



RI Threads

AIDS Quilt Rhode Island

Volume XXIII, Number 2, Winter, 2015

World AIDS Day—Still “Getting to Zero”

A special memorial for Hope House

Hope House lived up to its name for eighteen years. On December 1, we'll honor that heritage at Graceful Journeys, commemorating the event, appropriately, in Fall River in the Bristol Community College Commonwealth Center lobby at 7 PM. BCC will co-sponsor the event with AQRI. This loving home for people living with AIDS opened in Fall River in 1994 in a house provided by St. Anne's Hospital. It grew from a joint project by RN/educators Toby Shea and Beth Milham for a course in the UMass Dartmouth MS in Nursing program, became Toby's major paper, and then became a reality! It served this special community until 2012, when the new owners of the hospital closed and leveled the building, after the staff found suitable housing for the remaining residents.

The staff and residents had created a large quilted wall hang-

ing with memorial squares for their deceased residents, and when the house closed, they donate it to us, requesting that it eventually become part of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. At just under 7 feet square, it needed some adjustments to fit into a Quilt section. Russ Milham designed a format for it, and he and Beth collaborated on its realization. It's now 12 feet tall by 9 feet wide, and has been

transformed into a “house,” with no alterations to the original quilted work.

We'll dedicate the panel at Graceful Journeys, and it will remain on display at BCC as part of the campus' annual World AIDS Day activities.

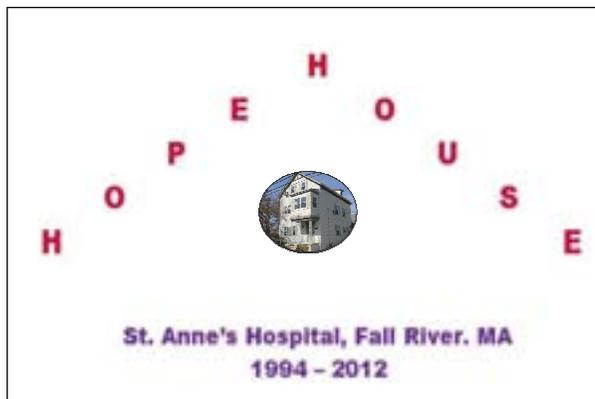
This is the fifth and final year of the World AIDS Campaign's theme for World AIDS Day, Getting to Zero—UNAIDS' vision of achieving “Zero new

HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths.” These goals call for all the elements of prevention, education and treatment, and we'll incorporate that theme into Graceful Journeys. BCC President Jack Sbrega will bring greetings, and Ed Milham will sing for us.

The US theme is “Engaging Youth in the Response to HIV/AIDS” As ever, Anna's Workshop is dedicated to that goal, and this fall we've been privileged to work with the RI Nursing Institute, which graduates its students with

a high school diploma, certified nursing assistant credentials and an optional opportunity to begin college level courses. The students in this program have educated themselves about HIV, and have made a panel which we'll also dedicate with the Hope House panel.

Please join us! (Free) parking is at the far end of the lot behind the campus. The Commonwealth Center is the first building at the end of that lot.



Coming “full circle” with the Ryan Brothers

Seldom have we become as engaged with a panel making family as we have with the Ryan Brothers' family over the past year, and it's been a blessing to “blend” our families through this loving project.

As we reported a year ago, we met Pam Sugrue at the 2014 Walk for Life. She had wanted to make panels for her brothers Ricky and Billy for more than 20 years, and Uhuru SaSa at URI helped her and her family do that. We dedicated their panels at URI at our last Graceful Journeys.

In the spring, Pam invited us to lunch to meet her Uncle Victor and Auntie Sandy from Connecticut, so they could see the panels. Victor is Ricky's godfather. It was a deeply moving and

emotional meeting for us all.

Then in June, we displayed the Ryans' panels at RI PrideFest. A friend of Pam's told her that the panels were there, and she raced down to South Water Street to see them.

In September, the brothers' family, including Pam, husband Tim and mother, Cathy, came to the 2015 Walk for Life and carried the panels during the opening program and the walk.

Recently we received a heartwarming thank you note from Pam with a gift card from Michael's Arts and Crafts, helping us keep Anna's Workshop stocked with supplies.

