



RI Threads

AIDS Quilt Rhode Island

Volume XXIV, Number 1, Spring, 2016

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial

Engage, Educate, Empower—and Remember

Once again, we'll be gathering to commemorate the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, this year on Sunday, May 15, at 7 PM, in the Soppin Auditorium at Miriam Hospital. This 33rd worldwide commemoration is one of the world's largest and oldest grassroots mobilization campaigns for AIDS awareness. We in Rhode Island have been participants almost as long.

And once again, for the sixth time in eight years, we find the need to honor the memory of a treasured volunteer. Marj Stenberg, a member of the charter committee of NAMES Project RI, died last November, and we lost a star!



We'll dedicate five panels for the AIDS Memorial Quilt, created by students at the RI Nurses' Institute in Providence and the Salve Regina Social Work Club.

We'll enjoy music from the Rhode Island-based five-piece cover band, The Strattones, as well as by vocalist Ed Milham, also a member of the band.

The international theme is "Engage, Educate, Empower," and the stories on this page will show how our program demonstrates the fulfillment of that theme.

Join us at Miriam Hospital, 164 Summit Ave., Providence. Street parking should be available.

Honoring a mother of the Quilt in RI



We've lost another precious volunteer, whose life contributions to fighting AIDS and supporting the Quilt continue to move us toward our goal of AIDS eradication.

Our honoree is Marj Stenberg, who died in Florida in November. Listing all the ways that Marj's professional and volun-

Marj (Continued on page 2)

RINI panel makers practice the international theme

This year's theme is particularly fitting, since Anna's Workshop has been working with four classes from the RI Nurses' Institute Middle College since last fall. This wonderful charter school in Providence, one of a kind in the nation, prepares its students to enter the health care professions, even achieving some college credits and eligibility to ma-



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AIDS Quilt Rhode Island

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We are not affiliated with The NAMES Project Foundation



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AIDS Quilt Rhode Island

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The Quilt's Mission

Established in June, 1987, in the heart of San Francisco's Castro district, the Quilt began as a response by lesbians and gay men and their friends to the devastation of their community by AIDS. From this beginning, The NAMES Project sought to reach out to everyone affected by the pandemic.

The mission of The NAMES Project Foundation is to preserve, care for, and use The AIDS Memorial Quilt to promote healing, heighten awareness and inspire action in the struggle against HIV and AIDS.

Although our organization is no longer affiliated with The NAMES Project Foundation, we continue to subscribe to this mission, and to carry on the work of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

We Remember...

...All our much loved and missed volunteers. We will remember you...

Guy Abelson
Sasha Andreevich
Ann Antoni
Henry Antoni
James Arcaro
Bobby Arling
Mykel Askew
Bill Bagley
Rev. Alcide Barnaby
George Barros
Jerry Barrow
David Bedard
Stanley Blitz
Rodger Boyd
Michael Brown
Chris Burke
*Thomas Campopiano
John Candelmo
Brett Capone
John Davis
Emilio DeAngelis
John DeCosta
Brian Del Pape
Lorraine DiPlatzi
Doreen Sharpe-Dowd
Henry Dubois
Steve Dubois
Michael Erban
Sydney Feldman
Carolyn Flanagan
Al Fisher, MD
Juan "Johnny" Gonzalez
Debora Greene
Roger Grindstaff
Jeff Hall
* Fitzgerald Himmelsbach
Chris Johnson
Herb Kaplan
Nick Karras

Sr. Ann Keefe
Roland Letourneau
Jimmy Lipscomb
Dick Maraziti
Ernest Martin
Tracey McGuire
Richard Metivier
Pat Milano
Paul Mitchell
Bill Munroe
Jim O'Donnell
Tony P.
Larry Packer
David Palmer
Sue Palmieri
Sara Paneto
Chris Paradis
Steven Pereira
Tony Ramsey
Harry Ray
Ron Reniere
Dixon Richards
Courtland Roach
Mary Sandford
Jeff Shaw
Linda Steele
Marjorie Stenberg
Meredith Thayer
Terri Tiernan
Maggie Valentine
Ernie Vallante
Alexandre Villanueva
Donnie White
Jan Wood-Thomas
*Yolanda Pearl
George Warch
Roger Young

* Imperial Court of RI
Prov Gay Men's Chorus

We remember our deceased volunteers, regardless of cause of death, in each newsletter. Full names are not required. Contact admin@aidsquilttri.org.

