

a quarterly newsletter for I2I

inSIGHT



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Upcoming publication/deadline dates

Deadline for December 1 issue is *November 15*

Deadline for March 1 issue is *February 15*

Deadline for June 1 issue is *May 15*

Deadline for September 1 issue is *August 15*

Movie Reviews Galore; Must Sees

The summer is an especially great time to see movies. What else would you want to do on a hot and humid, Chicago summer day? As a call for this issue's articles went out, three came back as a movie review by Will and Sokhom. First up, is *Séance* by Will.

SÉANCE

On Saturday August 2, Asian Human Service's "The Banyan Tree Project" hosted the movie premier of the short film *Séance*, directed by Carter Martin. This particular event

catered to the friends, families and colleagues of *Séance's* actors and production staff. The event exceeded capacity, so two showings were scheduled for the evening.

Séance is a campy queer horror film that transcends sexuality, gender and humor. In this film, Cecil, a struggling writer decides to hire a spiritualist (and a dubious con-artist) named Ester to contact his deceased friend, lover and mentor, Charley. With emotional twists and turns, the film takes you on a journey through life and death's complex emotions. This film had the whole audience laughing with riotous joy.

Overall, *Séance* was a unique and brilliant event. It helped bring together the Filipino-American gay, queer and transgender communities, as well as their allies. There were over 70 persons in attendance and confirmed

the strength of the Asian and Pacific Islander queer community. The film screening quickly became a gathering and networking space, in which attendees socialized, connected and made friendships before, in between and after the screenings. The Filipino Channel was in attendance and helped to document he event.



Séance is a 30 minute comedy in Tagalog with English subtitles. The Film is a joint production between the Philippines and the USA and will be entered in the Reeling Film Festival and Filipino American Film festival.

Séance features Chicago talents Gabriella Lingat and Chip Payos and is directed by Carter Martin. For more info or connections with the film and/or the director you can contact William at or call at 773-293-8480.

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The King and the Clown

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A Summary Movie Review by Sokhom Cheng

The King and Clown is a gay-themed South-Korean movie. The movie setting is during a time when a kinship society existed and royal families ruled the land. There are these two guys that are street entertainers because they make a living by entertaining local villagers.

One day they gamble with fortune and death by doing a public show to insult the king of Korea. When the king saw the show, he decided to let them stay at the royal palace and do more shows.

Later on, the king falls in love with one of the street entertainers. His friend gets jealous and wants to leave the palace. How could he leave the palace now want the king wants him?



Village Creamery Review

By Liz Thomson

Another summer staple is ice cream. But the Village Creamery in Skokie, Illinois is not your *ordinary* DQ. This place is something special. Special enough to travel on the Red Line and the #97 bus for! Village Creamery is a Filipino, homemade ice cream store. They have

some of the typical flavors. I recommend the Village Creamery because of it's not so typical flavors like ube, maize, halo halo, and avocado. Luckily, you can always get a free sample.

On a recent visit, I found myself eagerly waiting to try a new flavor. I promised myself I wouldn't get maize (a personal favorite). As I perused the counter, reading each description very closely, I found it. *Punda banta*. It is from a tropical leaf and had coconut. As usual, Village Creamery did not have AC, so Jeff and I walked to the nearby park to eat our sweet treat. As the daylight quickly turned to dusk, I thought to myself, "Yes, this is summer." Village Creamery is located at 4558 Dempster, Skokie, Ill. A one scoop waffle cone costs about \$3.50. There is a \$10 minimum for credit cards. Visit the web site at www.villagecreamery.com.

