

## Group Profile

### Men Alive! - One Man's Journey

by Barry Nelson

I had left a marriage of 14 years in July three years ago, and I went to a man's retreat weekend that October. At that weekend I was scared and in a great deal of pain. I felt as though my world had been turned upside down, and with the pain came fear, anxiety, and anger, all moving around inside me.

At Men Alive, I found a safe place to begin the process of expressing my feelings, something that many men have problems with. I found men willing to listen to me and to share with me - not just their pain, but also their joy and love. I also really enjoyed playing touch football that weekend. In short, I started to make friends.

These friendships have deepened over the past few years, and I have learned about intimacy between men and the power and strength that comes from having a community of close male friends. I have participated in a number of events sponsored by the group. We have a "Fathers and Sons Weekend" camping trip every year, as well

as a "Fathers and Daughters Weekend." There was a men's dance at City Hall and a Unitarian service run by the group. The poetry and drumming and music was simply great. Some men even got together one weekend and invited their fathers to participate in a unique fathers and sons event. It took a lot of courage on their part to pull that weekend off! Last Christmastime, a number of us got together and went carolling at the hospital and few nursing homes. This also was a lot of fun and very rewarding. I'm sure we will try it again this year.

Over these last three years, I have been able to journey down the road of personal healing. I have dealt with my depressions and with being sexually abused as a child. Much of this healing has come through being with other men, men healing men, men having fun with other men, men crying together. I am very grateful to be a part of the Men Alive! organization, which is now over four years old.

All men are welcome to come join us. We have monthly meetings the second

Sunday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Recently we have been holding the meetings at the Tai Chi studio at the Chase Mill in Burlington. The meetings are an opportunity for us to share, witness, discuss, and drum the male experience together. There will also be a weekend retreat on October 19th through 21st. (all Men Alive! functions are alcohol and drug free, by the way.) If you are interested in attending either the meetings or the retreat, give me a call at 865-2447.

### Gay Penpals Available

Gay men and women interested in corresponding with people having similar interests in such diverse locales as Israel, India, Malaysia, Japan, England, etc. are encouraged to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to I.G.P. (International Gay Penpals), Ste. 320, Box 7304, North Hollywood CA 91603.

### *The Passion of Pearls...*

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| October 5  | <i>Women's Dance and Buffet</i><br>\$5.00 5-9 p.m.                    |
| October 14 | <i>Men's Tea Dance - Halloween Costume</i><br>\$3.00 6 p.m.           |
| October 20 | <i>Ladies Lounge Dance (old tunes)</i><br>\$1.00 7 p.m.               |
| October 31 | <b>HALLOWEEN</b> <i>Pearls-Bashing Costume Party</i><br>\$5.00 8 p.m. |

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