Marj (Continued from page 1)

teer work have enriched our community would take pages, so we'll concentrate on her importance to the AIDS community.

Marj was the VA Medical Center's infection control nurse in 1991, so the still erupting AIDS epidemic, especially among our veterans, fell right into her field of interest. She was among at least seven VA volunteers, including chapter co-founder Ken Davis, who helped form the chapter that year, and field our first major display at Brown in 1992. The VA team had already created a beautiful panel, pictured on page 1, for the 44 veteran patients that they had lost to AIDS.

Unwilling to stop at helping veterans, she became co-founder of RI Project: AIDS, which continues today as AIDS Project RI. She was also co-founder, with your editor, of the Straight But Not Narrow Coalition, an organization of straight allies to the LGBT community that was active during the campaign to pass the 1995 LGB Civil Rights Act.

RINI (Continued from page 1)

triculate into the RI higher education system.

Under the leadership of their English teacher, Veronica Mays, each class has read The Naked Truth, Marvelyn Brown's journey toward becoming an AIDS activist after being infected with HIV at age 19. They followed up by creating a total of four panels—three last fall in memory of clients of the Agape Center in Woonsocket, and one this spring in memory of Dawn Anita Perry, the sister of RINI faculty member Thea Lacey. Ms. Lacey met with the students, talking frankly about Dawn's life, the stigma she suffered and tried to spare her family, and Ms. Lacey's abiding love for her.

The students have truly epitomized the international theme. They became engaged through reading this deeply moving book, they became educated about HIV/AIDS, they were empowered to participate in our program, and we're confident that they'll continue this process through their professional careers. They have heeded Ms. Brown's call to speak up about HIV and the stigma that follows it. Ms. Brown lamented that as a teenager, she heard constant warnings against getting pregnant, but never about protecting herself from HIV, and she was totally unprepared for the reaction to sharing her diagnosis.

We'll dedicate all four panels this spring, since the three panels created last fall went immediately to the Agape Center's World AIDS Day program, which took place the same night as Graceful Journeys.

We'll also dedicate a panel made by Salve Regina's Social Work Club and The Alliance, the LGBTA club, created in their annual panel making workshop. Salve students have fielded displays and workshops annually for almost 25 years.



RINI students create a panel in memory of Susan Marie H., of the Agape Center, in fall, 2015. Two other panels in progress and a completed panel are pictured on page 3.



Graceful Journeys

World AIDS Day,
December 1,
2015.



About thirty people gathered in the Commonwealth Center, Bristol Community College, Fall River to honor Hope House, a home for people living with AIDS from 1994 to 2012, to share their memories, led by Lois "Toby" Shea, RN, MS, founder of Hope House, and Carl Ferreira, long-time Quilt volunteer and panel maker, and to dedicate the AIDS Memorial Quilt made in memory of their deceased residents.

Above: Toby Shea, founder of Hope House.

Above right: The completed Quilt on display at Graceful Journeys.

Right: People with special connections to Hope House gather with the Quilt.



Below: Students of the RI Nurses' Institute Middle College with two of the panels they created this school year, in memory of clients at the Agape Center, and of Dawn Anita Perry, sister of Thea Lacey, a faculty member at the Institute. Teacher Veronica Mays is at center behind Dawn's panel, and Ms. Lacey is to the left of her in the picture.



AIDS Quilt RI
invites you to

INTERNATIONAL
AIDS
CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL

15 May 2016

7 PM

Engage, Educate, Empower

Join communities around the world
in the largest grassroots movement to
end the HIV epidemic.

In memory of Marj Stenberg

Sopkin Auditorium, Miriam Hospital,
164 Summit Ave., Providence (street parking)



Music by The Strattones
And Edwin Milham

Dedication of panels for the AIDS
Memorial Quilt

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