

The *Renaissance* Education Association, Inc.
GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

by
Dina Amberle

FEB '92

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY PLANNED

The National Board of Renaissance has planned a gala party to celebrate our fifth year of existence. The affair is scheduled for Saturday, May 9 at The Holiday Inn at 18th and Market Sts. in Center City Philadelphia. There are two levels of tickets: a VIP deal for \$60 which admits the bearer to a private reception with open bar and hors d'oeuvres with Dr. Richard Docter, a noted academic in the field of transgendered issues; there is also a \$35 ticket for the great unwashed that will gain admission to the rest of the festivities, including the buffet dinner, the inevitable speech-making, and dancing afterwards.

Flyers with ticket information, menu and program are being distributed with the National Newsletter. Come join us in celebrating five great years for one of the best groups in the country - our very own Renaissance.

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SPOUSE SUPPORT GROUP FORMED

Last month's meeting saw the introduction of a new spousal support group led by Fern Peden. The support group for wives and significant others will meet each month during the main monthly meeting time in a separate room. The concept of spousal support is not new to Renaissance and was an irregular feature during different stretches of our history. We have to hand it to Fern to step forward and lead this group and we are doubly fortunate in that she has professional credentials in addition to being the significant other of a member.

Anyone wishing to contact Ms. Peden can do so through our Phila. Chapter mailing address.

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NEW CHAPTER MAILING ADDRESS

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter has changed its mailing address as a result of the Postal Service's re-organization of the Bensalem P. O. Box numbering system (what's that old saying about leaving well enough alone?) Anyway, here's the new mailing address:

Renaissance PHL, P. O. Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020

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CHAPTER BOARD SOLICITS YOUR OPINION

The intrepid Greater Phila. Chapter Board is distributing its 'Annual Survey of Member Interests'. The objective is to gain members' feedback and ideas for activities, programs and events. If you haven't seen the survey, by all means get a copy and peruse the list of activities we can choose from. And then do something that not too many members did in years past: fill it out and hand it in.

Looking over the list of possible events you will see everything from a Bridge Club to an Ice Skating night. And there are even spaces to write-in your own ideas for activities the Board didn't think of.

Our merry band can be as dynamic as we want it to be but nothing is going to happen without participation from the members. The first step in that process is to fill out the survey and let your feminine voices be heard.

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DELAWARE CHAPTER LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

Two Renaissance members from the Diamond State are interested in starting a chapter in Delaware. If you are interested in finding out more about it see either Emily Sheldon or Leslie Fairmont. Or write them at : P. O. Box 5093, Wilmington DE 19808. There is also a phone number to call for information: (302) 995-1396

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SWEET CHARITY

The Chapter Boards have resolved to get involved in charitable causes. The New Jersey Chapter has chosen a shelter for abused women as its adopted charity. The Greater Philadelphia Chapter is still considering several charitable ideas. If you have any suggestions for a charitable organization, see one of the Chapter Board members with your ideas.

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THE SHIP INN PHENOMENON

There may be some members out there who haven't been to The Ship Inn with the gang after the monthly meetings. For the rest of us, the Ship has become almost a second meetingplace. The staff is friendly and Hal McKay, the piano player, is perhaps the corniest in the Delaware Valley. So what's not to like? They also have a real late last call at the bar (unlike The Hilton which likes to clear us out by 1:30). Let's take the time to appreciate the Ship Inn for giving us the open door and open arms policy. It's the best little drag bar in Exton!

PLACES TO GO

RENAISSANCE GREATER PHILA. CHAPTER MEETINGS 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, the nightclubs listed above.

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BRIEFS:...Angela flew out to Hollywood (I always suspected her of being bi-coastal) for a gig on the show 'Dinosaurs' (No, that's not about the founding members of Renaissance). She was also going to hit LA's famous drag bar 'The Queen Mary'...Samantha was in New York City recently and found herself being mistaken for one of the Big Apple's 'working girls' as she walked along in her minidress and thigh-high boots. A minidress and thigh-high boots? Whatever would have given onlookers that impression?!...April and Gayle shopped till they dropped at Franklin Mills Mall on a recent Sunday. April must have been in a real serious shopping mood. She even bought slacks!...Our old friend Joanie, she of the microscopic miniskirts, has given it up in favor of the revival of disco dancing in straight nightclubs. We told her it's just a phase she's going through...Two familiar faces from our gang have landed gigs at area clubs: Diane is tending bar on Tuesday ladies' nights at Gatsby's and Junie is a DJ at Raffles' country-western dances...Some of us may have seen Shawn Devereaux perform at The Cartwheel, Gatsby's or WSC Club. In an unfortunate bit of news, Shawn was arrested last month for the grisly murder of her roommate in Center City... Michelle Lynn is planning a trip to Europe and she told me that she will definitely go out en femme in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Hmmm. The Netherlands? Isn't that where the little boy put his finger in the dyke?

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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, BENSLEM PA 19020