My May Day at The Faeries' Sanctuary

By I Li Hsiao

I had a great time this spring when I went to May Day-Beltane celebration at a faerie sanctuary in Tennessee! I've been involved with the radical faeries since 1996. It's hard to describe radical faeries, it's like describing air. It's an alternative LGBT community, big on gender bending and thinking outside the mainstream LGBT realm. A person that identify as a gender queer would feel comfortable. Every person that identify as a faerie have different beliefs, actions and spirits. **For me**, I thrive on

gender bending, spirituality and radical politic. Women's outfits, shoes and accessories are much more interesting and have more diverse color ranges; more cutting edge styles than men's. Girl drag and boy drag can be a fabulous combination! I also connect with the openness to spirituality. I respect the spirits, goddess, mother earth, the environment and the planets. The faerie community has influenced me in "gorilla" theatre, activism, art and etc. I'm very fortunate to be part of a community of people that are like minded.

There are many faerie sanctuaries through out the world, the one in Tennessee is one that's more developed-have a kitchen, a library, a bathhouse, an outhouse/shitter, a pavilion, several other buildings, also some residents. I call it the 'mothership'. It's located southeast of Nashville in the woods. It's called Short Mountain Sanctuary.

As a person that doesn't fit in a category in the minds of society, I'm valued as a queer Chinese in faerie communities.

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Many people that are faeries are white and male. Not as many people of color. It has more people of color, women and trans than 10 years ago. I noticed at the spring gathering, someone had put on the library door a GAPIMNY (Gay Asian Pacific Islanders of New York) sticker, it's so fabulous to see! I'm sure I could go on and on for a long time until I bore you to tears, but I want to get back to the topic of my article.

It's been several years since I've been at the sanctuary. It's such a magical place. A friend of mine, Sandy, lend me his tent. He's one of the residents. He kindly set up the tent for me. It was a small tent, can fit one comfortably. I clearly remember my first morning there. I woke up to birds singing. The following day, I woke up to sounds of woodpecker pecking. It's so rejuvenating to be in nature, see the beauty of dogwood trees that are flowering, also realize I'm just a speck of dust compare to the majestic mountains.

Usually there are 400-700 people from all over the country and the world at Beltane-May Day or spring gathering in Short Mountain Sanctuary. It's important for me to go with clear intentions, this time it was to rejuvenate my spiritual self and reconnect with my chosen family. A few of my highlights are:

1) The pipe ritual. Several people sat at the pavilion in a circle. The leader of the ritual smokes a pipe, says his wish, for the faerie sanctuary, our country and the world, then pass the pipe to the person at his left, that person takes a puff, then says his/her wish. This continues, at the end, the leader close the ritual.



2) May Pole ritual. It's a pagan ritual of fertility and rebirth on May 1st. In the morning of May 1st, I worked with many other faeries to tie different strings of fabric into many long threads/strings. Then, someone else lays them out individually. Some people write their wishes for the year on the may pole, or tie something on the pole for their wishes. Then, several elders tie the ribbons to one point at the top of the may pole. Everyone sat down at the knoll (top of the hill/mountain). A person invites spirit/power of the 4 directions.

Afterwards, people stand up, hold each other's hand and form a big circle. Then, the leader of the ritual ask some strong people to lift the may pole while different people hold ends of different ribbons.

Finally the may pole was put in the ground, some put rocks to stabilize the pole and make sure it can stand by itself. Once, the may pole is secure, some people dance with different ribbons and wrap it around the may pole, while others make noises with different instruments. People cast their wishes in different forms.



There's always nudity, many are fine with their bodies. We live in a society that's so big on covering-mental, physical and spiritual; it's great to be at a place where one can be physically nude without feeling any judgment. Of course there are alcohol and drugs. But, I set the rules for myself and feel that I can be an important part of the experience without doing any drugs or drink any alcohol. It's not a holier than thou attitude, I only do it in a certain limit at certain times.

Overall, my experience was magical. Every time I go to the sanctuary my experience is different. It has much to do with my intentions, what I'm open to, what I want to add to the community and what I want to get out of it.

Endnote: For more information on the Radical Faeries, visit www.radfae.org.