What an honor to be part of this loving family that has kept the memory of these two forever young men alive for so long, and to join them in that quest.

AIDS Quilt Rhode Island

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We are not affiliated with The NAMES Project Foundation



Visit us at www.aidsquiltri.org

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
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.

Thanks...

...to **Philip Kane**, one of our oldest and dearest friends in the AIDS Services community, for his unflinching support for the Quilt in RI. Like clockwork, his annual totally unsolicited donation shows up in our post office box, helping us carry on Anna's Workshop and bring you this newsletter, now in glorious color! Philip is one of a handful of loyal donors, including **Marcia Blair** and **Judith Anderson**, who keep us going.

...to the **Dean's List Academy**, and to **Bobby Gammino**, who introduced us to this remarkable program. This non-profit organization's mission is to serve as a community resources center to help individuals with developmental challenges of all ages and abilities "to fulfill their potential by providing quality programs and services," including education, job training and socialization, "in a spirit of love and friendship." Among their activities is a retail store selling donated fabrics and household items. Dean's List sold us, at a steep discount, several unique lengths of fabric for Anna's Workshop and recently, all the fabric we needed to transform the Hope House Quilt into an official panel. Please visit them at 25 Esten Avenue, Pawtucket, and consider them for a tax-deductible gift when you're making your donations.

...to volunteers **Paul Medici**, **Judy Bibby**, and long-time Quilt friend and panel maker **Jason Riley**, who joined steering committee members **Sherrill Warch** and **Carl Ferreira** in helping with the Walk for Life display in September.

...and again, to **Pam Sugrue** and her family for the donation of a Michael's gift card. "Anna" will have fun buying supplies.

Thoughts...

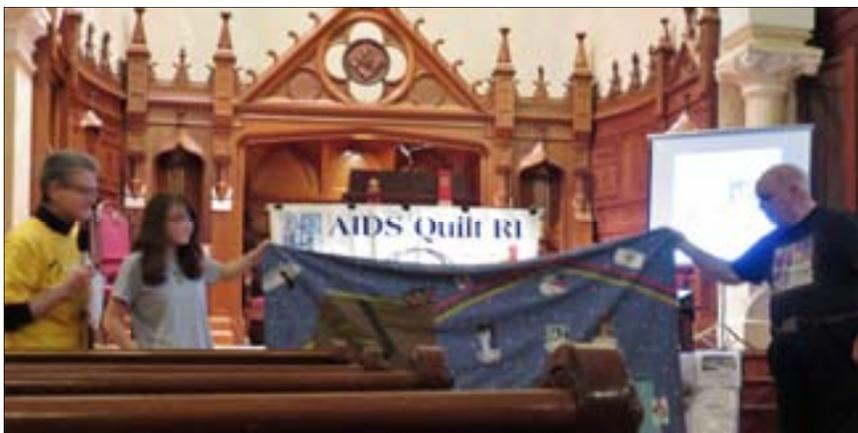
...of joyous congratulations to a long-time personal friend and friend of the Quilt, **Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer**, who recently celebrated 40 years of rabbinical service to Temple Shalom, Middletown. He was honored with a series of events by his grateful congregation and the larger community.

...of condolences for the family of **Guy Abelson**, and for his partner, **John Esposito**. Guy passed away just before this year's Walk for Life. This remarkably talented man used his myriad gifts to benefit many varied communities in RI, including people living with AIDS and their helpers, especially AIDS Project RI.

...of great pride in our good friend, **Lilian Oduk**, who will graduate this spring with a BS in Nursing. We met Lilian, a native of Kenya, several years ago at a RIDEFAR concert. Overcoming great odds, she attained her Associates degree in Nursing a few years ago, while working, raising two outstanding young people, and dealing with health issues. She has long volunteered for The Quilt, sharing stories about AIDS in Kenya, and working with Anna's Workshop to create panels for some of the many family members and friends that she's lost to AIDS.

