

# NEWS AND VIEWS FROM **PARK HOUSE**

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Amount now approaching \$700,000

## **Red Ribbon Ride Sets Fund-raising Record**



An audible gasp rose from the crowd—followed by wild cheers and applause—as preliminary fund-raising figures for this year's *Red Ribbon Ride* were announced during opening ceremonies on July 13<sup>th</sup>. As of ride-out, the total exceeded a record \$618,000 with checks and pledges still coming in! Understandably, riders and crew embarked on their four day bicycling sojourn with an overwhelming sense of a job well done. Each year since its inception in 2002, participation in the *Red Ribbon Ride* has continued to grow, this year boasting some 270 riders and 183 crew members who raised the record amount of money which is now approaching \$700,000! *Red Ribbon Ride* prides itself on keeping expenses low by depending on volunteers, donations, and the use of school grounds for camping and shower facilities. Last year's *Ride* netted an 87% return, generating much needed funds to help support organizations with HIV/AIDS related programs. Park House is one of nine such agencies that benefits from the *Red Ribbon Ride*.



Jim Maurer

**“Strong tradition and on-going effort”**

## Manager’s Musings

Jim Maurer, *Park House Manager/Development Associate*

This past June marked twenty-five years since the first reported appearance of *pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia in five gay men in the Los Angeles area. By the time the report came out, two of them had died. In so many ways this has been a tragic quarter of a century around the world. I choose to recall the tremendous work that has been done here in Minnesota to respond to the tragedy.

From the get-go, members of the GLBT community rallied to support those who had become ill. Essentially, all of our home-grown AIDS service organizations sprang up from earnest, grass-roots efforts.

- The Minnesota AIDS Project was rooted in the living room discussions of a small group of gay men desperate to make a response to a disease affecting their community.
- Open Arms of Minnesota grew out of one man’s meal preparation in his own kitchen for his “buddies” who weren’t able to cook nutritious meals to keep themselves going.

- The adult foster care network was sparked by a retired Benedictine brother’s desire to do something for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Informed by the Archdiocesan AIDS Ministry of the great need for safe, respectful housing in the late 80’s, he rented a small bungalow, got licensed as an adult foster care provider, and began providing care to three very ill men at a time.
- The Rural AIDS Action Network was born in a public health nurse’s basement office because she witnessed the dearth of support available in small Minnesota towns.
- The Aliveness Project has always been an organization of, by, and for persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- Clare Housing resulted from the unrelenting urging of a Franciscan nun to establish supportive, affordable housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS on the east side of the river.
- Park House was the vision of a local gay doctor determined to meet the needs not only of those living with the disease but also those caring for them. He saw viable resources available elsewhere in the country but not here and marshaled the forces at Abbott Northwestern Hospital to provide an adequate response. Abbott Northwestern stepped up to the plate and for the past ten years has supported the work of Park House which is aimed at enabling persons living with HIV/AIDS and mental illness to remain independent and active in the community.

All of these organizations—having risen from extremely humble origins have grown—expanded their scope and continue to provide

remarkable service despite mounting challenges with regard to financing, social acceptance, and governmental obstacles.

Park House will be commemorating our ten years of service with a gala fund-raising dinner on our anniversary date—World AIDS Day, December 1, 2006—at the *Graves 601 Hotel* in downtown Minneapolis. The event will feature cuisine from some of the area’s finest chefs and dance music provided by the very popular *Casablanca Orchestra*. More details are featured in this newsletter.

I can expand upon my one-word description of the 2005 *Red Ribbon Ride* by saying that this year’s ride was not only *hot*, but *windy and hilly*, as well. It seemed to me that this ride proved to be very challenging to even the most seasoned riders.

On the way into Lake City, late the first day—with temperature and humidity riding high—we came to a very long, steep hill. I knew upon approaching this incline that I would be walking it. As I got to its base, I saw at least a dozen riders walking their bikes. This was a first for me in eleven years of doing AIDS Rides—to see that many individuals having to walk up a hill.