I2I Members Are on The Run; Maggie, Kevin

It's a beautiful Saturday, Chicago summer day. Some of us are at the beach. Some of us are sleeping in. Some of us are at work. But, for Maggie Lee, most likely she's on her weekly training schedule and doing one of her double-digit mileage runs. Yes, more than 10 miles. An active member in i2i, Maggie has a lot of interests, but right now, she is completely focused on the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. We recently discussed this ambitious undertaking on the phone, while she was stuck in traffic. (Ironically, she probably could have run faster.)

When did you decide to run the Chicago Marathon and why?

I bit the bullet and decided to sign up back in February. In September 2007, I ran the Philadelphia Classic, which was a half marathon. The next step was to complete a full marathon. The idea is actually pretty scary, but I have to do it once. I'll decide afterwards whether I'll want to do it again.

What other marathons have you run recently?

I've done smaller races, but only one other marathon. This past Pride Month, I ran the Proud to Run 10K, which is an annual Gerber/Hart Library fundraiser.

How did you get started running?

I started running a year and a half ago to get in shape. I was telling one of my friends in New York that I had started to run. She said she wanted to get back into it [running] and that she and her dad were going to train together for the Philly classic. She convinced me to go for it, and four months into my training, I asked her how hers was going. She had not run a single mile! She was not going to do the race. I guess I got duped into it, but by that time, I was set in my mind to run the marathon.

Why do you enjoy it?

I had never been athletic until I started to run. I actually really hated it in the beginning. But once I was able to run beyond 3 to 4 miles at a time, which I think are the most difficult, I noticed it getting a little easier. It feels great after a long run, cleansing, mentally and physically. I definitely have noticed the health benefits. This is the healthiest I've felt in my life.

Where do you run?

I usually run down the Lakeshore Path. I sometimes change my route and run around the Northside neighborhoods.

Have you found other LGBTQ or LGBTQ APIs who regularly run?

I usually run on my own. I have run with Frontrunners a couple of times, but it's hard for me to get out there at the times they run. I'm going to get my act together and run with them eventually.

Do you have any heroes or heroine marathon runners?

No, but I am an admirer of anyone who gets out there, as difficult as it can be, and pushes themselves to their limits.

What do you hope to accomplish by running the marathon?

My ideal time is to run it within 4.5 hours. Really, I just want to finish before they close the gates. (Ha, ha.) I have a fear of over sleeping or showing up late and missing the start time.

What time is the Marathon?

It's early. I think about 8 a.m.

Want me to give you a wake up call? Just kidding.

What are three words that would describe your feelings about running or the Marathon?

Scared to death. I am nervous, but excited. I am sure when I am done, I will be relieved. I'm looking forward to the sense of accomplishment as well.

What is your training schedule?

I do four days of running. This week, I run a short run on Tuesday -5 miles, Wednesday - 10 miles, Thursday - 5 miles. Then I run on either Saturday or Sunday for about 18 miles. Then on the other weekend day, I do cross training... like biking and strength training. I have a couple of days off each week. I've been following Hal Higdon's training schedules for marathoners. It's an 18-week training schedule.

How can your friends or peers support you?

Show up at Marathon to cheer you on; keep you on the training schedule

Not sure if I told my parents about the Marathon, but they know I'm running.

Is there anything else you want to say?

I encourage everyone to try running if you can physically do it. It's a great way to get in shape. I love that I can practically eat whatever I want, as long as I run a few times a week. It can be difficult to start, but it really is mind over matter. If you can endure the pain of the first couple of months, you might actually love it, and find yourself running a marathon within a couple of years.

The Bank of America Chicago Marathon will happen on Sunday, October 12th. Let's cheer her on! Stay tuned to details on where we'll watch on the route. We'll also have a sign making party in late September. Watch for more information on the i2i web site.



Maggie at the Philly Classic in 2007!

Kevin to Run the 5K AIDS Run/Walk; September 20

Another runner and i2i Core member, Kevin Kumashiro will run the 5K AIDS Run/Walk beginning at 9:55 a.m., in Grant Park, on Saturday, September 20. Proceeds will benefit the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Visit the web site www.aidschicago.org to pledge your financial support!

