

PACT-Youngstown

Newsletter

People of All Colors Together
<http://www.angelfire.com/oh4/PACTYoungstown/>

July 2001

(330) 534-5904, Mailbox No. 3
pactyoungstown@hotmail.com

Anniversary 2001

—John Vivo

Our eighteenth anniversary weekend celebration was a success. It was a little on the quiet side, but everyone had a great time. We had family in from Chicago, Cincinnati, and Cleveland as well as our home team, all meeting at Sterling and my home to start the weekend with a welcome bash.

After eating, drinking, and being Mary, we went on that llooonnggg 20-minute drive to the Queen of Hearts. We were welcomed by Tristan and Bobby with a free cocktail and light hors d'oeuvres. We were "treated" with a delicious dessert, and I'll swear it was finger-licking good. I hope the next time I go back I can have a second helping (or two).

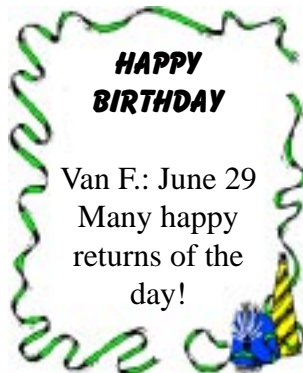
Saturday and Sunday outings at Bob and Chuck's Queen Acres were a perfect choice for good times. The barbecue and breakfast buffets were d-e-l-i-c-i-o-u-s, the sun and weather agreed with us, and the bugs didn't bite until Sunday afternoon. We even toured the mother-in-law house! Just wondering who's going to use it first.

The Roadhouse staff were

ready to serve us and made sure we were full all night. The food, perfetto! Even Mother Homer arrived in time to enjoy the evening.

Off to Club Blue Note, where we had our first free drink, and the rest of the evening we spent dancing, drinking, and then some. After we were chased out, a few guests from the Note came to our house for an after-hours cock-tail, and some got what they came for, some twice, zip zip.

Anniversary 18 went down into the books as a great weekend adventure for those who survived, some of whom ate a form of snake and got gushed with who knows what, but at least no one got voted off the island, and all will return next year for the nineteenth Anniversary OhioFest.



A Berry Special Day

—John Vivo

On Sunday, June 24, things were berry interesting on the patio of Club Blue Note. PACT-Youngstown hosted the Strawberry Creations Festival on an early summer afternoon. The sun was shining, the ice cream was melting, and the grill was a-smokin' while our members enjoyed a nice, quiet afternoon visiting with our guests who ventured out to have a taste of our sweet treats.

At the last moment the planning committee had decided to barbecue burgers and dogs since the kitchen is closed on Sunday, and boy, did they come in handy because I needed something off the grill to chase down my shortcakes.

Part of the proceeds from this function will be donated to PFLAG. It's nice to help another "family group," for our community isn't large enough that we can afford to ignore the needs of other organizations. Watch our calendar of events for more group functions.

Thanks to Bob, Tim, and Carson for letting us use their patio.

Pride Center Fully Tax-Exempt

—Tom Copeland

Yes, at long last The Pride Center of Greater Youngstown is a 501(c)(3) organization. That means that not only does it not have to pay tax on income (a privilege shared by 501(c)(7) organizations such as social clubs), but also donations to it are deductible from the donors' taxable income.

We hope that this tax break will stimulate membership and encourage sizeable donations from the rich (ha ha). At the very least it makes us eligible for certain government grants. Look for progress at the Center.

Membership is \$25/person/year (now tax-deductible!). Send name and address with check made out to The Pride Center of Greater Youngstown to our box at The First Unitarian Church, 1105 Elm Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44505.

Visit our web site at <http://hometown.aol.com/thepridecenter>, and find out what's cooking. We have kaffee klatsches this month (14th) and next (11th) on the second Saturday from 7 to 10. This month we will be discussing transgender issues, and next month two men who have had vastly different experiences with being "ex-gays" will tell their stories.

BWMT/Detroit's Web Site

If you haven't visited Detroit's fancy web site at <http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/blackandwhitemendetroitandbeyond>, you may be interested that in the past 14 days 25 new members, representing five countries, have joined.