*Continued on next page*

That pretty well sums up the challenge of the 2006 Red Ribbon Ride which by the way was wildly successful. 270 riders and 183 volunteer crew signed up for the event (the most ever). To date, we have raised over \$600,000, well on our way toward our \$700,000 goal for nine local AIDS service organization.

Despite the strenuous conditions there were no serious casualties. Many participants have already signed up for next year's ride, taking place July 19 – 22, 2007. You can sign up at: [www.redribbonride.org](http://www.redribbonride.org)

There are two more sessions of Bingo A-GoGo this year—*Toga Party Bingo* on September 16 and *Bootleg Bingo* on November 18. Both events are hosted by the fabulous Miss Richfield 1981. Be sure to mark your calendars.

Watch your mail for some special holiday events at Park House, featuring a very special collection of themed holiday trees.

Thanks to all of our Park House supporters throughout these past ten years. Our work would not continue without you. We are committed to serving those living with HIV/AIDS who are experiencing emotional and mental health issues and count on your help to do so.

Fête celebrates Park House 10 year anniversary

# Bon Appetit Ball Features Fare from Top Local Chefs, Musicians

*Elegance!*  
*Glamour!*  
*Cuisine!*

Plans for our gala 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration are taking shape.

The *Bon Appetit Ball*, slated for December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Graves 601 Hotel is truly—*An evening to remember for a cause we cannot forget*—and a special event you will not want to miss!

Here's a rundown of what you can look forward to:

- Seven of the Twin Cities' finest chefs—each preparing a signature course for you to savor:

- Patrick Bernet  
*Patrick's Bakery & Café*
- Seth Bixby Daugherty  
*The Graves 601 Hotel, Cosmos*
- Vincent Francoual  
*Vincent—A Restaurant*
- Supenn Harrison  
*Sawatdee*
- Roger Johnsson  
*A Rebours*
- Jill Pirie  
*Premier Cheese Market*
- Ferris Schiffer  
*The Minikahda Club*

- A dazzling ballroom performance, featuring professional

dancers fully regaled to trip the light fantastic

- The fabulous Casablanca Orchestra to keep the room hopping into the wee hours

Seating is limited so make your reservation today! Better yet, why not reserve a table of ten for you and your friends?

Call 612-871-1264 to make reservations or for more information.

Proceeds from *The Bon Appetit Ball* benefit Park House.

Rolling out the welcome mat

## Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak Does Lunch with Park House



We were honored with a visit from Mayor R.T. Rybak in July. Jim Maurer, Park House Manager, Jodi Rucker, Director of Behavioral Health, and Virginia Reed, VP of Operations at Abbott Northwestern Hospital served as welcoming committee and gave the Mayor a brief run-down of the various programs and activities offered at Park House.

Once officially welcomed, Mayor Rybak was escorted to the dining room where he was greeted by a large contingent of clients and staff. Everyone was excited to meet the Mayor who engaged the group in lively conversation. Mayor Rybak showed great inter-

est in stories various individuals shared with him, including the impact of Park House programs on their lives.

“The visit was very important to us,” notes Jim Maurer. “It’s beneficial when people like the Mayor can get to know us, and we want to thank him for making time to take a closer look at us.”



L to R—Jodi Rucker, Director of Behavioral Health; Jim Maurer, Park House Manager; Mayor R.T. Rybak; and Virginia Reed, VP of Operations

The momentum continues

## Bingo A-GoGo Keeps On Keepin’ On

Chalk up more success in the on-going saga called *Bingo A-GoGo!*

A growing number of devoted fans are discovering that the AIDS fund-raiser, *Bingo A-GoGo*, delivers action-packed evenings of fun and entertainment. They know they can count on emcee, Miss Richfield 1981, to regale them with her razor wit and unpredictable antics as they play for a plethora of wonderful prizes.



Attendees and volunteers are also part of the show, getting into the act with all manner of costume and apparel apropos to the *theme du jour*. Two most recent *Bingo A-GoGo* events—*Wedding Bells Bingo* and *Fairy Tale Bingo*—brought out some truly inspired costumes, offering spirited interpretations on a popular institution and other tall tales.