Go Kev, Go! Go Kev, Go!



Who came up with "dental dam"? Other Names?!

By Maggie Lee

In the spirit of promoting safer sex and giving dental dams a hipper image, which of the alternatives below would you rather use for "dental dam"?

The sum of responses came to an overwhelming six of you who had an opinion on the matter, and the clear winner (receiving 50% of total votes) was vaggie wrap. Cunt cover came in second, and none thought beaver dam was a particularly favorable alternative. (Who would, really?) We encouraged pollsters with ideas for better epithets than the ones being polled to email them to the group. We received one

THE RESULTS

Cunt cover	33%
Beaver dam	0%
Vaggie wrap	50%
None of the above. I prefer dental dam.	0%
Other	17%

challenger – pussy poncho - or puki poncho, for our Filipina sisters and the women who love them.

This curious little poll came out of a banter amongst several i2iers who challenged - What is up with 'dental dam'? What does safer sex have to do with periodontal beaver homes? Aren't there

any slang terms for dental dam as there are for condoms? (rubber, wrapper, raincoat, love glove) As it turns out, a quick Google search reveals that there don't seem to be any popular labels for the oral prophylactic. In that case, why not put vaggie wrap, our poll favorite, out there? Let's use it in as many occasions as we can and see if it sticks. That's a dare.

Call vaggie wraps what you will (puki poncho is sounding kind of catchy, too!), but let's not overlook the more serious side of this discussion, which is about the importance of protecting yourself as well as your sex partners.

Members Volunteer at Annual Gerber Hart Book Sale

Gerber Hart has often been a place where i2i has held various programs. It's convenient and the staff are easy to work with. While we have a very, very little budget, in the spirit of collaboration, GH allowed us to repay their typical space rental by working their annual book sale.

Newest members Yaming Sun and Kit Custodio are pictured during the "take down" event.

Being a volunteer not only is good karma, but you also get a coupon good for one free book every hour you volunteer! So, for those queer page turners... see you next year!



Gerber Hart Library and Archives

1127 W. Granville, located off the Granville Red Line eL station

OPEN Wednesdays and Thursdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.;
Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, Noon-4:00 p.m.

www.gerberhart.org

We'll See You Later, Lola; Lesbian API Activist Moves On

What can this editor say about Lola Lai Jong? Typically, the photo to the right is how I often saw Lola, as she always offered me a ride to and from various events. For someone who doesn't have a car... this is huge.

But more importantly, Lola had been involved with i2i from the beginning. I am confident to say that she was often our *gauge*. Although sometimes quiet, when she did speak, her words were

powerful and thoughtful. Although her demeanor was light, fun, and happy, one could tell that she was serious.

A native Chicagoan, Lola still has family in the Uptown area and am sure she'll keep in touch. In true fashion, she didn't let us throw her a "good-bye party." However, we'll just keep it as, "See you later, Lola." She'll sorely be missed as an ardent lesbian, API Chicago activist is now out west in Arizona!



We are proud of elisa arnea for the great design of the Dyke March logo! Way to go!

Second Core Meeting Begins to Add Structure, Organization

On Monday, August 11, i2i held its second Core meeting at the Bezazian Library in Uptown. Our agenda was simple, but packed full of thought provoking and action needed items. One of the most important results, which came from the meeting was choosing Working Groups and agreeing upon the need for an organization bank account and Treasurer.

Additionally, we have three new Core members- Maggie Lee, Kit Custodio, and Yaming Sun. We were pleased to have such a productive meeting with enthusiasm and commitment. Minutes from the meeting will be on the web site for everyone to read. The next Core meeting will be in October, at 7:00 p.m. Location to be announced.

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I2I is a community group for Asian Pacific Islanders who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning. Started in 2004, the group has grown from four to 70 in only three years. This shows there is definitely a need for an inclusive gender, GLBTQQ API organization in Chicago. We are always looking for new and fun things to do. We welcome your comments/suggestions. Please e-mail us at chicagoi2i@yahoo.com

