

Natale honored for AIDS work

By Loren King

Pasquale Natale of Provincetown is one of 14 persons in Massachusetts chosen from among 106 nominations as an "unsung hero" by the AIDS Action Committee of Boston.

He will receive an award at a ceremony in February. Natale is being honored for originating and organizing the annual auctions that raise money for the Provincetown AIDS Support Group. Since 1987, the annual event has netted \$230,000 for services for people on the Outer Cape with AIDS.

The Mass Recognition Awards are given annually by the AIDS Action Committee to spotlight people from all over Massachusetts who participate in the fight against AIDS whether it is through education, health care or volunteerism, said Alix Sabin, a member of the AAC board of directors and co-chairman of the awards dinner.

"This is a chance for us to acknowledge the people doing the real work in the fight against AIDS," she said. The committee looks for unknown and unheralded people from various communities around the state during the review process.

Natale will be the only recipient from Cape Cod. Others honored include Gail Beverley, a grandmother who has counseled at the Fenway Community Health Center in Boston for many years and Robert Spadafora, who sponsored an AIDS Awareness Day during his senior year at Reading High School.

Members or volunteers of the AAC are not eligible because "this is not an opportunity to pat ourselves on the back but rather to recognize the other players in the fight," said Michael Mazzaferro, co-chairman of the awards dinner and an



Advocate photo by Loren King

Pasquale Natale with his dog Archangela
AAC volunteer.

Natale, said Mazzaferro, "is exactly the kind of person we want to recognize, commend and bring to the forefront. He is not a high profile person in town. We look for people who took the initiative when others did not."

The Third Annual Mass Recognition Awards will be presented on February 2 at a dinner and reception at the Westin

Hotel in Boston.

Sabin said the criteria the review committee looked for among those nominated is that the candidate "did something exemplary beyond the call of duty to serve their communities" and that the person did so without public recognition or fanfare. The committee tried to look for diversity among those cited to show that AIDS awareness, education and

caregiving comes from all walks of life.

The committee received 106 nominations state-wide. Narrowing them down to 14 was not easy, said Sabin.

Although the AAC keeps the nominations confidential, Tim Gould, a PASG client and a friend of Natale's, acknowledged submitting the nomination.

"Pasquale was a natural," to receive
Continued to page 23

Natale

(Continued from page 13)

the award, said Gould. "He's done so much for the PASG it really is amazing. He's such a humble, non-egotistical person."

Gould stressed that the money raised from the auctions is used strictly for client services, like the van that drives people to Boston daily for medical care and alternative therapies like acupunc-

ture that are not covered by insurance.

These are the services most important to him and many clients, Gould said. "These services are about living with AIDS, not dying from it. They are directed toward living better now," he said.

Gould said there are other organizations and health-care facilities that offer help once someone is about to die, but the services provided by the support group and directly funded by the auction are "life affirming."

The nomination form was contained in the AAC September newsletter, which goes out to about 30,000 individuals and organizations. Gould said he does not usually respond to mailings such as this, but decided to send in the nomination for Natale on a lark.

Natale had no idea that his name had been submitted. "It actually means more to me that a friend thought to nominate me," Natale said. "That's almost enough."

He said that although the public acclaim makes him somewhat uncomfortable, "it will be nice to publicly thank all the people who have helped so much with the auction over the years."

He added that although it is nice to be acknowledged for his efforts, it feels strange to him to be recognized for them "outside of my own community."

Natale may have been typically self-effacing, but his peers in the community praised his efforts and were delighted that he had been chosen for recognition.

"I think he's terrific and I'm very proud of him," said Selectman Irene Rabinowitz, a client advocate at the PASG. Rabinowitz first met Natale when both took their volunteer training together in the winter of 1987 and has worked with him on the auction ever since that first year.

"His ability to motivate people, get volunteers, chair the meetings and nag the business owners keeps us all on our toes," she said. "His creativity and knowledge of art and design has made the

auction a major social event in Provincetown as well as provided us with much needed funds." Natale conceived the auction as a way to utilize his knowledge of art and his background in design to contribute to the fundraising efforts of the PASG. Since 1987, its first year, the auction has become the largest source of funding for the PASG. Last year's event raised \$67,000 in two days of bidding over the Labor Day weekend.

Provincetown public health director Alice Foley and the late Preston Babbitt founded the PASG in 1982, the same year that the AIDS Action Committee formed. The AAC is a non-profit corporation committed to combating the AIDS epidemic and to addressing the needs of those affected through services, education advocacy and outreach.

Other mass recognition award recipients are: John Auerbach and Duane Draper of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Jackie Jenkins-Scott, executive director of the Dimock Community Health Center; Dr. John Muzzullo of the New England Medical Center; Henry Miller and Philip Nightingale, founders of the ecumenical task force on AIDS; Serena Shapiro, Hospice of Cambridge; Matt Thall, Fenway Community Development Corporation; Rhoda Johnson of Boston City Hospital and Kattie Portis, director of the National Women's AIDS Response Network.

P'town AIDS Support Group Benefit Auction

By Karen Aude

AIDS is not a "your problem" problem; it's an "our problem" problem. Our friends, our colleagues, our educators, our scientists, our artists, our brothers, our sisters and our children are dying.