Most importantly, *Bingo A-GoGo* continues to be an significant source of funding for programs at Park House and Clare Housing,

*Continued on next page*

Bingo's co-producers. Think of it as *Daubing for Dollars*.

In addition to companies and persons who *sponsor* individual games of bingo, event success also comes from the many others who generously donate time, talent, prizes, and refreshment. Some employers will also *match* charitable contributions.

Based on the adage, *The more, the merrier*, an increasingly favored option is reserving an entire table for 8 to 10 people so friends and colleagues can enjoy the evening together. Reserving tables is easy by calling: 612-863-7168.

Now here's the really great part—there's more *Bingo A-GoGo* coming up this fall. Just check the schedule and mark your calendars. Don't miss out on the fun, so be sure to order your tickets early!



Going to the dogs

# Target Dog Owner Talks Bull's-Eyes and Bull Terriers



See an unusual looking white dog with a red bull's-eye on his face and you think Target stores. This quirky marketing icon has achieved nothing short of celebrity status.

So, it's not surprising that there is considerable interest in the both dog and the breed—the Bull Terrier.

Target Dog who was recuperating from an injury at the time, recently sent his master, Debbie Rodden, and a stand-in—another Bull Terrier named Lefty—to meet with Park House clients. The afternoon was filled with information about working for Target, life as a dog in general, as well as tricks and a few doggy treats.



## Upcoming Bingo A-GoGo

### Toga Party Bingo

Saturday, September 16, 2006

Incarnation School Gym  
38th & Pleasant Avenue  
Minneapolis

### Bootleg Bingo

Saturday, November 18, 2006

Incarnation Church Basement  
38th & Pleasant Avenue  
Minneapolis

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

[www.BingoAGoGo.com](http://www.BingoAGoGo.com)

- Tickets are \$25.00 for 15 games
- Tickets sell out FAST and in advance
- Tickets are available through:
  - Amazon Bookstore  
8th Street & Chicago, Minneapolis
  - Query Bookstore  
520 E Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis
  - Rainbow Road  
109 W. Grant Street, Minneapolis
- Group tables (8 – 10 seats per table) may be reserved. Call: 612-863-7168

## ***Prophylactic HIV anti-viral meds— Can they stop infections?***

# **Medical Director's Viewpoint**

Hanan Rosenstein, MD, *Park House Medical Director*

One of the most controversial discussions at the recent International AIDS Conference in Toronto was about preventive use of anti-viral medication. Researchers presented the first findings from one completed study in Ghana on the subject, known as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (or PrEP).

Can the drugs that keep HIV-positive people alive also make it safer to enjoy carefree sex? Health officials are now trying to find out by conducting trials in which healthy people take drug cocktails that suppress the virus. "The information we have indicates this is a very promising approach," said University of California, San Francisco's Robert Grant who is overseeing an upcoming study in Peru. Non-human primates studies have shown the use of anti-viral drugs to be highly effective in preventing acquisition of viruses similar to HIV.

To date, the only proven way to prevent AIDS is abstinence or condom use. Yet in recent years researchers have noted a potentially dangerous increase in unprotected sex, including among American gays. Some theorize that the availability of AIDS drugs has made people complacent. If PrEP works—and it will likely take several years to gain a conclusive answer—"it could stand to save thousands of people from being infected," said Melanie Thompson, who is leading a PrEP study in Atlanta.

The studies have generated some controversy. Two years ago Cambodia

halted a PrEP study, and the African nations of Cameroon and Nigeria pulled out of trials after local protest.

### **Complicated issue**

Overcoming the risk of AIDS by devising a vaccine, for example, has proved elusive. The United Nations says 25 million have died since the epidemic emerged. Yet antiretroviral drugs have kept people with HIV alive, giving hopes that drugs such as tenofovir (Viread) or the two-drug combination pill Truvada made by Gilead Sciences could keep the healthy from getting HIV.

Even if the approach works, it may prove very costly. Truvada at US wholesale prices costs \$735.36 per month—although the medication is offered at far lower prices in developing countries. Yet Gilead says it would not market the drug as a prophylactic, out of concern about liability, and because insurance companies are unlikely to fund such a use. "It's likely to be a very charged and complicated issue," a Gilead spokesman said.

