

FRONTLINERS

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 1994

P A S G

FRONTLINERS is a bi-monthly newsletter published by the
Provincetown AIDS Support Group
P. O. Box 1522, Provincetown, MA 02657
(508) 487-9445

PASG Staff

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Executive Director

Bill Furdon
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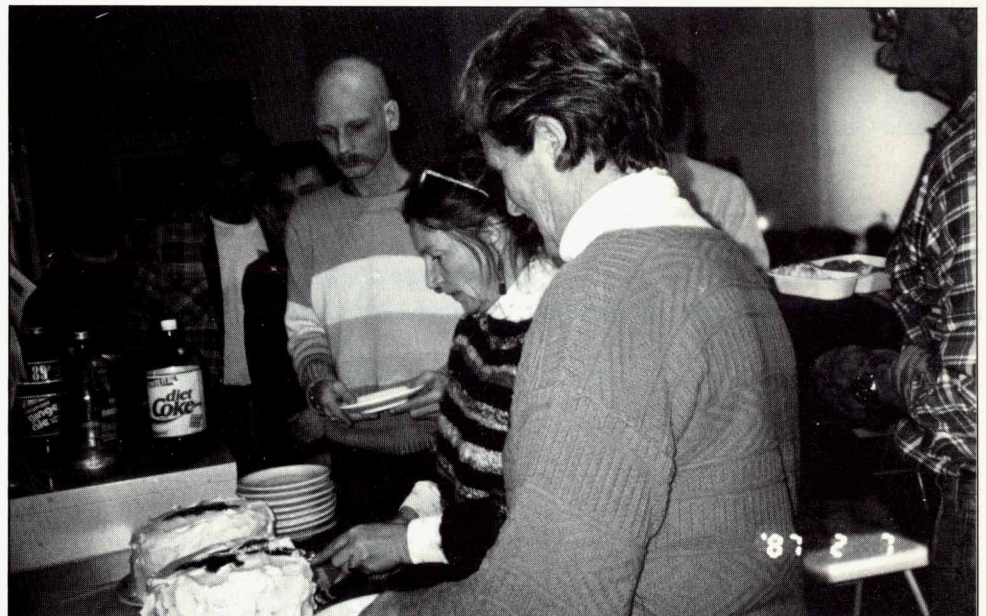
Office Hours

The Provincetown AIDS Support Group is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The office will be closed for business on February 21st to honor Washington's Birthday.

Thanks to Our Friends

As in past years, 1993 proved to be one in which our friends and supporters were extremely generous. Without these donations, the PASG would be unable to keep pace with the ever increasing need for our services. To everyone who donated in 1993 from everyone at the PASG, thank you for your generosity and compassion.

- We send along our thanks to those who made donations in memory of Steve Carter, Wayne O'Brien, Michael Sliney, Steve Wirmusky, and Eric Kendrick in the past couple of months.
- Thanks to Rich and Bill of Mussel Beach Health Club for the generous donation. We want to express our thanks to the Morton and Barbara Mandel Family Foundation for their continuing support in 1993.
- To our friends at the Federated Church of Orleans, thank you for your generosity and friendship.
- To dear George Libone, thanks for being there for us!!
- Thanks to Dennis Loughlin for your friendship and support.
- We would like to express our thanks to the Law offices of Snow and Snow for including the PASG in their holiday message and for their donation. Thanks, Chris!
- Our long-time supporters and friends Pat Shultz and Lenore Ross have made a generous donation in memory of Richard Weinstock, Bill Bever, David Lachapelle, George Powers, and Fred Cusati. This donation will be used to stock the PASG Food Pantry for clients. We are all appreciative of the support we have received from Pat and Lenore year after year.
- To Dimitri of Sumo, thank you for your very generous donation and all the support you have given us over the years.
- The PASG has received a substantial donation in memory of Johnny Rush. We are appreciative of the generosity of this donor, who wishes to remain anonymous.



Maggie Barlett, Local Flavor Chef, at PASG Tree Trimming Party.



PASG News

In The Beginning, Today, And Tomorrow

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Fifteen years ago I remember being present in a joint meeting of clients and volunteers for the recently formed Provincetown AIDS Support Group. The PASG was helping approximately twelve PWA's at that time. Everyone had questions concerning the disease, but answers were few and far between. Besides being an apparent death sentence, there was also a social stigma on anyone having the virus. There was a feeling of helplessness among PWA's and with the stigma, the community at large made matters worse. During this first meeting, we discussed the best ways to help our clients who were often without health insurance, unable to

work, financially strapped and terrified. These people with AIDS were our friends and neighbors. When able, they waited on our tables, worked in the shops we frequented and said hello when passing by on the street.

Pasquale Natale brought up creating an auction in order to raise funds for those out of pocket expenses not covered by any support systems a client might have. The community cared and responded to the crisis. People gave what they could. Cash short, an artist would donate a painting for sale. Restaurants donated meals. Oil companies gave fuel to help with the harsh cold winters. Stores gave gift certificates. Many volunteered

time, meal preparation and the always-needed helpful hand. Thus, the community empowered itself and those it helped with this personal approach.

While the new AIDS medications have been miraculously helpful for many PWA's and many of us appear to be doing quite well, this help is not without its own set of problems. The past year has seen at least one death per month from AIDS complications. For many who have the AIDS virus, the new medications work for a time and then stop. New combinations must then be worked out with no guarantee of success. The toxic side

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All About SISTERS a benefit for PASG & HOW

"SISTERS is one of the hottest shows of the summer. Not to be missed!"