...of affection for **Cynthia Notarianni**, representing another family that has taken the Quilt and its caretakers to their hearts. We met Cynthia many years ago, when the Walk for Life was still at Roger Williams Park. Some may remember the *RI Threads* Quilt Magic story of Cynthia finding a panel on display in memory of her sister, Karen Hopkins, not having known it had been made. It was requested by a member of part of the family with whom Cynthia had lost touch, and made by a City Year Young Heroes group. Cynthia was in the process of creating a panel for Karen, herself at the time. After she had completed it, we dedicated it at the Cathedral of St. John, and Cynthia and her family, and their friend Tim began attending most of our public events. We see her every year at the Walk for life, at which she carries Karen's panel. This year, her team wore bright orange T-shirts emblazoned with a picture of them carrying Karen's panel in a previous walk.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial was commemorated at Channing Memorial Church, Newport, in May. This year, we dedicated three panels in memory of people with Newport or Channing connections, or both, and made by Newport panel making groups. Two were from Channing, and the third, the Social Work Club and The Alliance at Salve Regina. Channing Interweave, one of the panel making groups, co-sponsored the event, and also hosted a dinner for event attendees. Interweave created a panel in memory of Gary Poser, MD, a Channing member in the '70s and '80s. Gary's children, Caroline and Nick, from Massachusetts, attended and participated in the dedication. Pictured at right is a panel for Al Frechette, a long-time Channing member during the same period. Helping the Milhams with its dedication is Aquinnah Thayer, a member of the Channing Youth Group, which created the panel.



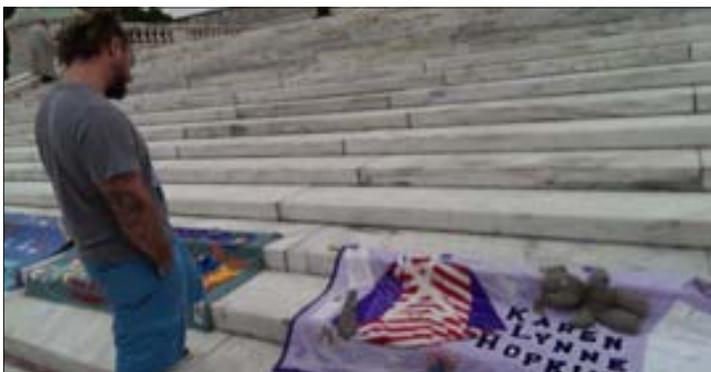
Pam Sugrue and friends, posing with her brothers' panels at PrideFest in June. (See story, page 1.)



Above: Two of eight panels displayed at **Newport Public Library** during the month of August. All the panels were created by Newport groups, and several were for people with Newport connections. Lola M., whose panel is pictured, was a client of the Agape Center, Woonsocket, and its staff members requested the panel. Salve Regina Social Work Club and The Alliance created the panel last year, as well as the panel below it, for Evan Davies, in this year's workshop. Evan was the former partner of Channing's minister, Rev. Dr. F. Jay Deacon.



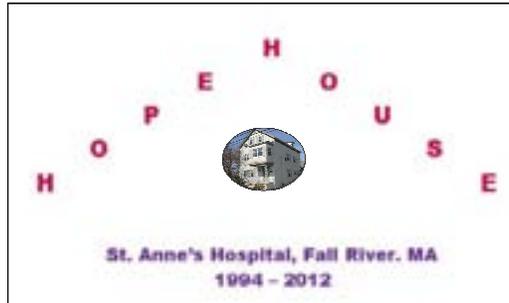
The thirtieth annual **AIDS Project RI Walk for Life** took place on September 13, in Providence. The Quilt has been represented at almost all the walks, and for the sixth year, Quilt panels were carried by walk participants. Because of threatening weather, only a few panels were in attendance. Below left: a walker views the panels spread on the State House steps before the walk. Below right: Cynthia Notarianni and two of her teammates, who raise funds in memory of Cynthia's sister, Karen Lynne Hopkins, sport shirts depicting Karen's panel, which Cindy created. The photo was taken at a previous walk.



**AIDS Quilt RI and Bristol Community College
Invite you to**

Graceful Journeys

Remembering Hope House



Dedication of the Hope House panel

Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 7 PM

**Bristol Community College Commonwealth Center
777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA**



Return Service Requested



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