



RENAISSANCE

GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Jessica Brandon: Editor

April 1995

OKAY, LADIES! WE'RE GOING DOWNTOWN!

Now, before you girls get your panties in a bunch, you're not being invited to see the Roundhouse from inside a jail cell, what I'm talking about is that GPC will begin monthly meetings in center city Philadelphia, the first get together is scheduled for Wednesday April 19th and will be held at the office of Dr. Jeffrey Wolper. The reason behind our invasion of downtown Philly (as detailed in the April issue of the national newsletter) is to afford members who don't have transportation to King Of Prussia an opportunity to spend some quality time with us. No regular program is scheduled for the meeting which is due to kick off at 8 PM.

As per the national newsletter article, a contribution of \$5.00 is requested for everyone who comes to the meeting to help offset the cost of using Dr. Wolper's space. But, in my opinion, that is a miniscule price to pay for an opportunity to enjoy the bright lights and nightlife that center city Philadelphia has to offer. And Dr. Wolper's office is only a stone's throw from some of the regular hangouts our crowd enjoys, such as Key West, Les Femmes and the like. Plus, Wednesdays is also the designated night that most center city stores and other establishments stay open late for shopping in case you feel the urge to do some after hours spending.

So, if you haven't any plans for Wednesday, sashay down to Dr. Wolper's office at 1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 810. To quote legendary DJ Hy Lit: "We want to see your face in the place!"

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WORDS TO LIVE BY

Editor's Note: I received this item from Liz Jarrell who got it from an anonymous source. I for one found these words to have been stirring, not to mention extremely important for people of every persuasion, whether you're transgendered, transsexual or "normal". These words, I feel apply to all of us....

YOU ARE UNIQUE: SHOW US THE COLORS OF YOUR RAINBOW

Whatever your mind can conceive and believe, it will achieve. Dream great dreams and make them come true. Do it now. You are unique. In all the history of the world there was never anyone exactly like you, and in all the infinity to come, there will never be another like you.

Never affirm self-limitations, what you believe yourself to be....you are. To accomplish great things, you must not only dream; not only plan, but also believe. Believing is magic. If you don't go out on a limb, you will never get the fruit, and there is no failure except in no longer trying. Hazy goals produce hazy results, clearly define your goals, make a plan for achieving them, set a deadline, visualize the results and then go after them. Don't look back unless you want to go the other way. Nothing will come of nothing.

Defeat may test you, but it need not stop you. If at first you don't succeed, try another way, because for every obstacle there is a solution. Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence and the greatest mistake is in giving up. Wishing will not bring success, but planning, persistence and a burning desire will. There is a gold mine within you from which you can extract all the necessary ingredients.

Success is an attitude, get yours right. It is astonishing how short a time it takes for very wonderful things to happen. Now show us the colors of your rainbow!

GP CHAPTER INFORMATION

CHAPTER LEADER:
Elizabeth Jarrell

SECRETARY:
Lorraine Boyce

TREASURER:
Joanne White

MEETINGS & PROGRAMS:
Diana Sorenson

OUTREACH & NEWSLETTER:
Jessica Brandon

For information on chapter meetings and programs, write to Renaissance GPC, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087, (610) 630-1437. To submit articles to the chapter newsletter, send to Jessica Brandon, P.O. Box 28891, Philadelphia, PA 19151.

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

MAY:

- 6 Renaissance LSV
- 6 Renaissance South Jersey
- 13 Renaissance Delaware
- 20 Renaissance Greater Phila.
- 27 Baltimore Affiliate

JUNE:

- 3 Renaissance LSV
- 3 Renaissance South Jersey
- 10 Renaissance Delaware
- 17 Renaissance Greater Phila.
- 24 Baltimore Affiliate

JULY:

- 1 Renaissance LSV
- 1 Renaissance South Jersey
- 8 Renaissance Delaware
- 15 Renaissance Greater Phila.
- 22 Baltimore Affiliate



From The Editor's Desk

Hello, Darlings!

Jessica Brandon in the powder room! Well, ladies, we made it through another long, hard winter! Actually, it was rather wimpy, but you won't hear this sister complaining about it! Bring on spring!

Two weeks ago, I was given the opportunity, thanks to Angela Gardner to represent Renaissance at the 18th annual Lambda Awards which was held at the Doubletree Hotel on April 9th, and, I must say, it was a very enjoyable evening.

