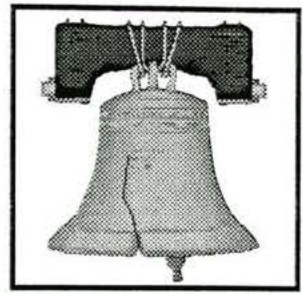




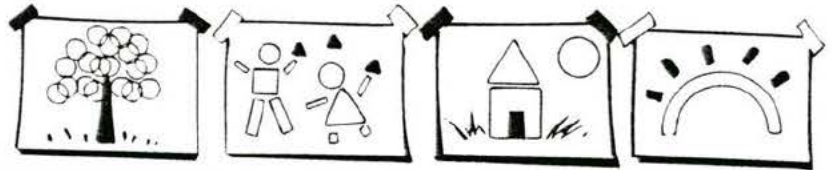
Liberty Belles

The Newsletter Of Renaissance
Greater Philadelphia



Jessica Brandon: Editor

September 1998



GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER INFORMATION

CHAPTER LEADER & PROGRAMS:

Vivian [REDACTED]

SECRETARY:

Melissa Franks

TREASURER:

Joanne [REDACTED]

MEET & GREET:

Kaelin

OUTREACH:

Jenny [REDACTED]

For information on chapter meetings and programs, write to Renaissance GPC, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087, (610) 975-9119. To submit articles, letters or comments for the GPC newsletter, send them to the Renaissance office (attn: Jessica Brandon), or by e-mail to: [REDACTED]@voicenet.com.

Materials must be received one week prior to the GPC meeting for inclusion in the newsletter. Typed articles are preferred, but handwritten text can be accepted as long as it is legible.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

OCTOBER

- 3 New Jersey
- 3 Lower Susquehanna Valley
- 10 Lehigh Valley
- 10 Delaware
- 17 Greater Philadelphia
- 24 MOTG

NOVEMBER

- 7 New Jersey
- 7 Lower Susquehanna Valley
- 14 Lehigh Valley
- 14 Delaware
- 21 Greater Philadelphia
- 28 MOTG



From The Editor's Vanity Table

Hello, Darlings!

Jessica Brandon here! I hope you enjoyed your summer. I know I have. But now it's time to get ready for fall and then winter. I only hope it'll be just as mild as the last one.

You know, irony is an amazing thing. Remember the article I wrote here in July about the guy who, on a \$100,000 grand bet wore implants for a year, and how, if put in a similar situation how I would do the same thing?

Well, here's where irony came into play. This past Friday night while I was on Phone Watch, I was some fifteen minutes away from calling it a night when I got a call from a CD who read the *Maxim* article and was curious about implants.

She had been extremely intrigued about implants, stating that padded bras and breastforms just didn't satisfy her. The person told me that money was no object and asked if I knew of any TG friendly clinics in the Philly area that would do the work.

Not knowing of any, I told her so. She then asked if I knew of any sisters who had the surgery done, once again, I came

up blank. Then I posed a question: Is having implants put in that important to her? She replied that it was.

The person explained that she had been a CD for over twenty years and had fallen so in love with the feminine mystique, she was seriously contemplating living full time. As we all know, going full time is difficult!

I told her as much, and she told me she was already aware of that, but was prepared to make the move sometime in the next year or so. I wished her the best of luck and told her to call again if she wanted to talk.

All in all, it was a quite an enlightening chat, especially in light of what I wrote about last month. The irony of if it all was that my desire to wear implants was strictly for the notion of banking \$100,000. NOT for the joy of having breasts.

Mercenary? You bet. I won't deny that. And here was this person I talked to who desired to have implants to follow through on a dream of hers. Who's ambition do you think is less likely to come true? probably mine.

But, hey! That's what fantasies are for. If anything, they give me a reason to get out of bed some mornings. Still, it made me realize just how far I still have to go in order to achieve that all important semblance of femininity I seek.

Until next month, be kind, be thoughtful, and be your best!

Your Friend In A Frock,

Jessica

AUGUST MEETING REPORT

by Viv [REDACTED]

There were approximately seventy people at the August GPC meeting, including spouses, significant others, one set of parents (!) and 8 newcomers, a great turnout for the middle of the summer.

