

# Quilt News

The NAMES Project,  
New York Capital Region

Spring 2007



Names Project New York  
Capital Region Chapter

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## Our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual World AIDS Day Display

by Darin Hollenbeck



**Unfold the Quilt during Opening Ceremonies**

The NY Capital Region

Chapter of the NAMES Project, in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, hosted our 9<sup>th</sup> annual World AIDS Day display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt on November 27<sup>th</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup>. There were over 500 individual panels of the AIDS Quilt on display at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center.

Just over 1800 Middle School and High School students from 38 area schools attended the five-day display. The students took part in peer-led educational sessions which began with an orientation where they learned about HIV/AIDS and the history of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. They then had an opportunity to view the display and were instructed to find a specific Quilt panel which had special meaning to them and complete a work sheet on that panel. After viewing the Quilt, they returned to the class room for a debriefing where they discussed their experience, and were introduced to a person living with HIV/AIDS. The speaker spoke of their life experiences living with the disease, and the students were able to ask questions of the speaker.

New Paltz Middle School has sent their 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to the display every year for the past five years. I had an opportunity to speak with their teacher, Ms. Melissa Groover, about why she felt it was so important for them to come to the display.

"It puts a personal touch on what they learn in school," Ms. Groover said. "The kids see that these are real people". She compares the AIDS Quilt to the Memorials in Washington, D.C. and added, "This is major history that needs to be exposed to children, even as young as 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It is a tremendous opportunity."

The peer educators who conducted the education sessions are from Unity House, Youth Expression Theater, Equinox, AME Zion Church, and the Planned Parenthood S.T.A.R.S. groups from Upper Hudson and Albany. In preparation for the display, they took part in a two-day training retreat at the Silver Bay Conference Center in Hague, NY. This was an opportunity for the peer educators to get to know each other, learn from those who participated in previous World AIDS Day Displays, and for them to prepare and practice for conducting the sessions during the display.

The 2006 World AIDS Day Display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt was a tremendous success! You can visit our website to view pictures of the display. The NAMES Project would like to thank the New York State Department of Health, the peer educators, the PLWHA guest speakers, and all of the countless volunteers who worked so hard to make this display so wonderful. Plans are already being made for our 2007 display. We hope to see you then!

Chapter Info	The Quilt	AIDS Walk	World AIDS Day	News	Links
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## Our Website is There For You!

by Dave Jennings, Board Secretary & Website Coordinator

You can learn valuable information about the New York Capital Region Chapter of the NAMES Project by visiting our website: [www.aidsquiltny.org](http://www.aidsquiltny.org). The site is easy to navigate by simply clicking on the various active links located throughout the user friendly format.

You can begin your search for information by first clicking on the **Chapter Info** tab. There you will find our Chapter's [Mission Statement](#) and a list of current [Board Members](#) with links to their personal email. You'll also find some very interesting information on our [Chapter History](#), and detailed information on how to [Contact Us](#). Links to [Sign Up for Our Mailing List](#) can be found here and throughout the website.

The NAMES Project is the keepers of **The Quilt**. By clicking on this link, you will find detailed information on how to [Make a Panel](#) to be added to the AIDS Memorial Quilt. You will also find the [Display Application](#), [Hosting Instructions](#), and [Release Agreement](#) so that you may request a section of the Quilt for your community organization, school, or place of business. You can learn about how the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the world's largest community art project, got its start by clicking on the [Quilt History](#) link. Here you will also find some amazing facts about the current size of the Quilt.

If you visit our **AIDS Walk** link, you will see information about the upcoming AIDS Walk here in the Capital Region, as well as pictures from previous AIDS Walks. Here is where you will find information on signing up to walk with the NAMES Project at this year's Walk, which will raise money and show support for the work we do with the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

If you visit our link for **World AIDS Day**, you will find pictures of our previous displays at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center, and valuable information about our plans for this year's World AIDS Day. If you would like our Chapter to bring a specific Quilt here to Albany, this is where you will find a link to [Request a Panel](#) for this year's Display.

The **News** link is where you can find past and present issues of this newsletter. By clicking on **Links**, you will be provided with a direct internet connection to the NAMES Project Foundation in Atlanta, GA. Once on their website, you can learn about the Foundation and get information about other Chapters. We would like to include more links to other AIDS Service Organizations and Community Based Organizations in the Capital Region. If you know of other organizations that should be listed here, let us know by clicking on [Request a Link](#).

We hope you find our website to be both educational and informative. We ask that if you ever have anything you would like to see added to our website or if you have any suggestions for improvement, please contact us by sending an E-mail to [AIDSQuiltNY@aol.com](mailto:AIDSQuiltNY@aol.com). Thank you!