For anyone unfamiliar with the Lambda Awards, it's a ceremony that recognizes very special people, groups and organizations in the gay and lesbian community. And Renaissance was nominated in the "Community Group" category with 14 other groups.

Now, I must admit that I have little love for award ceremonies, mostly because my command has them almost every month and they're duller than dishwater, but the Lambdas were anything but, thanks to hosts Henri David and Edie Huggins.

Henri and Edie were very entertaining, guest award

presenters included Stu Bykofsky, politicians Happy Fernandez and Angel Ortiz and comedienne Lea DeLaria had everyone laughing with her unique brand of humor.

To make a long story short, we lost out in our category to The Gay Outdoors Club (since I'm a lady, I refrained from yelling "We wuz robbed!"), but that was secondary to the wonderful spirit of camaraderie I felt in that ballroom.

I sat in the back so I could observe the crowd throughout the evening, and found it easy to forget that these were gays and lesbians, rather they were people, just plain people who gathered to honor their peers and friends for accomplishments they achieved.

But, at the same time, I realized that these people faced all sorts of adversity from narrow minded neanderthals who sought to keep these people down, to keep them from enjoying the freedoms our founding fathers fought and died for.

Still, it was great to see these folks get together to recognize their own and, at the same time, have some fun. There were no politics or ego conflicts whatsoever. If only we in the transgendered community could do even half as well.

All in all, it was an evening to remember, and it's already making me look forward to next year's bash. Maybe we'll win an award then. Until next month, be kind, be thoughtful and be your best!

from where I sit on
THE HOT SEAT
by Elizabeth Jarrell

Happy Easter, girls! I hope everyone has a joyous holiday. Along with Easter comes the expectations of warmer weather. Also, everyone starts thinking about spending time outside and wearing shorts. So, what's a girl to do?

Well, the answer is pretty obvious, you have to let your hair grow back so as not to arouse suspicion. But that should not stop you from your yearning to crossdress. Wear more androgynous clothing such as pants, leggings or tights. That way you can still have your fun and stay away from an embarrassing situation.

As Jess mentioned on the front page, Angela Gardner and I have made plans to try the first of our mid-week meetings downtown. I hope to have a good turnout at Dr. Wolper's office on the 19th. Last but not least, this month's meeting will be your final chance to dress the director. I will pass out more ballots. So far the frontrunner is....well, what do you think?

So, in May, I'll dress as you have voted me to. Well, gals, TTFN.

E-Beth



“BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD, GO I”
by Jessica Charlene Brandon

It was by accident that I found this item in the April 3rd Philadelphia Daily News. When I saw this item on page 4, the headline stunned me:

DEATH JOLTS TRANSVESTITE COMMUNITY

The story, written by Yvonne Latty dealt with one Timothy Langley, a 19 year old African-American crossdresser who had been found murdered in a remote area of Fairmount Park back on February 29th. Langley who had just moved to the Philadelphia area from New Jersey had been warned by a cousin not to go to the city. Unfortunately, Langley didn't listen and paid the ultimate price.

It was reported that Langley, who went by the name Tianna was part of a community of teenagers caught up in the fantasy and glamour of transvestite life, according to Tyrone Smith, executive director of Unity, a support group for gay black men. Smith added that those kids don't expect to live to see 30, that they called “faggots” and “freaks” and have no peers in a “normal” school system that can't understand them.

Reading that story really chilled me. After all, I had started crossdressing in my teens, and, like Langley, I had no one to turn to for understanding as, according to the story, friends of Langley revealed that he might have been forced to leave home because he was gay. So I kept my secret hidden until I was finally able to fully comprehend who and what I was, a journey that took ten long years to complete.

I couldn't help but wonder: what would've happened to me if I had been forced to leave home when I was 19 because of my “dirty little secret”? Who's to say my loved ones could've, or would've accepted my need to crossdress? That alone might've been enough to leave me ostracized from my family, to end up heaven only knows where. I don't mind telling you I had trouble sleeping that night.

