

# Quilt Notes

## Fall 2006

### AIDSWalk 2006 to be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>

AIDSWalk 2006 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AIDSWalk in the Capital Region. Last year, over 2000 people from Upstate New York participated in the walk and raised over \$200,000 for local HIV/AIDS services. It was the region's largest AIDS fundraising event ever!

The 2006 AIDSWalk will again take place in Albany's Washington Park. As in previous years, participants will begin at the Lake House and continue on a short route through and around the park. After the Walk, food and drinks will be provided. There will also be entertainment on hand, and sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display inside the Lake House.

AIDSWalk is a project of the Community AIDS Partnership of the Capital Region, which is a consortium of local funders, persons living with HIV/AIDS, community and business leaders, clergy, and AIDS service providers in the Capital Region.

There are now more people living with HIV/AIDS in the Capital Region than ever before. Significantly more women, adolescents, and persons of color have been diagnosed with the disease. Thanks to new advances in the treatment of HIV/AIDS, persons can live longer once they become diagnosed. Therefore, the

Capital Region is facing an unprecedented need for medical care, supportive and nutritional services, transportation, peer support, housing, childcare, and financial assistance for those living with HIV/AIDS.



AIDSWalk raises urgently needed funds for the fight against AIDS, and money stays right here in our community. The funds will support the efforts of over 25 Capital Region AIDS Service Organizations, one of which is the New York Capital Region NAMES Project.

Many who work in the field of HIV/AIDS would state that complacency about AIDS has replaced the fear of becoming infected. There is a great need to educate the public that the epidemic is far from over. In particular, funding is needed to educate young people about their risk of acquiring HIV. Over one-half of all new cases of HIV in the United States occur in those

under 25 years of age. This is why our NAMES Project Chapter focuses so much of its efforts on educating young people about HIV/AIDS.

AIDSWalk provides a unique opportunity to raise community awareness about AIDS; while at the same time, provides a means of showing our support for the local organizations that provide services for AIDS prevention and care. Won't you join the NAMES Project in our efforts to raise community awareness around HIV/AIDS, and show your support for the work we do with the AIDS Memorial Quilt? If you would like to walk with us or make a donation to support our team, please visit our website at [www.aidsquiltny.org](http://www.aidsquiltny.org) where you can download registration and sponsor forms, or call our office at 465-0595. Thank you and we hope to see you at the Walk on October 1<sup>st</sup>.



AIDSWalk2005, the dedication of Jimmy Mack's Quilt panel.

# Moo Attends NCAN Conference

by Mary Lou Hamlin



In July, I attended the 2006 National Catholic AIDS Network Conference at Loyola University in Chicago, IL. My purpose in attending the conference was to network with HIV/AIDS service providers and care-givers, and to conduct a quilting workshop.

My workshop was entitled "Coping with grief through Quilting". There are many ways to cope with loss and grief. Many people find a good approach is through keeping memories of their lost loved one alive in the grieving person's mind. This workshop developed a memorial of five panels with forty names of family members, loved ones, and friends who have died from AIDS. These individuals where from all over the world: El Salvador, the United Kingdom, Vietnam, Mexico, Switzerland, and from all across the United States.

My ability to assist in creating these panels, and to teach about HIV/AIDS in the process, is all due to my affiliation to the New York Capital Region Chapter of the NAMES Project. The workshop was a great success and the panels that were created are beautiful. These panels will be dedicated to the NAMES Project Foundation during our World AIDS Day Display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, November 27<sup>th</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup>.

I was blessed and privileged to attend the Conference thanks to a full scholarship from NCAN. I also would like to thank Joe Kerwin, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Albany Diocese, for providing my airfare.

- Moo

Mary Lou ("Moo" to those who know and love her) is part of our Chapter's Panel Making Committee. Her expertise and knowledge of quilting is available to anyone who may need assistance in creating a panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. For information on how to make a panel, or to contact our Panel Making Committee, see the "Quick Tips on How to Make a Panel".