PACT/Youngstown's Web Site

The web site has moved from Homestead to Angelfire, where it can be more easily maintained. See p. 1 below the newsletter title for the new address. You will also find a web copy of the newsletter at the new site.

Gay Pride in Toronto

—Tom Copeland

Toronto's annual Gay Pride Parade was attended by some 800,000 spectators according to official estimates. Six



blocks of Yonge Street were blocked off (but the police ran out of barricades) from noon till 5 p.m., after which the

party moved a block east to Church Street, which was blocked off, with three connecting streets, for the entire weekend.

Among the distinguished persons in the parade were Mayor Lastman, who engaged in watergun warfare with onlookers



(he playful, they not), and the actors portraying Lindsay and Emmet in *Queer as Folk*. Muscles and well-filled jockey shorts or Speedo briefs were the official male uniform, but persons of all conceivable gender identities, ages, and body types marched, including a very good 70-year-old gogo boy and a contingent of the local nudists, appropriately undressed. The group is called LOVE ("Let's Offend Virtually Everyone").

News coverage of the event, although including plenty of jiggling flesh and feathers, did not omit to mention the participants' emphasis on a sensible response to AIDS and their demand for civil rights. Both English and French news presented this balanced coverage, but only the Montreal



station showed photographs of the LOVE marchers (pointing out, however, that completely nude marchers were a distinct minority). This broad-mindedness confirmed what one of the French Canadian spectators said: that the festival was nice but couldn't hold a candle to Montreal's gay pride celebrations.

The number of entries in the parade staggered the imagination; I used up all of my film before a third of them had passed; the parade lasted two and a half hours. What struck me was the enormous number of

**Anyone
recognize
Ethan
from
Detroit
BWMT?**



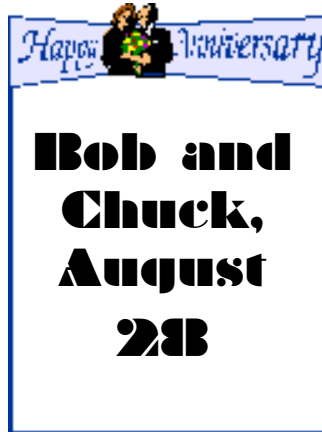
groups which were not specifically LGBT-related but which recognized the importance of courting the queer community. These included animal rights activists and the Help the Ferrets group, the Labatt's and Molson beer companies, the local bagpipers, the Body Shop, and a group advocating human cloning. Then there were the LGBT supporters, including a good two blocks of PFLAG marchers from all over the country, at least fifteen religious organizations (one man wore a T-shirt saying "Safe Sects"), the *Queer as Folk* cast, and a lone man carrying a huge circular sign urging members of the police force to come

out.

A tiny selection of LGBT groups will suggest the huge variety of marchers: Queer Nurses, youth and university groups, Native Americans, Queer Muslims, Women of Color with Disabilities, Gay Fathers, and a baton-twirling organization.

When you go to a parade, here are some pointers:

- Get there in time to stake out a good spot.
- Anticipate which side of the street will be in shadow when you'll need it most.
- Take a folding chair.
- Take binoculars.
- Wear a hat.
- Take a water and snack.
- Go to the bathroom before leaving.



Queer as Folk in Toronto

—Tom Copeland

As you are aware, *Queer as Folk* is filmed in Toronto. The final episode was aired on Monday night, June 25, in Canada.

Although we had our own TV, my companion and I chose to watch the show standing up in Woody's Lounge with about 400 other fans. The experience was awe-inspiring, not simply because much of the episode was filmed in a club called The Fly, next door to our apartment building, but mostly because the bar became as still as a church except during commercial breaks. We cheered, we laughed, we mocked in unison. These were our people; we had seen them in the parade and at the party the day before. They were a rallying point, a unifier, portraying if not our own lives then at least the lives of many whom we love.

For me the most exciting aspect of the experience was the thought that the show was being broadcast not on a restricted channel but on regular commercial TV. One of the sponsors was Manline.com: "The shortest distance between two men is Manline.com-Better Men, from Top to Bottom."



