



RENAISSANCE OF MADISON, INC

COORDINATOR'S NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 1975

Cocktail party and auction.

Many thanks to those who donated directly or indirectly toward making the party on May 4 at 133 East Gilman a terrific success. Beginning with the punch (one secret ingredient was constant comment tea), through the animated bidding between Ricardo and Rodney, a fine time was had by all, and over \$430. was raised for the Gay Center from the proceeds of the auction. Items auctioned ranged from old type cases from the Capital Times office, to a catered dinner for seven, to a private sailing lesson on Lake Mendota.

While the money raised will not get Renaissance out of debt, it is good progress in that direction. More importantly it provided another occasion for people to meet, have a good time, and help the center all at once. If cocktails and auctions are not your "cup of tea" please suggest other fund raisers that might encourage another part of the community to participate.

We are earnestly attempting to find ways to keep the center open and functioning. The number of hours it is open, how well equipped we are and the number of programs we can sustain depend entirely on your generosity. Perhaps you don't anticipate direct benefits from the Center that would justify the trouble of a donation; but how often does one expect an eventual reward when donating to the United Fund?

Counseling report

Bill Handy, director of the Counseling staff, reports that April proved to be the busiest month for Center contacts this year. Over 155 different contacts were handled, from informational queries on the Center and the bars to serious, personal counseling. Total number of contact hours for the counseling staff rose to over fifty for the entire month: a 1000% increase over just one year ago. Many thanks to all of you for a job well done. It's good to know that when people have to deal with some difficulties they may be having that someone is there to help them.

JUNE ACTIVITIES

Ricardo will be kicking off a fund raising event at the Cardinal Bar with a CUBAN STYLE BRUNCH on Sunday, June 8, "noon till dusk." On the menu and agenda will be chicken with yellow rice (Cuban style), a piñata filled with surprises, and a guarantee of a grand time by Rick himself. The Cardinal Bar is sponsoring this event to benefit the Gay Center. The cost for the whole package will be \$5.00 including food and a beverage of your choice. Bob Dishmond will officiate in the kitchen.

On Friday June 20 Renaissance will sponsor an AFTER BAR PARTY to benefit the Gay Center from midnight till 4:00 AM at the neighborhood house. Check the bars later on for more details or call the Center afternoons at 257-7575.

Travelling?

If you are moving please let us know your new address. Should you run across new projects or activities going on in other places do let me or one of the board members know about it. Further, if you know of people new to Madison who would like to receive the newsletter please have them call us or drop us a line.

(608) 257-7575
P.O. Box 687 Madison, Wis. 53701

On Saturday, June 21 the Back Door will sponsor its 3rd annual big bash picnic. The Brittingham Park pavilion will be the central focus for the activities from noon till 7:00 PM. More particulars will be available at bar posters. This should be a major summer event; plan on attending and bring a friend to enjoy it with.

SUMMER PROJECTS

A bit bored bt Madison summers already? Check out one or more of the following:

1.) James Madison Park, the city park nearest to the capitol is a scene for excellent sunbathing, swimming, kite flying, frisbee playing, etc. on hot, humid days.

2.) Madison Public Schools has a great many "summer recreation" programs scheduled from June 16 - July 3 and July 7 - July 25. Call 266-6420 for details and prices.

3.)

YWCA Summer Session offers a wide variety of skill and recreation projects for men as well as women. Tennis, bridge, jazz, dancing, and crocheting sessions might broaden your awareness or acquaintances. Call 257-1436 for details and prices.

4.) Reading? For all you fans of Love Story, the paperback edition of The Front Runner by Patricia Warren is out. Likewise check out Rubyfruit Jungle by Rita Mae Brown, a riotous novel about growing up lesbian in Fort Lauderdale. Great beach book.

One final recommendation would be Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert Pirsig. While the title may turn you off, trust me that this is not a religious tome or a maintenance manual. Rather, Pirsig looks at some of the problems we face today from the detached vantage point of a motorcycle seat. I have not read a book within a year that gave me more thoughtful insights than this one.

All these are available at the Madison Book Co-op -- 660 1/2 State St. (255-9945), 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays.

5.) Men's Celebration -- Over the weekend of June 13-14 a Midwest regional gathering of men's groups will be held in Chicago. If you are interested or just curious about men's lib and gayness you might want to check this out. Call the Center for more details.

6.) Guitar, art, dance, jazz, sketching, and photography lessons will be given at the Midwest Conservatory of the Arts, 1350 E. Washington Ave. for ten weeks beginning June the 9th. Call 255-4444 for prices, dates, and registration details.

George Wetzel

GMW/tjk

JUNE DATES TO REMEMBER:

JUNE 8 -- CUBAN BRUNCH

Cardinal Hotel Bar, noon to dusk.

JUNE 20 -- AFTER BAR PARTY

Neighborhood House, 29 South Mills, midnight to 4:00.

JUNE 21 -- THIRD ANNUAL BACK DOOR PICNIC

Brittingham Park Pavillion, noon to 7:00