

The Common Thread

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The Newsletter for *FIGHTING AIDS CONTINUOUSLY TOGETHER*

Summer Edition ~ 2008

www.factlv.org

P.O. BOX 1028

ALLENTOWN, PA

IN THIS EDITION!

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"An Evening of Summer Elegance" Raises \$2400.00!!!

"An Evening of Summer Elegance" FACT house party, was hosted by Robert Burton and Harry Abel at their home in the Edgeboro Manor Section of Bethlehem on July 13, 2008. The evening began in the courtyard of their home where refreshments were served and conversations with new friends and old became the order of the evening. Even a sudden summer rain shower didn't hinder the atmosphere of the evening as the crowd of 62 attendees moved into the house where a scrumptious buffet had been prepared by our hosts. Over \$2400.00 was raised during this event. FACT is very grateful to Robert and Harry for supporting FACT and for all of the hours of work that went into bringing this event together. Along with the volunteers and friends who helped in various aspects of the event, our hosts also wanted to acknowledge the assistance of Pearson Funeral Home of Bethlehem, who donated the use

of 50 chairs. "Pearson's has helped FACT in these types of events in the past and we are grateful for their generosity and support."



The Summer evening in the courtyard of the Burton-Able home.



Attendees enjoying the pre-dinner conversation in the parlor.

FACT SUMMER GAMES 2008 IS HERE!!!!

The FACT Summer Games is Sunday, September 7, 2008, at Rainbow Mountain Resort in the Pocono's! This year promises to be a spectacular event with great food, a chance to renew friendships and to

Summer Games Cont. from page one:

cheer on your favorite teams! Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets!!! Lots of great prizes have been donated! A silent auction and live auction will also add to the excitement of the day. Free HIV testing will be available. Six blocks of panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will also be on display. This year's display will contain many panels of loved ones from our own community. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$15.00 or you can purchase your tickets on the day of the event for \$20.00! The FACT Summer Games is a major fund raiser for FACT and it is so very important for this event to be a success. The money raised by the FACT Summer Games, help provide the grants and financial assistance so desperately needed by those suffering from HIV/AIDS and have no other resources to turn to for help. So come to the Games! Enjoy a great day with you old friends and make some new ones, while helping those in need as well!

AIDS Memorial Quilt to Be Displayed at the FACT Summer Games!

FACT has been honored to host displays of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at the FACT Summer Games for many years now. It has been difficult to request specific panels as sections of the quilt are being displayed almost daily around the United States and in Europe. This year FACT requested 6 blocks of panels that contain the names of individual from the Lehigh Valley and Pocono community. We were informed that the NAMES Project was able to fulfill most of our requests. We hope that when you see these names that you will not only remember the lives that have been lost but that you will remember their strength and the fight they endured against HIV/AIDS as well as how important FACT is today in helping others continue to fight until one day a cure is found. If you have a friend or a loved one who has died from HIV/AIDS and would like to remember them by creating a panel to be added to the AIDS Memorial Quilt, please contact Lou James at FACT: 610-820-5519. There are specific guidelines that must be followed in creating a panel and we can help you through this process.

HELP!!!! We Need Volunteers!!!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! As you can see, we have many events that take place throughout the year. FACT would never be able to accomplish what we

do, if it were not for our volunteers. We are always looking for volunteers to help us in all aspects of our organization. If you are planning to attend an event, please volunteer and hour or so of your time while you are there! What a great way to not only help FACT, but also show your support for those infected /affected by HIV/AIDS. FACT always has the need for volunteers outside of events as well. If you would like to volunteer to help with assembling a mailing, or staff an information table or any other areas, please contact us at 610-820-5519 or contact FACT through our website at www.factlv.org There is currently a need for volunteers for the FACT Summer Games, AIDS Walk and The Snow Ball.

BINGO AT PRIDE IN THE PARK RAISES \$356.00

On August 17, 2008, PRIDE in the Park celebration took place and FACT was there providing a fun filled day of BINGO! Over \$356.00 was raised! It was also an opportunity for FACT to provide some educational information as well as a chance to raise awareness. We owe a special thanks the volunteers who tirelessly set up our tents, tables and chairs as well as ran the program and cleaned up at the end of the day. We Especially thank Dave Moyer who coordinated the event and also Silvia Silverberg and Babb's our Bingo callers. Your efforts and kindness are why FACT is able to accomplish all that we do.

PA Diversity Network Honors Dave Moyer

FACT board member, educator and fixture at the Allentown Health Bureau, David Moyer, was honored by the PA Diversity Network on June 17, 2008. He received the award for providing health services to the GBLT community. The presentation took place at the Allentown Brew Works. As many of you know, Dave has been a pillar of the community when it comes to providing health information and testing for sexuality transmitted diseases and for educating the community at large in disease prevention. Dave also arranges and coordinates the free HIV testing at many FACT events. FACT is honored to have Dave as a member of our board!