At every meeting there are always a few veterans who like to sit in on newcomers meetings, myself included. The newcomers group has an energy about it that you don't find in the regular meeting room. In the newcomers space you have people who may be venturing out in public dressed for the very first time, or finally meeting others like themselves for the first time. Angela Gardner (who showed up in drab) sat in at the "new" newcomers meeting, told the attendees about the benefits of membership in Renaissance National, and shared some of the resources that are available through the National Office. Angela said that as the people took turns around the room talking about why they were there, "It took me back a couple of decades to my first meeting. It's been a long time but I heard the same things: isolation, fear of discovery, questions about how to tell loved ones. These are the reasons we started Renaissance in the first place."

In an attempt to bring some of the newcomer group energy back to those who have been attending for a long time Dr. Lee Etscovitz ran a newcomers group for Renaissance veterans called Newcomers Meeting For Old Comers. Questions posed to the group were, what were your concerns when you came to your first meeting, and what are your concerns now. Working with the group Dr. Etscovitz found that the first time concerns were all personal, centered on the TG. The current concerns and issues for our Renaissance veterans are more social in nature. Veterans stated that when attending a meeting they would welcome a more personal greeting when they arrive. One ten year veteran remarked that this was the best meeting in quite a while. Keep in mind that it's up to each group's members to make its meetings as good as possible. If you want to participate in a discussion group on some particular topic or another, tell your Chapter Leader to announce it and let other folks know. The interaction between members is a big part of what makes a meeting successful.

The September program is expected to be a lesson in makeup application from a professional makeup artist/medical esthetician who is familiar with our special needs. Vendor's Night is scheduled for November!

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NOTICES!

As the editor of *Liberty Belles*, I'm always on the lookout for articles and items of interest to the local crowd who attends GPC meetings. If you have any news or gossip---especially gossip about places you've been or things you've done while en femme, or if you've found some exciting new shopping venue (remember, girls, I'm also the National shopping maven) that you want to rap about, by all means, let me know! You can contact me via the National address on page two or by email at [REDACTED]@voicenet.com. This is YOUR newsletter! Let's make it one of the best!

Next Saturday is the newsletter stuffing for *TG News & Views*. If you're looking for something to do on an idle Saturday afternoon (unless you're a college football freak who hangs on Keith Jackson's every word---WHOA, NELLIE!!!), why don't you drop by the Woods and give the stuffing crew a hand! The work is easy and you get to be with such fun folks like Emily Sheldon and the divine Miz Angela. Not only that, you'll get your copy of *News & Views* before the rest of the world! If you're interested, just corral Emily, our Goddess of Distribution during tonight's meeting or leave a message on the office answering machine and the message will be relayed to her.

Lastly, I can't keep this under my wig any longer! Be sure to pick up *LadyLike* #35 when it comes your way next month because the Profile Girl in that issue will be none other than---ME!!!! That's right, Ladies, Little Miss Jessica will finally get her long awaited fifteen minutes of fame in the glossy pages of **THE** most prestigious transgender magazine on the planet! As far as I know, I'll be the first GPC girl to be given such a tremendous honor! Barring any last minute catastrophe, I'll be at the October meeting to sign copies for all my legions of fans! It should make for a simply magical evening!



PLACES TO GO!



Thanks to the hard work of everyone's favorite Executive Director, Angela Gardner (who probably hits all these spots seven days a week! Don't be fooled, girls, she's a rampaging party animal!), here's the latest and greatest "Places To Go" listing for all you lovers of nightlife in the Greater Philadelphia area and beyond. Most of these establishments cater to a predominantly gay clientele but warmly welcome our patronage. Be sure to call these establishments to verify their schedule. If you know of any additional places that can be added to this list, please let us know by emailing us at clubupdate@ren.org.

BOB AND BARBARA'S

A neighborhood bar with drag shows on Thursday nights beginning at 11 PM. Though small, the club comes highly recommended. It's a young crowd (college age), mixed gay and straight. The show is done on a postage stamp sized stage, and—all over the bar, when the performers leave the stage to lip synch in your face. It's funky and fun. Location: South Street near I5th, 215/545-4511

THE CARTWHEEL

"Drag Search" with **Monica Ray** every Monday night, 11 PM. The last Monday night of each month is the "finals" for that month, and the crowd is bigger. It all leads up to the Miss Cartwheel pageant in September. It's in-house restaurant, Cafe 'Mo has very good food along with a piano bar. Location: Route 202, 1 mile west of New Hope Center, New Hope, PA. 215/862-0880.