### Does our Communications Committee have your name & address correct?

### Do you know someone who would like to be added to our mailing list?

Please let us know by visiting our website under "[Sign up for Mailing List](#)" or by completing this form and mailing it to our office. Thank you!!

<p><b>PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY...</b></p> <p>NAME: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____</p> <p>COMMENTS: _____</p>	<p>Please Check One:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This is a new addition to your Mailing List.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This is a correction on the address you have.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please remove me from your mailing list.</p>
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Please detach and mail to: The NAMES Project, 225 Lark Street, Albany NY 12210

A family remembers...

## The Making of an AIDS Quilt

by Cindy Jennings, Panel Making Committee

**These are the words of a family longing to remember!**



**Dan and Sally Swarts with the panel the family made for their son Jeffery.**

“Families all over the world are faced with the loss of loved ones to this disease. No one can really know the impact these personal losses have had on those left behind. You will not be the last to feel the

frustration, the anger, the prolonged heart aches and the fact that you wanted to say so much before they were gone, and now they are gone forever. They become clouded memories you long to see, but no longer can.”

**These are the words of a family who will always remember!**

“For us, there is a sense of happiness and new found comfort which has made its way into our hearts after making an AIDS Quilt for our son.”

The making of their section of the quilt panel became a labor of love, setting their hands and hearts to work making each common thread a beautiful tapestry of a lifetime of memories.

“The quilt told the story of a life never forgotten, and now we do not hurt quite so much, but rather yearn to see it again and again knowing that for that moment, the clouds move away and our memories are clear”

### **A Memorial, A Labor of Remembrance, A Work of Art**

*If you or someone you know is interested in making a panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the NAMES project has a variety of resources and support personnel to help you. You don't have to know how to sew; you just need to have in your hands and hearts the longing to remember. Please check our website for information on how to make a panel at [www.AIDSQuiltNY.org](http://www.AIDSQuiltNY.org) or phone our office at (518) 465-0595. Thank you.*

## Save the Dates for 2007

Our chapter has a few important dates for this year:

- ◆ AIDS Walk 2007 will be held in Washington Park on Sunday, **September 30<sup>th</sup>**. This will be the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Walk, sponsored by the CARES and the Community AIDS Partnership of the Capital Region. Our chapter will be looking for walkers and sponsors to support our efforts in the Walk.
- ◆ Our 10<sup>th</sup> annual World AIDS Day Quilt Display will be held from **November 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>** at the Empire State Convention Center. If you know of a specific Quilt that you would like to have displayed, please contact our chapter as soon as possible with the Block number.
- ◆ This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Capital Region Chapter. We will be hosting an Anniversary Gala at the Albany Institute of History and Art on **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please save this date and plan on celebrating the last 10 years of accomplishments with us.

More information on all these events will be forthcoming. For the latest, check our website for updates. Remember to “Save the Dates”!

Thank you.

## A message from the Chapter's President

by Steve O'Neill

AIDS Walk '06 has come and gone, World AIDS Day '06 is done, the Holiday season is over, and our CAP-CR grant for '06 was successfully completed. Our chapter survived another amazing year.

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NY Capital Region Chapter. Over the past ten years, this chapter has become one of the strongest, busiest, and most effective chapters in the entire NAMES Project Foundation. This has been accomplished with no paid staff; only volunteers.

For special events, especially during the week of World AIDS Day, we recruit volunteers to help us out, but the regular day-to-day work is all done by the Chapter's Board of Directors. General operations such as ordering and shipping of Quilt, grant writing and fundraising, coordinating small Quilt displays, conducting HIV prevention education sessions with the Quilt, and panel making are all done by a very hard working Board.

There are even three founding members still involved with the Chapter - myself included. We do what we do, and we do it very well. However, no matter how well things are going, the Chapter needs new blood with new visions and new ideas.

We are happy to announce the recent addition of two new members to the Board: Sydney Allen and Sr. Mary Ann LoGudice. Both of them have been active volunteers for many years, and Sr. Mary Ann is also a panel maker. You may recall seeing the panels she made for Barbara and Amanda, which she dedicated to our chapter during our very first World AIDS Day Display at the NYS Museum. Sydney and Sr. Mary Ann bring a fresh perspective to the Board, and we are all anxious to start working with them. We also have one or two others interested in becoming part of our team.

The NY Capital Region Chapter of the NAMES Project is looking forward to 2007 as being a year of fresh new ideas. Look for more information of our 10 year anniversary celebration which will be coming out soon, and watch for the Quilt in your area as we continue to bring the message of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to everyone. With the help of our newest members, it should be a terrific year!

