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Title: *Gay Coordinating Society of Berks County, Reading (GCS Berks) Newsletter*

Date: November 1975

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

LGBT History Project
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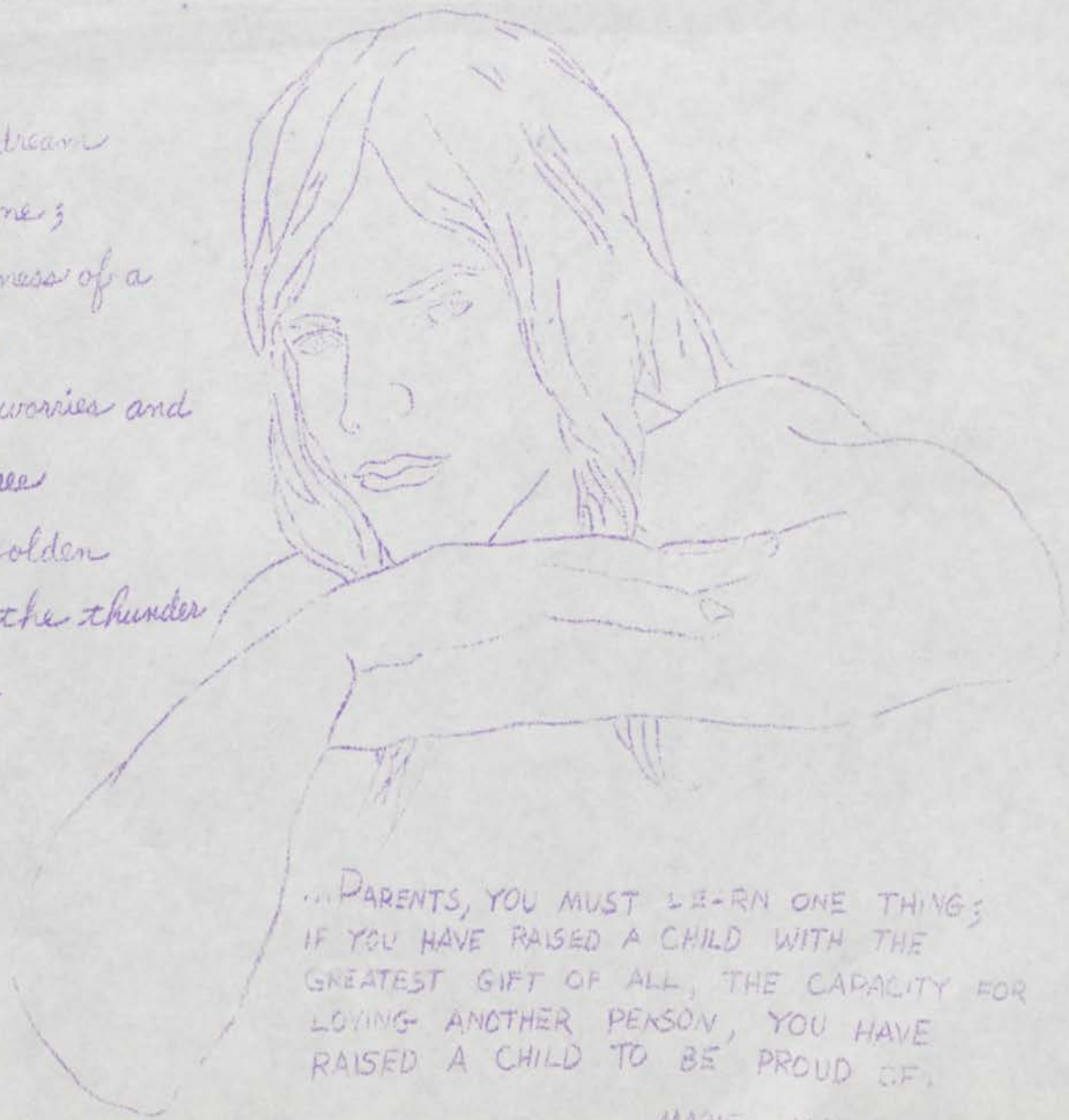


G.C.S.

GAY COORDINATING SOCIETY
OF
READING AND BERKS COUNTY
P.O. BOX #5 FLEETWOOD, PA.
19522

*Dream a dox-dream
along with me;
Forget the sadness of a
fallen tree.
Smile at your worries and
you'll be free
To find the golden
sunset, and the thunder
of the sea.*

Jerry



... PARENTS, YOU MUST LEARN ONE THING;
IF YOU HAVE RAISED A CHILD WITH THE
GREATEST GIFT OF ALL, THE CAPACITY FOR
LOVING ANOTHER PERSON, YOU HAVE
RAISED A CHILD TO BE PROUD OF.