Non-professional local celebrities who wanted to give back to the community created "SISTERS In The Name of Love" ten years ago. Their idea was to raise money for the local non-profit agency

that had been taking care of friends who were infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. To give other local drag queens/kings a chance to perform and to guarantee to be extra funny, they decided to create a drag show without any professional acts, collect the money made and give it to the Provincetown

AIDS Support Group.

Our first year's show was held upstairs at the Post Office Café. It was a rainy Monday in June and we were sure nobody would show up. As fate would have it, the house was packed with

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 effects of many of these wonder drugs prevent their successful use in too many cases, often failing after months of carefully balancing the effects of one drug against another. Then, with hope, there are still drugs we haven't yet tried. For one third of those with the virus, none of the drugs work.

For the last fourteen years, we have maintained the premise of helping others while also helping ourselves. Through these years, the PASG and the Auction have both grown. The PASG now provides support services for over two hundred people with HIV/AIDS. Nearly half of these consumers are helped by disbursements through the Non-Reimbursable Fund funded solely by the PASG Auction. The \$50 monthly allotment, besides helping offset financial necessities, also gives those of us dealing with HIV on a daily basis a sense that people still care.

The volunteers, staff, Board of Directors, and

consumers have all worked on this project faithfully year after year. Such varied activities as; T-shirt sales, collecting donations from shops, galleries, businesses, and individuals, cashiering, running, clean up and much, much more. Every year it takes hundreds of us acting together to help raise this money and every year we make it happen. So while we have hope, the struggle of dealing with AIDS is pressing and a daily reminder that there is much left to do. That is why this year, once again we come together and plan the Auction. Consumers, staff, volunteers, and the community all working together make it happen. Our gratitude to all those who participate and support us in our time of challenge, is greater than it has ever been. Thank you all.

Jim Rann,
 Consumer
 Volunteer
 Peer
 Board Member

SISTERS continued

standing room only. At the time a local unknown "Big Lil" was asked to host her first show; she was so fabulous we had her back for seven of the following shows. The first show went without a hitch and we raised over \$2,500. Over the past ten years 'SISTERS In The Name of Love' has raised more than \$70,000. Not bad for a bunch of amateur drags.

Back again by popular demand this year's extremely creative and talented host will be Tanya Hyde.

So come join in on the fun. Have you ever looked

in a mirror and seen a starlet? Do you sometimes Lip Sync into your hairbrush? Is there a size 13 pump in your closet? If you haven't considered doing a number at SISTERS its not to late. So, dust off your wig, or not, press your dress, or not, have your makeup done professionally, or not, choose a number, or not. No experience necessary! Contact Tony Johnson at 487-8597.

Join us at the VIXEN 8 p.m. on June 11th for the 11th Annual SISTERS In The Name of Love. A suggested donation of \$8 at the door.

PROVINCETOWN AIDS SUPPORT GROUP

The mission of the PASG is to provide direct and supportive services to people with HIV and AIDS, their families, and to educate the community at large about the disease and those affected.

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PASG News is published monthly for consumers, volunteers, and other community members by the Provincetown AIDS Support Group, PO Box 1522, Provincetown, MA 02657
508.487.9445
508.487.0565 (fax)
<http://www.provincetown.com/village/organizations/PASG/pasg.html>
e-mail: pasg@capecod.net

Gary Cole, Editor in Chief
Proofed by Diddiley Squat



PASG News

We Are About To Enter A Very Important Time In Our History

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The Provincetown AIDS Support Group, its affiliates and services, are funded primarily through contracts with Department of Public Health AIDS Bureau. These contracts total approximately \$1,000,000 annually and are funded on a five-year cycle. This five-year funding cycle ends on June 30, 2002.

We are about to enter a very important time in our history and everyone's assistance is crucial. On Friday, March 23rd, DPH will be hosting a Regional Forum in Taunton that will address the future of AIDS funding in Massachusetts. The primary objectives for the day are 1) to constructively review, discuss and critique the needs of consumers, providers and the consortia service delivery system across the our region; and 2) to com-

plete a formal Statewide Needs Assessment.

This meeting will bring together the eight consortia located in Southeast Massachusetts. At this time, consumers will be asked to talk about their experiences with services in their consortium (the Needs Assessment) and providers will be asked to talk about their experiences with delivering services and the financial implications of current funding patterns. These talks will be the basis for our requests for the next five-year cycle.

A strong showing is needed for this meeting in Taunton. Cape Cod is a very unique and separate geographic entity and the PASG has built a strong network of service with this in mind. There is a possibility that our consortium

would have to combine with others in the region and services re-aligned. This would have a very major, and we believe, extremely detrimental impact to what the PASG has to offer. To be blended with agencies in Fall River, New Bedford, Taunton or other areas would make no sense to the strong community support system we have built.

This very important meeting will be from 9:00AM – 4:00PM and transportation will be provided to Taunton. In addition, all consumers attending will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Stop and Shop. Please join us in letting the state know that we prefer to keep our services as they are on Cape Cod. You may sign-up for this day by stopping in at the PASG or calling 487.9445. Thank you.

Hot Lunch....Topic

Until two years ago the Lunch Program only provided lunch to homebound consumers. We found it hard to even keep a lunch cook. In a short amount of time we've seen the lunch program grow from only deliveries to the flurry of social activity that it is today.

The PASG Lunch

Program provides free daily lunches to consumers, volunteers and the PASG community. Our lunches help to provide nutrition and a safe, supportive environment. Lunch is served daily from 11 am until 1 pm in the Great Room, which is a wonderful space for consumers to come together to enjoy one another

and enjoy a good hot meal.

A daily two-hour social gathering in a large open multi-use space demands that we all work together. The need for a separate space requires that we all practice new skills of using this space effectively together. We all need to pickup after ourselves,

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