In all periods of intense crisis, the arts community -- visual artists, writers, poets, filmmakers, dealers, collectors -- is, historically, the first wave of social consciousness, rallying together to offer valuable time and energies to affect meaningful change. As far as AIDS is concerned, "meaningful change" encompasses everything from raising money for AIDS research and providing essential care to terminally ill patients to educating the community with regards to preventing AIDS as well as living with AIDS.

Among the several groups making an enormous difference on a local level is the Provincetown AIDS Support Group. Servicing Barnstable County, though primarily active in the lower Cape, the group provides emergency financial assistance to PWAs (Persons With AIDS); arranges transportation to medical appointments; offers volunteer counselor/friends for one-on-one supportive relationships; and performs miscellaneous services such as laundry, cleaning, haircuts, shopping and legal. The group which numbers approximately 70 volunteers has only one salaried position, which is funded by a grant. All money from fund-raising goes directly to the care of AIDS sufferers.

September 3, the Provincetown AIDS Support group will hold its second annual Labor Day Weekend Auction. The sale, accompanied by a silent auction, will be held at the Universalist Unitarian Meetinghouse, 236 Commercial Street, Provincetown. Auction chairperson for the second year in a row is Pasquale Natale, the driving force behind last year's major success during which 450 registered bidders purchased 205 items for a grand total of \$32,000, all of which went directly to the support group.

And, for the second year in a row, there is every evidence that the entire community will surface again in force. "AIDS is not a dirty word in Provincetown," says Sam Hardison, co-owner of Impulse Gallery and one of the organizers in charge of soliciting art, craft and antique donations. "Provincetown has a large group of very well educated people. The support system here is incredible. In Provincetown, support goes beyond the arts community. The response to 'Can you donate?' is 'Certainly, but what else can I do?'"

At press time, donations were just beginning to pour in. Hardison reports firm commitments from collector Reggie Cabral who will donate a Paul Resika painting; Dianne Vetromile, who has donated her well-publicized junk-art desk featured on the cover of *The Review*, a Cape-based magazine; artist Jim Peters will donate a painting and sculptor Paul Bowen will give one of his works. Hardison also has obtained a Robert Mapplethorpe photograph. Mapplethorpe is a hot photographer right now in light of his upcoming three-month exhibition at the Whitney Museum in New York. Another work from a photographer of note is by Duane Michals, represented by Sidney Janis Gallery, New York. An anonymous donor has committed to giving an Arshile

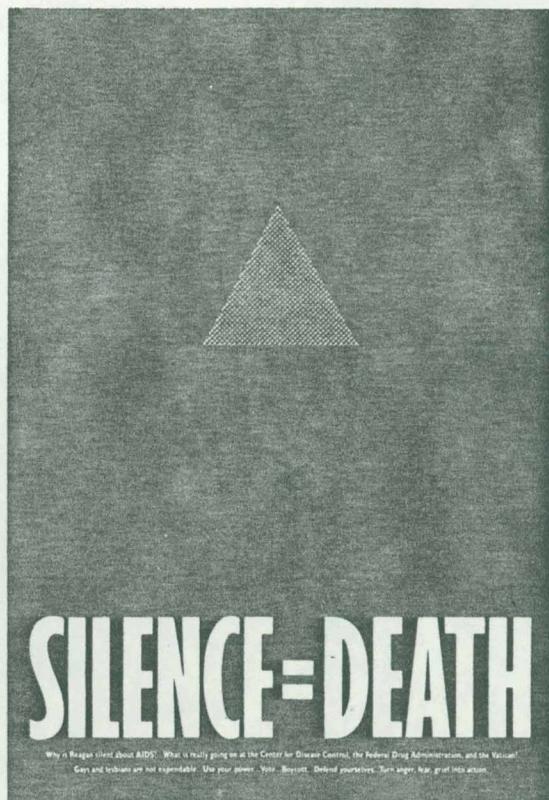


Photo courtesy of ACTUP

Designed to heighten awareness of AIDS crisis, the poster is distributed by ACTUP, a non-partisan, grass roots organization formed in New York to fight the all too often uninformed and negligent response of federal, state and local governments to AIDS. A pink triangle, the symbol of homosexual persecution during the Nazi period and, since the 1960s, an emblem of gay liberation, is set against a stark black background and accompanied by the words "Silence = Death." For more information about ACTUP, call (212) 533-8888.

Gorky work on paper; another highlight will be a photograph by Cecil Beaton of Andy Warhol with Candy Darling. Word on the street is that Robert Motherwell and Norman Mailer might be among the many contributors.

The list already reads like a "Who's Who in Provincetown," though it would be fair to add "New York and Boston." Other people donating to date include Berta Walker, Rick Stork, Selma Dubrin, Clifford Williams, Franco, Sally Weckstein, Jim Hansen, Rhoda and Will Rossmoore, Peter Coes and Lois Griffel.

"I've never had anyone back away," says Hardison when asked about community response. "The enthusiasm is overwhelming. We are trying to get more top notch pieces this year. People who weren't aware of last year's auction until near the end are becoming much more heavily involved this year.

"Last year, the auction was heavily supported by artists, businesses, collectors -- the entire community. They did just what they were supposed to do -- they donated *and* they bought. This year is shaping up even better." Hardison says it for everyone involved when he adds, "It all makes you really proud." ●

Anyone interested in donating to the Provincetown AIDS Support Group Auction should contact either the support group at 487-9445, or Sam Hardison at Impulse Gallery, 487-1154.