- MARIE IACOMETTA
C.A.A./N.J.



MEET
HI! ... ME
AT THE
GLASS
DOOR

221 N. 5TH ST.
READING, PENNA.
PHONE- 373-9062

The following is thought to be of concern to many gays:

Do you have a constant itch that gets worse at night? If so, you may have scabies, popularly called, the "seven-year itch". This condition, which is uncomfortable and unsightly, is caused by a mite which burrows under the victim's skin and creates the severe itching. The usual body sites which these creatures infest are the hands and wrists, elbows, armpits, and the genital area. At one time, it was believed that scabies infested only people who were unclean. But current cases show those who are well-bathed can also be afflicted. The mites can be spread through personal skin contact. The disease was on the decline and thought to be nearly extinct in the United States. However, in the last several years, it has been steadily increasing and could reach epidemic proportions soon. Some doctors believe the new generation of people never before exposed to the mite is more susceptible. A doctor can prescribe treatment to get rid of mites on your body. You should also keep in mind that anything you come in contact with should be cleaned. Sheets and clothing should be thoroughly washed. Anyone you have had personal body contact with could also be infected. If you suspect you have an infection, or if you have an uncomfortable itch, see your physician immediately.

By the Pennsylvania Medical Society

G. C. S. COMING EVENTS

- November 9th- Scheduled is a Consciousness-raising meeting where various gay issues and problems can and will be discussed. If you have something to get off your chest, or if there is a particular gay problem you cannot solve, please come to this meeting, and share it with us. The meeting will be held at 137 South Fifth St., Reading, at 3:30 P.M.
- November 13th- A meeting of the G.C.S. Art Alliance will be held at Jerry's farmhouse on the Pricetown Road at 7:30 P.M. Several NUDE MODELS will be available to sketch. More information on the location can be obtained by calling Mike at 378-1233.
- November 15th- Scheduled is the Second Art Show to be presented at THIS IS IT. Due to the success of the first show, Jim and Ozzie and the other G.C.S. members are looking forward to this second showing of art creations by area gays.
- November 16th- The regular monthly business meeting will be held at THIS IS IT at 3:00 P.M. Dinner will be available at 4:00 P.M. after the meeting. Everyone is invited.
- **November 16th- G.U.L. of Lancaster is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner from 6-9 P.M. at 3002 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, Pa. The price is \$3.00 per person. For more information call--717-898-2876
- November 20th- Scheduled is a gay Task Force meeting in Harriaburg. The meeting will be held in Rm. 238 of the Capital Building at 1:00P.M. For more information call Mike at 378-1233
- November 22nd & 23rd- The G.C.S. Outdoors Club will be sponsoring a WEEKEND CAMPOUT AND HIKE in the Oley Area of Berks County. Plans are very tentative, so for more information call Jerry at 987-6634
- November 23rd- First Annual G.C.S. Thanksgiving Dinner. It is going to be covered dish affair at Jerry's cozy farmhouse by the fireplace. THE TURKEY WILL BE PROVIDED---YOU BRING THE FIXINGS!!!! The time is 4:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome.
- November 30th- The G.C.S. Music Alliance will hold a listening session at 7:30 at 1034 Franklin St., Reading. The music will include rock and classical. (Anyone interested in bringing music to be listened to is more than welcome)
- December 6th- The second Rural Caucus meeting will be held in Allentown at a yet to be determined location. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the special problems gays have in the areas of Pennsylvania outside of Phila. and Pittsburgh. (The location will be announced in the next newsletter)
- **December 6th & 7th- This is the final notice of the G.C.S. sponsored trip to LAKE WALENPAUPACK in the Pocono Mountains. The cost is \$14.00 per person. We will be staying in our own private cabin. There are still a few tickets available, but please contact Jim at 372-2390 as soon as possible. Transportation will be provided.