The Meeting of the Board

Reprinted from the All Saints
Community Church bulletin
June 24, 2001

—Steven Begert-Clark

The Father's Day article that you read earlier in this [All Saints] newsletter says that Fathers are responsible for instilling in their children the spirit of "doing." If a father "does," then his children will grow up to "do" as well. A father's example set in the work and witness in church activities seems also to be mirrored by his children. Even though this month's featured board member has no children of his own, one can only imagine that if he did his children would grow up to be "the girl good enough for MY son" or the "boy you would surely bring home to meet the parents." Though he does not possess the title, who would disagree that in his "doing" and in his Christian "being" Chuck Mauric would make about the best dad a child could ever have! Is there any such thing as surrogate children? If so, then we all would probably like to adopt Chuck as our dad!

Chuck Monsignor, as he is affectionately known, joined All Saints on March 18, 1995. That's always easy for him to remember because that is also his birthday, though the actual feast took place "a few" years before 1995! Interestingly, Chuck and his life-partner, Bob Tillman, discovered All Saints during a conversation with a friend of theirs who was attending Emmanuel Fellowship Church in Akron. He told Chuck and Bob of this "band of pilgrims" who had been coming to Akron each week from Warren but were soon to open their own church back in Warren. How about that, Karyn and Kathy!? That's what we were: a "band of pilgrims!" Well, the rest is history. Chuck and Bob began attending All Saints shortly after we opened and have blazed a trail to new and exciting ad adventure ever since. Chuck joined the Official Board as a Trustee in August, 2000, when he agreed to fulfill the unexpired term of Susanna Westover.

Chuck and Bob have, during most of their nearly eleven-year relationship, been active members in the Youngstown Chapter of PACT (People of All Colors Together). Chuck is the

4
"Secretary for Life" and Bob is the "Treasurer for Life." Though this group provides great fellowship and promotes service and fundamental "golden rule" values, Chuck says that they were still looking for another group that could nurture their spiritual needs and, at the same time, make them feel welcomed. All Saints became the perfect fit. Bob will be happy to hear that Chuck will not be a "Trustee for Life" but we do truly appreciate his commitment and willingness to serve.

As you know, Chuck has been involved in just about every committee that has ever met at All Saints. He's STILL trying to figure out a way to "break the union" at the Women's Group, but he's been to nearly every other group that has ever met! He was on the original property search committee (OUR house almost got built BEFORE his and Bob's!!) and now plays a very active role in the current Prospectus Committee, which seeks financing for our permanent home. He is tireless in his giving of his time and talents and his heart and soul are home to a humility that most of us only dream about! The focus simply is never allowed to be on Chuck, but rather on the fruits of his labor. He proved that once again, even as I was conducting my standard "interview" for this article. I said to him, "Monsignor, I just need to ask you a few questions about YOU." And so the interview began and I would ask pointed questions about HIM which he humbly and BRIEFLY answered. And so I would ask something like, "What is your favorite part of the service from Sunday to Sunday?" And back would come the answer, "Oh . . . I think the Communion time Yes, that's my favorite ... OH AND TELL REV. TOM THAT I GOT THOSE PARTS FOR THE COPIER! AND THEY SOLD 'EM TO ME FOR JUST 10% OVER COST. ISN'T THAT GREAT!?" Yeah, Chuck. . . . That's just great. . . . Peter Parker I'm not. He couldn't have had it this tough!!

But the interview continued, and what a blessing it was! Here's what Monsignor sees for all of us his church family five years from now. "I think we'll be well into paying off the loan on our building. I know it will happen quickly. I would love it if we had a full-time pastor that we could

have all to ourselves. I don't think we will have broken ground on the new senior center yet, but it won't be far off!"

Chuck has fond remembrances of his "religious" growing up. He was raised Byzantine Catholic and remembers "going to mass and then, like clockwork, off to the Red Barn for lunch!" This must be how the "Mandarin House" tradition sprung to birth! Well, Annie, it's no Red Barn, but it will have to do! Chuck recalls that when he went to mass with his grandfather, the mass was offered in Ukrainian! "Now, how much of that did I understand, but we still got to go to Red Barn!" He also shared, "After my dad died, we didn't go much. We pretty much became "C & E" Christians. But that's all changed now that we're at All Saints and feel so welcomed. And just for the times that all the folks have prayed Ann back to health, it's been worth it just for that! She's definitely our walking miracle, that's for sure!"