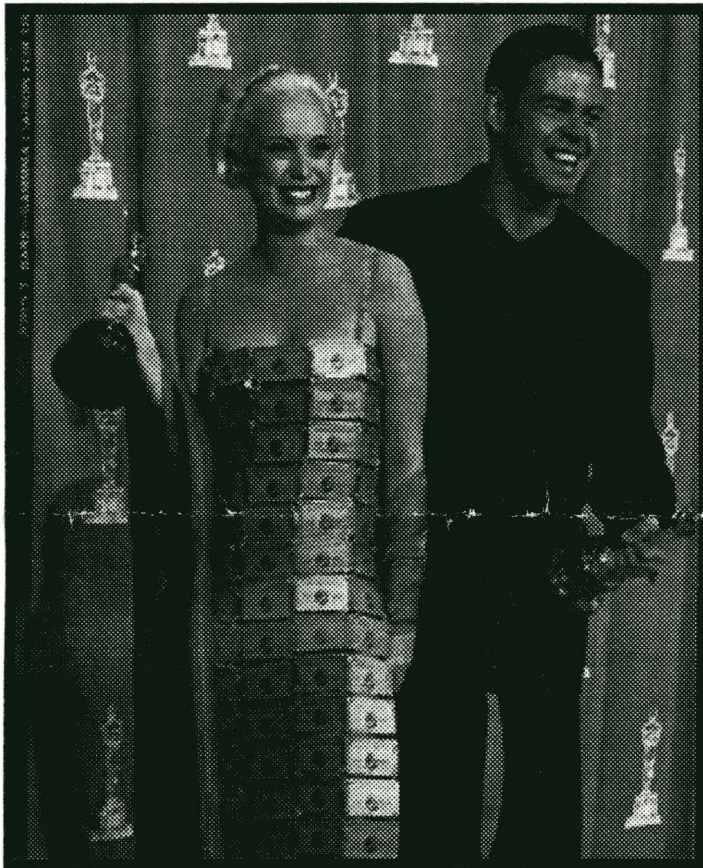
As soon as possible, I'm going to try and reach Unity and see if I can help out. Because, in another reality, Timothy Langley could have been me. “But for the grace of God go I”. I think about that a lot.



GP CHAPTER NEWSMAKERS



GETTING A CHARGE OUT OF OSCAR!



If you watched the Oscars a few weeks ago, you would've seen Australian fashion designer Lizzy Gardiner strut out onstage along with Tim Chappel to accept their award for best costumes in a gown created entirely of American Express gold cards---254 of them to be exact. According to Lizzy, she was broke and didn't have anything to wear, so she went through her list of past good ideas. Even though the cards all had her name on them, one digit was missing from each one, making them invalid. By the way, the costumes Lizzy and Tim designed were for *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, a fave film of the transgender set which, is finally out on home video. Rush out to buy it.

HE DEFINITELY WASN'T VERY LADYLIKE!



Just when you thought the O.J. Simpson trial couldn't get any zanier, we get the bizarre case of Will B. King. It seems that back on April 5th, Will (real name William Beckingham) garbed in a garish looking dress, makeup and tennis shoes was ejected from Judge Ito's courtroom after he started a fracas when he accused another spectator of slapping him. And if that wasn't bad enough, when he won a seat in the courtroom via a daily lottery, he wore swimming trunks and a necktie with a surfer shirt. However, judging from the wretched outfit above, no wonder someone took a swing at him! This clown was a fashion accident waiting to happen! (Sigh!) Only in California could something like this happen!



PLACES TO GO!



RENAISSANCE GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER: Topic for April meeting: "Will She Still Love Me When She Knows?" by JoAnn Roberts. May meeting on the 20th Call 610/630-1437 for information.

GATSBY'S: Popular nightclub and disco features something different each night of the week. Monday nights: amateur drag talent (lip synch) contest for cash prizes, Ladies Night on Tuesday's. Gatsby's, Cuthbert Boulevard between routes 38 & 70, Cherry Hill, N.J. 609/663-8744.

THE CARTWHEEL: "Drag Search" every Monday night, 11:30 PM. Amateur contest leading up to Miss Cartwheel pageant in September. The Cartwheel, route 202, 1 mile west of New Hope Center, New Hope, PA. 215/862-0880.

THE PRELUDE: Reincarnated nightclub features drag shows on Monday nights, with other entertainment each night of the week. 408-A York Road, 1/4 mile east of The Cartwheel, New Hope, PA. 215/862-3600.