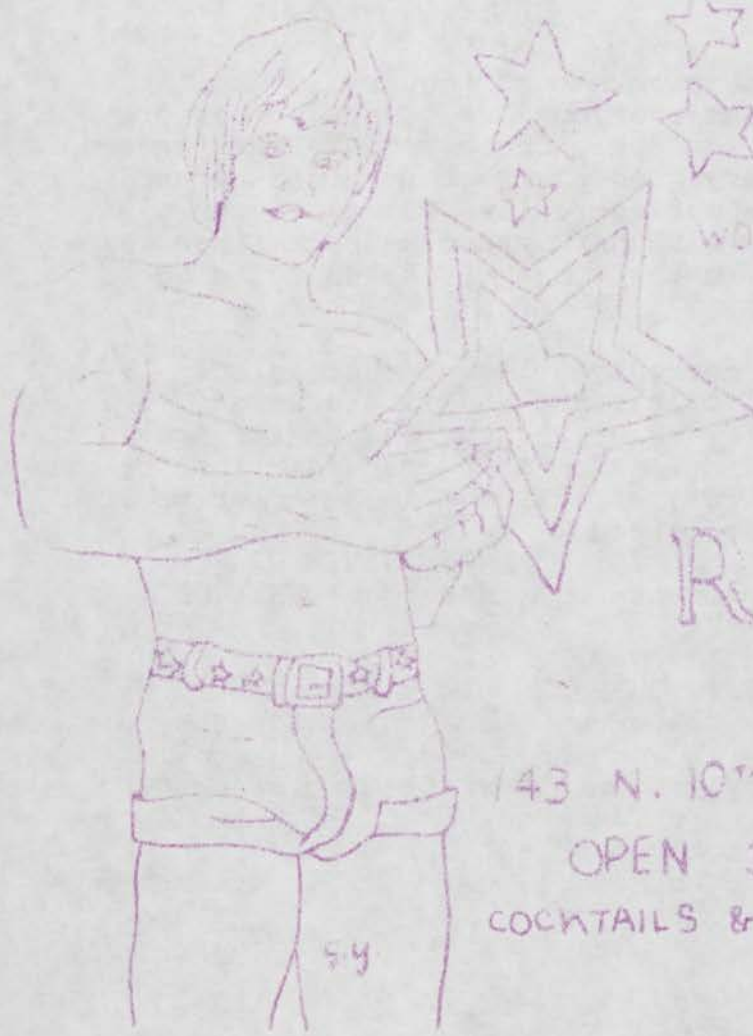
December 14th - An Allentown member of G.C.S. is holding a Sing-a-long fest at his apartment at 1136 Walnut St., Allentown. The time is 7:00 P.M. and everyone is invited. YOU don't have to be an ELTON JOHN to come and sing!

December 21st - The regular monthly business meeting will be held at THIS IS IT at 3:00 P.M. Dinner will be available at 4:00 P.M. after the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

December 21st - G.C.S. is going to go Christmas Caroling around Center City Reading at approx. 6:30 P.M. We will be meeting at 1034 Franklin St., Reading. If you would like us to sing in front of your place of residence please call Mike at 378-1233. (We are limited to the downtown area.)

Spring of 1976 - We are scheduling a GAY NIGHT AT GENESIOUS THEATRE for the springtime. As soon as the show is selected we will inform you of the date and prices.

During the past month G.C.S. and LE-HI-HO of Allentown have had several meetings to discuss the possibility of sponsoring several joint ventures. Tentatively planned is a GAY VALENTINES Dance and a joint trip to the Phila. Art Museum and maybe including a visit to one of Phila. concert orchestras. If anyone has any ideas on how to make the above successful please contact Mike at 378-1233. G.C.S. is very much interested in cooperating with other active gay groups across Pennsylvania.



IF
YOU COULD WISH
UPON A STAR WHAT
WOULD YOU WISH FOR TONIGHT?

TRY
THE
RED STAR
SALOON

143 N. 10th ST. READING, PENNA.
OPEN 3 P.M. to 2 A.M. MON.-SAT.
COCKTAILS & SANDWICHES SERVED DAILY

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL GAY CONFERENCE IN WASH. D. C.

At the National Gay Conference held in Washington D. C. last month a national Gay Art Alliance was organized by gays from all over America, under the leadership of the G. C. S. Art Alliance of Reading, Pa. with Jerry as temporary chairperson. The first National Gay Art Show is scheduled for Philadelphia in 1976. A preview of the show will be held in beautiful Penn Square in downtown Reading a few weeks before the opening of the show in Phila. Any gays interested in joining the National Gay Art Alliance should write to the G.C.S. Art Alliance, P. O. Box 5, Fleetwood, Pa. 19522.

Reading G. C. S. also organized a study group to consider the idea of organizing a National Gay Performing Arts Group. Anyone interested in joining the gay theatre group can contact Jerry at the above address.

****A SPECIAL NOTE****

In Washington D. C. it was pointed out that the membership of G.C.S. of Reading and Berks County is comprised of an equal amount of women and men. The women of G. C. S. are very active in all of our activities-- a very good example being that G. C. S. nominated a woman to serve on the Governor's Committee investigating gay activities. Almost all other gay organizations in America are concerned because they have far more male members than female members. All of America is looking to us as an example of how a gay organization should manifest. We of G. C. S. are proud of the cooperation and LOVE shared by all of our members. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF G.C.S. THE NATION SALUTES YOU! PEACE!!!

