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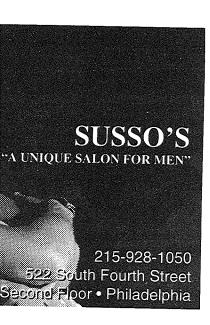
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Hal Carter

By Timothy Cwiek PGN Contributing Writer

Hal Carter, a highly respected AIDS educator and massage therapist, died Dec. 27 from complications due to AIDS.

He was 39 and lived in West Philadelphia.

Carter worked as a certified massage therapist for 10 years and had an office in Center City until about a year ago.

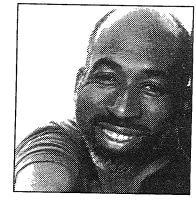
He began a massagetherapy program at We The People and donated his massage services to many PWAs.

"Hal was a phenomenal body worker," said his lover, Kevin Greene. "He was known nationally; we did massages throughout the country. He had a vast number of specialties within the discipline of massage therapy. He had superb skills and good training; his intuition was an asset."

Carter grew up in Paterson, N.J., and graduated from Eastside High School there.

He attended Norfolk State University in Virginia, and worked as a psychiatric social worker in Houston and Atlanta before moving to Philadelphia in 1988.

A few years ago, Greene and Carter formed a joint busi-



ness, Rootworks.

"Rootworks was a joint venture by both of us to promote a healthier community through a variety of holistic approaches," Greene said. "We focused on the lesbian and gay communities."

Greene said Carter's main legacy was one of accepting others.

"He had a wide range of friends and worked at accepting people just where they're at," Greene said. "But it also was important for him to hold people responsible for their own lives."

Carter worked for several local AIDS agencies. He coordinated the Brother to Brother program at BEBASHI, he coordinated youth programs at Unity, and he directed member services at We The People.

Friends mourned Carter's passing.

"He was clearly one of the most respected black gay men in the community," said David Fair, director of We The People.

"Hal was great," added Roy Hayes, a case manager for the William Craig Foundation. "After you had a massage from him, you always felt like a new person. He gave of himself unsparingly, and imparted his own strength and hope into the massage."

AIDS activist Arnold Jackson said he co-facilitated a workshop, "Healing Is a Vision," with Carter.

"I have profound love, respect and admiration for Hal," Jackson said. "He turned HIV into something positive and started me on my journey of de-mystifying AIDS. He'll always be someone special."

Pam Ladds, director of Wisdom, said Carter would be missed.

"This is an incredible loss," Ladds said. "Hal was central to the lives of so many persons. There was a real energy that came out of him, it was extremely powerful."

Tyrone Smith of Unity said he never would forget Carter.

"Hal was beautiful, inside and out," Smith said. "He was also a tremendous dancer. Once you interacted with him, it transformed your life. We were blessed to have him as long as we did. We mourn his death, but we must cling to his contributions."

In addition to Greene, Carter is survived by his parents, Audrey Hinton and Lloyd Carter, sisters Tioasha and Rhonda, brother Gary; and son Stacey.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Jan. 6 at Calvary United Methodist Church, 48th and Baltimore streets. ▼

Stanley E. Murzenski

Stanley Edward "Stan" Murzenski, 47, died Dec. 24 at home in Powelton Village.

A 1966 graduate of Scranton Preparatory School, Murzenski studied electrical engineering at Drexel University, completing a degree in engineering at Wilkes College. Murzenski did additional graduate work at Wilkes College and at the University of Southern California, and completed a master's degree in metallurgy at the University of Pennsylvania.

The owner of an electrical contracting firm and personnel business in Philadelphia in the 1970s, he was most recently employed as an engineer at the Defense Personnel Support Center.

Murzenski is survived by his companion, Joseph Kuna; parents Edward and Helen Murzenski, sister Carol Petres, niece Susan Petres and nephews Charles and Michael Petres.

A Mass will be held at 9 a.m. Jan. 6 at St. Clement's Anglo Catholic Church, 20th and Appletree streets, in Philadelphia.

Memorial contributions may be send to Philly PAWS, 1234 Locust St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107. ▼



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