FACT Welcomes Chris Banko!

FACT formally announces the election of Chris Banko of Allentown to the Board of FACT! Welcome Chris!

Rainbow Players Theater Company!

There's a new theater company in Allentown! Starting off as simply a fundraising idea, it has taken on a life of its own. Rainbow Players Theater Co. was founded through the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley as a non-profit, all-volunteer theater company Their Mission Statement Goals Are:

- 1 To present material that promotes positive awareness and understanding of GLBTA issues, and to provoke thoughtful dialogue within the GLB TA community and the community-at-large, thus fostering a more inclusive sensibility toward GLBTA issues.
- 2 To present these issues through drama, comedy, performance art, poetry, music, dance, as well as an occasional light-hearted show done just for fun.
- 3 To provide a nurturing and spiritual haven for GLBTA artists to create, produce and perform original works that tell the story of the GLBTA community, as well as our individual journeys.
- 4 To bring awareness of and provide financial support for MCCLV and its various outreach ministries to the community, as well as other GLBTA organizations in the Lehigh Valley and throughout the state.

Their premiere 2008-2009 season schedule will be:

November 14-15: "The Big Voice: God or Merman?" (Book by Jim Brochu, Music & Lyrics by Steve Schalchlin) - a musical about growing up gay and religious, long-term gay relationships, AIDS, and the spiritual and healing powers of show biz (**Matinee Recipient – F.A.C.T.**);

February 6-7: "Their Town" by Paula Martinac - a gay-themed comedy on gay marriage rights inspired by the classic "Our Town" (**Matinee Recipient – PA Diversity Network**);

May 1-2: An Evening of One-Acts (**Matinee Recipient – Pride of the GLV – Rainbow Scholarship**);

August 7-8: An Evening of One-Acts & Performance Art (**Matinee Recipient – TBA**)

Each production will run Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm with a 2pm Saturday matinee. Fifty percent of the proceeds of the evening performances will benefit MCCLV ministries to the community, while 50% of the matinee proceeds will benefit a GLBTA organization in the Lehigh Valley and throughout the state. Once the theater company is more financially grounded, we intend to donate 100% of the proceeds from each matinee to benefit one or two organizations.

Open auditions will be held following the first production for future shows. They are looking for original material, as well as guest directors, choreographers, musical directors and technical assistants. They are also accepting suggestions for further Matinee Recipients. Plans for internship program under consideration.

For more information, please contact: **Dean Hiatt, Artistic Director: Telephone: 718-664-3713.**

WHAT IS A FACT HOUSE PARTY

FACT house parties can be held by anyone who wishes to support FACT in this manner. All that is requested is that FACT be notified of the event and what it will consist of. A Fact House Party does not need to be anything elaborate. Sometimes, just a simple fishbowl placed for attendees to place a donation or a set minimum donation is all that is needed. More elaborate events are also welcome! All you need is a little imagination! Holiday time or summer barbecues are great times to hold a house party as well! Remember, the money you raise for FACT may help to put food on the table, assist someone with a rent payment or pay for a life sustaining medication of someone infected/affected by HIV/AIDS Please contact FACT for further information or questions on how to hold a house party.

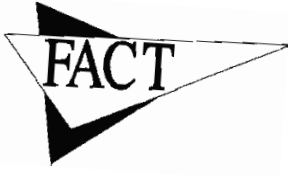
FACT LEHIGH VALLEY AIDS WALK 2008!!!

FACT Lehigh Valley AIDS Walk, will be on Sunday, October 5, 2008, in the Bethlehem Rose Garden at 8th Avenue Between West Broad and West Union Blvd. in Bethlehem. Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the Walk will start at 1:00 p.m. The money raised in this event in addition to helping FACT, also helps the area HIV/AIDS services agencies in their work with the people they care for. For further information contact Dave Moyer at FACT 610-820-5519.

Our Mission Statement

FACT is an organization of concerned people committed to raising money to assist individuals and families affected by HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and to conquer the HIV/AIDS crisis within the Lehigh Valley and surrounding communities. FACT identifies, supports and monitors programs that provide direct and educational services within the communities. FACT's mission is to alleviate suffering and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and to provide an improved quality of life to those affected by HIV/AIDS.

FACT is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. The official registration and financial information for Fighting AIDS Continuously Together may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free (within PA) 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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Watch for our Upcoming Events



September 7, 2008 – Summer Games
October 5, 2008 FACT Lehigh Valley AIDS Walk 2008
November 2008 Event TBA!!!!!!!
December 7, 2008 – Snow Ball



**ALSO WATCH YOUR MAILBOX FOR MORE
EXCITING EVENTS!**