PLANTASIA

Our column this month deals with plants that require little light and water and are easy to grow. Most everyone has a dark corner or hall where some kind of greenery would look attractive but lighting conditions won't permit. There are two very good plants that could be used, the first being the aspidistra or sometimes called the cast iron plant. It is a member of the lily family with dark green and sometimes variegated foliage. Requiring more water in the summer it takes to be on the dry side during winter months.

The second plant, Sansevieria, commonly called a snake plant, is another type of foliage that requires little light and little water. It's long rigid leaves with various types of variegations bear resemblance to snakeskin, hence the name. While lacking soft graceful lines of other plants sansevieria can be used very effectively in a corner or area where a very vertical plant is required.

PHIL O. DENDRUM

***Please send any questions, comments, or ideas to: PHIL O. DENDRUM,
P. O. Box 5, Fleetwood, Pa. 19522

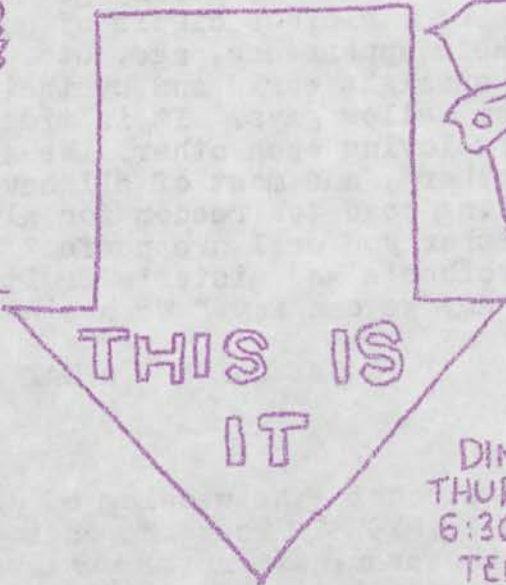
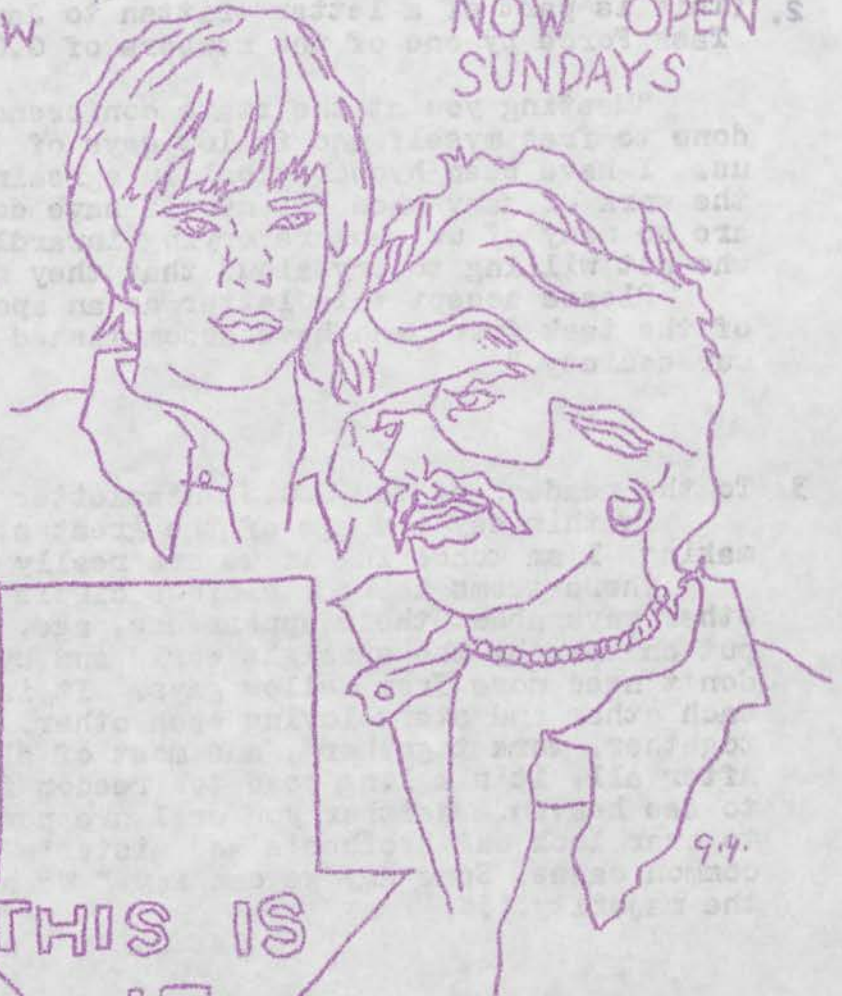
REPEAT...REPEAT...REPEAT...REPEAT...REPEAT...REPEAT...REPEAT...REPEAT...REPEAT...
If anyone has any ideas on ways to improve the newsletter please send them to our Fleetwood address. If you see any articles in magazines or newspapers or wherever, and they are worth printing, please cut them out and send them to us, or at least let us know about the article. We are constantly on the search for things to add to our newsletter. Write your own article or opinion and send them to us. We will print them and not use your name unless requested.