KEY WEST: Multi level gay establishment with the top floor being a dance club in center city features Miss Key West contest each Sunday night at 11:00 PM. Key West, 207 south Juniper Street (between Broad and 13th; Walnut and Locust streets), 215/545-1578.

LES FEMMES: Next door to Key West, Les Femmes features a friendly staff in an elegant atmosphere for Philly's discerning women. Happy hour from 5 to 7 PM. Les Femmes, 209 S. Juniper Street, 215/545-5476.

HEPBURN'S: Always something happening here, dancing upstairs, entertainment downstairs. The restaurant features good food as well. 254 S. 12th Street, 215/545-8088.

RODZ: A cozy restaurant and piano bar, good food and fun in the latter. Lots of local talent show up to play and sing. 1418 Rodman Street, between 15th and Broad Streets, 215/546-1900.

PLANET ROCK: Cabaret show every Tuesday featuring Monica Ray and company in the cave. Dance upstairs to the spinnings of DJ Robbie Tronco from Q102. 700 N. Delaware Avenue, 215/923-0504.

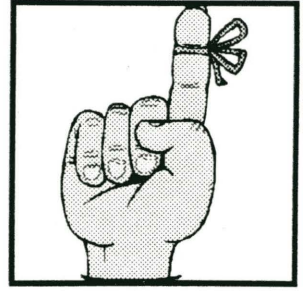
BLACK BANANA: An after hours club with three different bars with dancing upstairs. Memberships are required but are reasonable. 3rd and Race Streets, 215/925-4433.

REVIVAL: Located in a converted church, Revival, a membership club is the new home of the Swingers party every Wednesday night from 9 PM to 3 AM. Five dollars gets you in, open bar for the ladies (including us if en femme). No membership required for the Swingers party. 22 South 3rd Street, 215/627-4825.

CIRCA SUNDAYS: A relatively new club in town, with a dance bar on Sundays only. 1518 Walnut Street, 215/545-6800.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER ESOTERICA

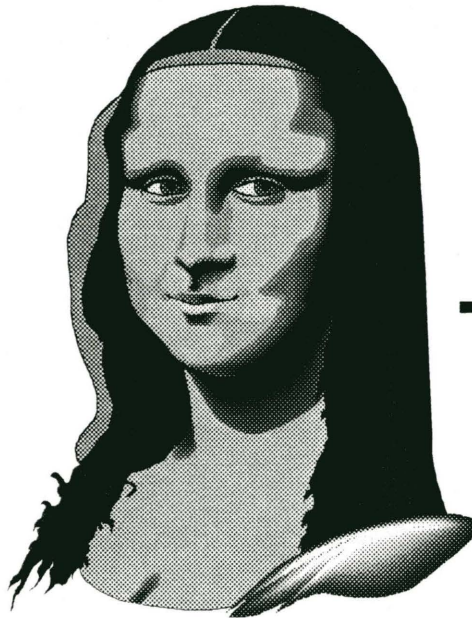


Diana Sorenson, GPC's Meetings and Programs Director announces that starting this month, separate rooms here at the meeting site will be set aside for both spouses and couples to use for discussion groups. For a spouse or partner of a crossdresser, this will be an excellent opportunity to get together and talk in quiet settings during the course of the monthly meeting. Please avail yourself of the opportunity. Also in the works will be a newcomer's rap session headed by GPC's Outreach Director, Jessica Brandon. More information to come.

The 1995 edition of Lower Susquehanna Valley's LUAU will be held on Saturday August 26th at the Sheraton Inn, Union Deposit Road and junction of Interstate 83 in Harrisburg, PA. The festivities begin at 7 PM with a cash bar, followed by buffet dining at 8, followed by entertainment at 9. The cost for all this fun is \$40.00 per person before July 31st, \$42.00 after that date. Look for flyers advertising LSV's LUAU at the GPC meeting.

For anyone interested in attending Fantasia Fair '95, Sponsored by the Outreach Institute of Gender Studies, please write to the following: Fantasia Fair Registrar, P.O. Box 941, Southeastern, PA 19399-0941.

Jessica Brandon, editor of the GPC newsletter is looking for people to contribute articles, clippings or reports or social outings by our members. Full credit will be given to all who contribute. Material can be sent to Jessica's address on page two.



WHY SEARCH THE
WORLD OVER FOR A
NIGHTSPOT? JUST
CHECK OUT GPC'S
"PLACES TO GO",
DARLING!