



GFC NEWS

May, 1998

GFC-Richmond • P.O. Box 8501 • Richmond • VA • 23226

Rebirth **President's Message:**

Spring is that time of year when we celebrate rebirth and new life. Trees, flowers, birds, bees... It is also the time of my own rebirth, now four years ago; April 15, 1994.

The moment of my awakening came during the final scene of *Falsettos* - a musical comedy/tragedy about living life honestly and without regret.

I was emotionally overcome by the story, as was my companion for the evening. We were both silently crying. Something deep inside me led me to reach out and unabashedly grasp his hand - despite being in full view of

others nearby. As I did so I felt released, freed of all that had held me back in the past. I suddenly had no fear of the reactions of others to the reality of my being gay.

Not only did my outlook on life change, but my approach to life did also. People at work noticed the difference - even before I told any of them about my epiphany. Social situations no longer stymied me. I gained self-confidence about my work, as well as my art.

I often joke about my rebirth, describing myself as having been "born again" - much to the consternation of those who believe such an experience to be strictly religious. But, I did

see the light. And I was shaken to the core. And now I celebrate the anniversary of the day as though it were a high holy day.

Maybe your moment of truth wasn't as earth-shattering for you as mine was for me. Whatever the case may be, It obviously was strong enough to lead you to say "enough's enough" and to at least begin to start your life anew. In my book, that's cause for celebration.

So I urge each of you to pinpoint that moment in your life, and circle the day on your calendar, and declare it your very own "rebirth" day. And I hope that it becomes a source of inner strength for you as mine has for me.

Important Notice About May Meeting

The location of the May Meeting has changed for a special program. See details in the Calendar of Events below.

Calendar of Events

Date: Thursday, May 7

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: 1010 North
Thompson Street

Program: SHADES

This program is designed for gay and bisexual men and goes beyond the usual safer sex program that so many of us have received. SHADES is aimed at helping each of us reclaim the sensuality that may have become lost in the age of HIV and condoms. It is a participatory workshop that is guaranteed to make each member hot!

The address is changed for this meeting to 1010 North Thompson Street, which is the block between Monument and Broad Street. Thompson Street is the last street before crossing 195 if you are heading west. The building is light gray/crushed stone with no windows on the front. The sides are all windows. There is a red granite portico attached

to the right front of the building covering the drive entrance. There is ample parking in the rear of the building. The back door will be open. The front door will be locked. The meeting will be in the basement.

Other News...

Recently joined member Kevin McCusty's home will be one of eight featured on the West of the Boulevard Civic Association's 4th Annual Mothers Day House & Garden Tour. Tickets are \$10 in advance (for the whole tour), available at various locations around town or \$12 on the day of the tour. Tour proceeds go to support various WBCA neighborhood activities. For more information, call 359-6131.

April Minutes

The thirteenth meeting of GFC-Richmond began at 7:45 p.m. at St. Marks Episcopal Church, 520 N. Boulevard, Richmond. Thirteen members/visitors were in attendance.

General Business

Old: A motion was made to amend the 3/5/98 meeting minutes to reflect that Will Turner had been included in the nomination/election of the slate of chapter officers for the year '98/99 as Publicist/Historian. The motion was seconded and

approved by all attending.

New:

- AIDS WALK-RICHMOND will be on Sunday April 19 at Byrd Park.
- The Board has received comments about planning more social functions.
- Presentation of the "SHADES" workshop is being planned for the May Meeting.

Treasurer's Report -
We have \$434.39 on account at present.

Program - Jim Beckner spoke to the group about the history and mission of the Fan Free Clinic, which has been in existence since 1970. The clinic supports three major programs:

- 1.) A general medical clinic
- 2.) HIV/AIDS - provides regional support of many kinds for Richmond and 22 counties
- 3.) Women and Children's Health Initiative

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:20 p.m.

**For More
Information
about GFC-
Richmond, call
355-6218 or 230-
2578.**