Chuck is definitely a "doer." So much of who he is is wrapped up in what he does. He prefers "doing" to "leading," but I and the pastor are always quick to point out to the good Monsignor that the reason people want him to lead all of the time is that the best leading is done by EXAMPLE. In his doing, Charles certainly inspires others to action and still others to downright oldfashioned Christian commitment.

Joyce Meyers often says that we have too many Christians out there who just want to "do - do - do" and not enough who are willing to just "be - be - be." In Chuck Mauric we find that RARE combination one who "DOES" and one who knows how to "BE," a man who "does" a lot of things but a man who "is" a lot of things to a lot of people. Your pastor is fond of calling Chuck "the Peaceful Spirit."

It is rare that we would impose on someone the title "Holy." I'm wondering if we haven't been blessed to know someone in Chuck Mauric who has earned the distinction far more by who he is than by what he does. It's O.K., Chuck. You just go on "doing." The rest of us will learn from your example and try to "be" the Christians that God has called us to be. We thank you for your service to All Saints and pray that each of us will be inspired by who you are and all that you do. May God bless us all as we try to be like his son, Jesus, to others.



Contributions to the Newsletter

Send articles, letters, notices, reviews, poems to Tom Copeland, 313 N. Belle Vista Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44509 (tcopeland@neo.rr.com). **The newsletter needs YOU!** Deadline for submissions is the third Thursday of the month. No articles are refused provided that they are in good taste and not libellous. Authors will be designated by first name and last initial unless they specify otherwise.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the executive board, editor, or chapter.

PACT/Youngstown Statement of Purpose

The Youngstown chapter of People of All colors Together is a gay multi-racial organization that is committed to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goals of human equality realized. To these ends we engage in educational, political, cultural, and social activities as a means of dealing with the racism, sexism, ageism, ablism, homophobia, and other inequities in our communities and in our lives.

For Information

For information on forthcoming meetings, social functions, or becoming a member, visit our web site at <http://www.angelfire.com/oh4/PACTYoungstown/>, or call (330) 534-5904—Mailbox No. 3. Or return the form below.

Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____	
Phone _____	E-mail Address _____		

Return to

PACT/Youngstown
P. O. Box 1131
Youngstown, Ohio 44501-1131



Calendar of Events
(PACT/Youngstown Events in Bold)

PACT/Youngstown
P. O. Box 1131
Youngstown, Ohio 44501-1131

- W 7/11 General membership meeting, 7 p.m., Club Blue Note**
- St 7/14 Pride Center Kaffe Klatsch on transgendered lives, 7-10 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1105 Elm St.
- 7/14-21 NABWMT National Convention, New Orleans
- T 7/24 Tri-County AIDS Task Force benefit meeting, 7 p.m., Club Blue Note. All welcome to attend.
- Th 7/26 Dine-out at Cafe Capri, 7807 Market St., 7 p.m.**
- St 8/4 BBQ at Queen of Hearts: Membership social, 10 p.m. Treats on the patio with special dancer**
- T 8/7 Tri-County AIDS Task Force benefit meeting, 7 p.m., Club Blue Note.
- W 8/8 General membership meeting, 7 p.m., Club Blue Note**
- St 8/11 Pride Center Kaffe Klatsch on the ex-gay movement, 7-10 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1105 Elm St.
- Sn 8/12 Pot luck, 5 p.m., Bob and Chuck's, 1890 N. Fox North Rd., Hubbard. BBQ food. Dress for the outback at Queen Acres. (330) 534-5904**
- T 8/21 Tri-County AIDS Task Force benefit meeting, 7 p.m., Club Blue Note.
- T 8/28 Dine-out at Quaker Steak & Lube, Sharon, PA, 7 p.m. (It's Chuck and Bob's anniversary!)**
- St 10/13 Tri-County AIDS Foundation Benefit (details later)