EXCHANGE

Chris Peterson's "Eyecons Show" appears Friday and Saturday nights through the summer. No cover. Sunday nights they feature guest performers at 11 PM. Location: 914 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE. 302/777-7030.

KEY WEST

Multi level gay establishment with the top floor being a dance club in center city. There are no specific drag events on their schedule at this time. Call for info on special events. Location: 207 south Juniper Street (between Broad and 13th; Walnut and Locust streets), 215/545-1578.

THE JOURNEY'S END

Drag show on Wednesday nights featuring **Brittany Lynne**. This is a new spot in Delaware County. Location: 409 Smiley Street, Crum Lynne, PA. 610/833-2719

LE GALAXY

Agay nightclub in New Jersey that features a drag extravaganza. "Miss Le Galaxy Contest" on Sunday nights. Location: White Horse Pike and Somerdale Road, Somerdale, New Jersey. 609/435-0888.

RODZ

A cozy restaurant and piano bar, good food and fun. Lots of local talent show up to play and sing. Private parking at reasonable rates. Location: 1418 Rodman Street, between I5th and Broad Streets, 215/546-1900.

SHAMPOO

This club, in a converted industrial space has a party on Friday nights called "Shaft". Local fab, drag hostess **Fe La Da Da** welcomes you into her brodello Lounge. Being in drag will get you through the door quicker than any other outfit. **Lady Bunny, Joey Arias, Candice Kane** and other New York City drag queens stop by from time to time to entertain, or just mingle. It's a mixed, young crowd. \$10 cover, unless you're on the guest list. Free parking in an enclosed lot if you get there early. Open bar from 9 until 11. Location: Willow Street between 7th & 8th Street above Callowhill, 215/922-7500.

SISTERS

A lesbian bar on St. James, right around the corner from Key West. You'll be OK there as long as you don't try to come on to them. Thursday night is Karaoke Night. Wednesday night is "Drag-A-Rama" with male and female drag. Music by hot DJ **Maria V.** Location: 1320 Chancellor Street, 215/735-0735.

12TH AIR COMMAND FOR MEN

The Air Command is primarily a gay men's bar, but they have a drag show night on Thursdays, the "USO Show" with Sandy Beach at 10 PM. They have special events (like drag swimsuit contests) from time to time. Location: 254 South 12th Street, 215/545-8088.

WOODY'S

Primarily a gay bar and dance club, this establishment is visited from time to time by transgendered ladies on the prowl, such as **Kalina Isato**. Location: 13th Street between Walnut and Locust. 215/545-1893.

814 CLUB RESTAURANT

Sunday night is drag show night. It's creatively called "Boys In Dresses". Location: 814 Shipley Street, Wilmington, DE, 302/657-5730.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

It's two, TWO pageants in one: Miss Bob & Barbara's and Miss Gay Philadelphia! October 11, 1998, 7 PM at The Drake Hotel, 15th and Spruce Street in Philadelphia. Featuring special guests: **Shae Shae La Reese**, Miss Pennsylvania US of A; **Marissa Devine**, Miss Northern States US of A. Tickets are \$20 (includes dinner). For information or an application to compete, call 215/545-4511.

MISS GAY PENNSYLVANIA US OF A 1999

January 31, 1999, 6 PM at the Eagle Firehouse Ballroom, Route 202 & Sugan Road, New Hope, PA, featuring: **Lauren Taylor**, Miss Gay US of A 1998, **Shae Shae La Reese**, Miss Gay Pennsylvania US of A 1998, **Monica Rey**, La Femme International 1982, **Victoria Lace**, Miss Gay Pennsylvania US of A 1997 and **Marissa Devine**, Miss Gay Pennsylvania US of A 1996. Tickets are \$40, including a 1 hour open bar with reception with Lauren Taylor, buffet dinner, the pageant and an after party at The Cartwheel. For information, call 215/862-2709.

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**LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO BE SITTING AT HOME IN FRONT OF THE TV!
GET OUT AND ENJOY YOURSELF!**