*Steve*

## The HIV/AIDS Community Mourns the Loss of a Leader



On Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007, Mark T. Hayes passed away after a long fight with HIV and cancer. Mark served on our Chapter's board from 1998 through 2005, and he will always be remembered for his vision for our Chapter

and his commitment to our community. Mark's wit and sense of humor, not to mention his occasionally sharp tongue and unique perspectives, always made spending time with him unique and interesting. Anyone who met Mark would be impressed by his unique perspectives and insightful knowledge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in our communities.

Mark was a nationally known AIDS advocate. He worked for Housing Works since 1999 as the State and Federal Issues Organizer, and was honored posthumously on April 12, 2007 with their Keith D. Cylar AIDS Activist Award. In memory of Fr. John Lysogorski, our Chapter recognized Mark's contributions to the HIV/AIDS community by honoring him with our Community Hero Award last year, and the Community AIDS Partnership also honored him with their AIDS Walk Community Leadership Award.

Mark Hayes served on numerous boards and committees. He always put the needs of other persons living with HIV/AIDS before that of his own, and his passing will leave a tremendous void in our community. We raise our glasses to you, Mark. We will miss you and will never forget you.

*"How many NAMES  
will it take?"*

## **NAMES Project Foundation 2007 National Conference**

On Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, a small group of NAMES Project folks from all around the country gathered in Atlanta for the NAMES Project National Conference. Three years had past since most of us had seen each other and it was a great to get together and catch up. Twenty eight representatives from twelve chapters were in attendance. The conference was hosted by Julie Rhode, Executive Director of the NAMES Project Foundation; Gert McMullin, the original handmaiden; and Brad Gammel, Chapter Program Coordinator. Brad facilitated the three-day event along with the Regional Representatives: Raymond Chance, Eric Miller, and Jim Schiefelbein.

The Conference was held at the new head quarters for the National office in Atlanta. Due to a generous contribution from a long-time benefactor, the Foundation was able to relocate to a new building on Hoke Street. Although the location may seem small, it has a warm and inviting feeling. As soon as you walk through the front door, you are immediately introduced to the pictures, memorabilia, and nostalgia that are the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Unlike the Krog Street location, the Quilt is actually housed in the same building as the offices, so while the Conference took place, we were surrounded by the shelves and shelves of Quilt. You can almost hear the Quilt speak to you as you walk through it. It was a very moving experience.

Much was discussed during our short time together. One of the biggest topics of discussion was this year's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. What the Foundation has planned will be a something that hasn't happened since the 1996 display in Washington D.C. The plan is to have the entire Quilt out of the Nation Office and displayed on College Campuses all across the country around World AIDS Day. The Quilt is too large to ever again be displayed entirety all in one location, but imagine how many more people could view it if it was all across the country. If you have a connection to a University and would like more information about how to bring the Quilt there, please contact the Foundation at (404) 688-5500.

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### **2006 in Review, A year of Great Accomplishments.**

*The* NY Capital Region Chapter of the NAMES Project was as busy as ever in 2006. In addition to our wonderful World AIDS Day Display, we facilitated HIV prevention education sessions utilizing the AIDS Memorial Quilt in many different locations; for every segment of the population. Our chapter conducted four sessions at the St. Mary's Addiction Center, two for the Eddy Center of Troy - one for the Youth Summit, two sessions at the Rhema Ministry and Whitney M. Young Health Center, and for the Voorheesville Senior Center. All of these sessions focused on education to senior citizens and to young people.

We also facilitated panel making workshops at the Troy and Albany Damien Centers, Whitney M. Young Health Center, and with the Voorheesville Quilters. Most of these Quilt panels were dedicated to the NAMES Project at the World AIDS Day Display during our closing ceremonies.

Through a grant our chapter received from the Community AIDS Partnership of the Capital Region (AIDS Walk), we were able to train over 50 college students as peer educators and host Quilt Displays at seven local universities: the College of St. Rose, Hudson Valley Community College, RPI, Skidmore College, Albany Medical College, SUNY Albany Campus, and Schenectady County Community College. All totaled, over 1400 students and faculty attended these seven displays. Our grant for 2007 will allow us to continue this much needed work.

The Quilt was also displayed at 18 additional organizations around the Capital Region. We are always happy to provide Quilt to Churches and Temples, Hospitals and Clinic settings, the Department of Health's Prevention Planning Group, and a host of other local AIDS Service Organizations. We look forward to a busy and productive 2007, and we are pleased to provide a section of the AIDS Quilt to anyone who desires it.

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