*"Not all battles are fought with a sword."*

## QUICK TIPS ON HOW TO MAKE A PANEL FOR THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT:

Making a Quilt for a loved one lost to AIDS can be a very moving and challenging experience. It can provide the panel maker(s) with an opportunity of reflection and closure. Listed below are some easy steps that you can use to help you through your journey of making a panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt:

- You should design your panel on paper first so that you have a reference for creating it.
- Choose you materials carefully. You can use just about any durable fabric for the background of the panel. Personal items from the individual are a unique touch for the content of the panel.
- Sew as much as possible. Although fabric glue and paint may be used, the panel will last longer and require less repair if it is sewn.
- The finished panel can be either horizontal or vertical, but should be *exactly* 3 feet by 6 feet. You should also provide a 2 inch border of unfinished material all the way around the panel which will allow for your panel to be attached to others.

With just a little skill, you can make a beautiful memorial for a loved one. For complete panel making instructions, visit our website at: [www.aidsquiltyny.org](http://www.aidsquiltyny.org).

If you would like our Panel Making Committee to provide you with technical assistance in creating your panel, please contact our Chapter at 465-0595.

## New York Capital Region Chapter of the NAMES Project Current Board Members:

**Steve O'Neill** – President  
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# World AIDS Day Display 2006



This year marks the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our World AIDS Day display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Our chapter once again is partnering with the New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute to host the display. The display in 2005 was a tremendous success. Over 1800 Middle School and High School student attended the display to learn about the Quilt and HIV prevention. This year is promising to be just as successful.



The display will once again be held at the Convention Center of the Empire State Plaza. It will be free and open to the public starting with Opening Ceremonies on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, and ending with Closing Ceremonies on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> (World AIDS Day). Our Chapter is accepting

new panels which will be dedicated during Closing Ceremonies and added to the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Please join us in remembering those who lost the fight to AIDS and who are immortalized in the fabric of the AIDS Quilt.

For more information about the display, or to learn how you can volunteer and be a part of this wonderful event, please visit our website at [www.aidsquiltny.org](http://www.aidsquiltny.org) or call 465-0595. Thank you!

## 2006 International AIDS Conference

by George Clifford

The International AIDS Society presented the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada from August 13 – 17, 2006. Attended by over 24,000 people from around the world and representing over 100 countries, the conference is one of the largest interational meetings held regarding HIV/AIDS. I was very fortunate to be able to attend and represent Albany Medical Center.

This conference brings together physicians, researchers, care providers, policy makers, and persons living with HIV/AIDS to examine current issues and to update attendees on the most recent findings in prevention, clinical research, and treatment.

One of the key note presentations was by former President Bill Clinton and Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, and highlighted their work with HIV/AIDS in under developed countries. While a cure or vaccine for HIV appear to be difficult goals to achieve, the attendees were inspired by Melinda Gates and other speakers who shared their vision of

## A Silver Anniversary (of sorts )

a letter to the Editor

We marked an important anniversary in June 2006: the first cases of AIDS were reported in the United States 25 years ago. So much has happened over the last quarter century. We have made amazing progress in prevention and treatment, but it is clear that much more needs to be done. There are huge disparities, both within the U.S. and across the globe, in terms of who benefits from currently available drug therapies.

Researchers know much more about the virus, how it replicates and how we can prevent it's replication at the various stages of it's life cycle. Advances in medical treatment have made it possible to lower the mortality rate due to AIDS. Progressive prevention efforts have significantly reduced the number of new infections, but so much more still needs to be done. Remember: AIDS is a preventable illness!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there are over 1 million individuals in the United States currently living with HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, as many as 30% of those infected are not aware that they are.

Efforts in both prevention and research need to

a future that is free from AIDS. continue. We want the epidemic to be over! Let's hope  
Mexico City will host the next International we don't have to celebrate a golden anniversary of  
AIDS Conference which will be held in 2008. AIDS.