EDITOR MICHAEL

ARE YOU A PEOPLE PERSON?
DO YOU LIKE TO MEET NEW
FRIENDS ?

NOW OPEN S
SUNDAYS

COME TO
THIS IS IT
801 WALNUT ST. READING, PA.



DISCO
DANCING

DINNER SERVED
THURS, FRIDAY, SAT., SUN.
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM.
TELEPHONE - 215-373-9601

BAR HOURS : SUNDAY - SATURDAY - 4:P.M. - 2:A.M.
SOCIALIZE WITH BERKS COUNTY'S GLAMOROUS AND ELITE

-----LETTERS TO EDITOR-----

T1

To whom it may concern,

I believe that the drawing on the front of October's newsletter was portraying two lesbians. I assume this because this is a gay newsletter, not only for men but also for women. They were both looking in different directions and were heavily made up. The August issue had a very good and sensitive loving picture of two guys. I wish the lesbian drawing had been just as sensitive and loving. Also, all of the ads in the newsletter for the various bars have only men in them. At least one of those bars is heavily patronized by lesbians and should therefore have women in their ads. Sometimes gay men forget that gay women are part of the gay world also.

MARY BETH--READING

***Apologies for the insensitive drawing. It was not intentional. Steps are being taken to correct the ads.

EDITOR

cont.- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

2. (This is part of a letter written to Janet Cooper of the Governor's Gay Task Force by one of the members of G.C.S. of Reading.)

"Meeting you at the state conference made me realize how little I've done to free myself and fellow gays of the bondage society has placed upon us. I have been hypocritical in agreeing that a few should not have to do the work of many when I, myself have done so little for our cause. There are so many of us who are crying inwardly for equal rights for gays but who not willing to cry aloud that they may be heard.

Please accept this letter as an apology to you and the other members of the task force who have accomplished so much for the gay members of our society."

JAN S.--READING

3. To the readers of the G.C.S. newsletter of Reading,

In this day and age of the great strides that the gay movement is making, I am wondering if we are really getting as far as we think?

There seems to be a vicious circle of gays who are out only to DISH other gays about their appearance, age, etc. Most gays have enough pressure put on them by the straight world and by their parents that they certainly don't need more from fellow gays. It is time that we stop being tacky to each other and start loving each other. We as a gay community should stick together, work together, and most of all have compassion for one another. After all, it's a long road to freedom for all gays and we are just beginning to see heaven. Neither you or I are perfect and we as human beings must try to overlook our brother's and sister's faults if we are to unite in a common cause. Some day we can say, "We are no longer the minority, but are the majority!!!"

IN GAY UNION-- A GAY BROTHER

4. Dear readers,

I proudly invite you to the wedding of Jo C. to Susan C. both of Reading on December 20, 1975. They are having a private wedding for just immediate friends. However, after the private wedding, they are having a reception at 644 North Sixth St., Reading. Everyone is invited to come. The reception will begin at 4:00 P.M. and last until? Food and beverages will be served however, bringing your own bottle will be appreciated.

See you at the reception!!!

COUSIN MICHAEL C.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY SECRETS-----BY M. AL PRACTICE

A few years ago, when I was working for research, I came across several health and beauty articles. Many problems that we have today stem directly from an improper diet, for we are, after all, what we eat! Eating live foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables---are better for a fresh, vital body than dead processed foods, for life must be maintained by life---live food for a live body! Supplements from the health food store can contribute to solving other individual problems. For instance, Inositol and Choline prevent baldness. Lecithin prevents wrinkles, and P.A.B.A. (para-aminobenzoic acid) prevents hair from turning gray. Cucumber soap prevents an oily complexion, and Mint Julep shampoo prevents an oily scalp, and Alve Vera soap and Lecithin soap can be utilized to create a flawless complexion. I have discovered many more beauty secrets and will share them with you in futures columns. ***(Send any questions, comments, or ideas to M. AL PRACTICE, P.O. BOX 5, Fleetwood, Pa. 19522)