### **Strong need in San Francisco**

Scientists are studying whether the pills work as an HIV prophylactic and if they pose any risk to the healthy.

The concern is giving potentially toxic medications to people who are otherwise healthy. There probably is a reasonable assurance that the drugs are safe. As for effectiveness—that is the million-dollar question.



Hanan Rosenstein, MD

Famous for its active gay community, San Francisco earlier this year launched a study on the potential side effects of the medication for the healthy, as well as any effects on behavior. Anecdotal evidence suggests small numbers of healthy gay men already take the drugs, hoping for protection before sex.

Medical experts say if the PrEP tests prove effective, those at risk—from prostitutes and drug addicts to those living a sexually risky lifestyle—could take the pills for months or years. It's unclear whether funds would be forthcoming to pay for their treatment or if they would adhere to the drug regimen.

Still, medical experts caution that anti-viral meds will unlikely prove a free pass to promiscuity.

Doctors would never endorse the use of anti-viral meds as an excuse or a reason to have unprotected sex. The approach may not be 100 percent effective. It would be in addition to proven prevention strategies such as, condoms, risk reductions counseling, and getting tested frequently.

We have to keep an eye on these research studies.

*A wonderful showcase of diverse artistic talent*

## More **Ballroom Performances**

Ever-popular *Ballroom Performances* continues to bring enjoyment to Park House clients and friends. They provide a unique and intimate opportunity to see and hear some of the finest performers from the Twin Cities and the world.

The concerts are *free* and open—and offer a wonderful break in the day. Mark your calendars and plan to attend—

*Fourth Wednesday of each month  
1 o'clock p.m.  
Park House Ballroom*

### Gallery of Past Performers



Maria Elena  
*Flamenco de Minnesota*



Dáithí Sproule  
*Irish singer/musician*



Bun Loeung  
*Cambodian musician*

## Coming Up

A special guest appearance by  
Miss Richfield 1981

1:00 p.m.

Wednesday,

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006

*Working out the kinks*

## Park House **Wellness Day and Open House Features Massage**

Students and staff from the *CenterPoint Massage and Shiatsu Therapy School and Clinic* offered a menu of nominally priced massage options to guests at the Park House *Wellness Day and Open House*, kicking off the first of several events planned in celebration of our tenth anniversary. The school—which regularly provides Shiatsu therapeutic body work to our clients—donated all proceeds from the massages to Park House.

Visitors could also attend lectures and demonstrations on



Shiatsu and interactive presentations of Tai Chi and Chi Gong. In addition, there were tours of our home, the Crosby Mansion, throughout the afternoon.

*Remembering friends  
we have recently lost*

## **Passages**

*Joel L.  
Vernon M.*

*PARK HOUSE exists to enhance the quality of life, maximize human dignity, promote independence, and minimize hospitalization of persons living with HIV/AIDS. PARK HOUSE is a structured day health program which provides skilled nursing care, psychosocial support, creative/complementary therapies, nutrition and collaborative treatment planning with physicians and case managers.*

*A special presentation*

## LET'S TALK ABOUT GHOSTS!

Presented by  
Carol Lowell  
*Psychic/Ghost-buster*

Saturday,  
October 21, 2006  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Social Hour & House Tours  
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
at the Park House Mansion

Carol Lowell, an associate of well-known psychic, Echo Bodine, has been working with ghosts and spirits for over a decade, helping them to cross over or simply listening to their stories. Ghosts have many different reasons for remaining here on earth. Who are they? Why are they here? How do we help them?

Carol will share her personal stories of her conversations with ghosts. We will have an open discussion, answering questions and sharing thoughts you may have about ghosts.



Call Shannon at 612-871-1264 to reserve your place.  
Tickets for the presentation are \$25.00.  
(Cash, Visa/Mastercard, or checks payable to Park House)  
Donations accepted for refreshments during the social hour.  
All proceeds from this event will benefit Park House.

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