

Hymes Appointed AACCO Director

by Tommi Avicoli

Jim Hymes, an openly gay man who serves as director of agency services for the AIDS Activities Coordinating Office (AACCO), has been hired as its new director.

Hymes, who has worked for the health department for 11 years and for AACCO since 1985, assumed his new duties on June 8.

In announcing the appointment, Health Commissioner Dr. Maurice C. Clifford noted that a national search was conducted to fill the position left vacant by former director David Fair

when he resigned a few months ago.

Hymes, he said, "has demonstrated a long and extremely competent commitment to advocacy on behalf of Philadelphians afflicted with AIDS, both within the city government and, because of his leadership role, within the community."

Hymes told PGN that he accepted the position "as a challenge to decreasing the spread of HIV infection in Philadelphia." He said that he hopes AACCO will "become the voice of individuals in Philadelphia who are HIV-infected."

Bread & Roses To Give Awards

The Bread & Roses Community Fund will present its second annual "Change, Not Charity" awards at a brunch on Sunday, June 24 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Hershey Hotel, located in Center City at Broad and Locust streets.

The awards were established last year to honor individuals and organizations who work effectively to promote equality and economic and social justice. The award recipients:

William Meek, who is currently the coordinator of the American Friends Service Committee's Lessons from the MOVE Tragedy. Meek helped to found the Alliance for Black Social Workers in the late 1960s and served as the first president of the Black Conference on Higher Education in Pennsylvania in 1971.

WOMEN'S WAY, the Philadelphia coalition of women's service and advocacy organizations, and its director Lynn Yeckel, for their courageous and creative fundraising and grant-making programs. The program has shown a commitment to progressive stands on issues such as abortion and lesbian and gay rights, and to the development of the network of women's funds around the U.S. Philadelphia's Call to Conscience Network on South Africa, created four years ago to help build a united front locally against apartheid, for its work in community empowerment.

The Consumer Education and Protective Association, which has worked to help end pay grabs by elected officials, defeat SEPTA fare increases, and reduce utility rates, among other things.

Rick Baron, Molly Frantz, Steve Gold and Harvey Finkle, four volunteers who were founders of the People's Fund (the predecessor of Bread & Roses) twenty years ago and still remain active in Bread & Roses today.

Charles Irons, blind for 26 of his 63 years, who volunteers a 40-hour work week as vice president of Disabled in Action.

In addition to the awards, special recognition will go to Linda Richardson, director of the Black United Fund of Pennsylvania, and Michael Selzer, gay activist and consultant for the People's Fund in the mid-1970s.

All awards will be given at the June 24 ceremony and brunch. Ann Doley, the outgoing director of Bread & Roses, will also publicly introduce the new

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New AACCO head Jim Hymes (Photo by Theresa Thadani)

In addition to his AIDS-related work within the city, Hymes also initiated the advocacy movement that encouraged the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare to develop a Medicaid waiver to expand community-based services. He also served in the Pennsylvania Medicaid waiver work group throughout its development.

Hymes serves as a member of the Philadelphia AIDS consortium, the Mayor's Commission on Sexual Minorities, the Philadelphia AIDS Advocacy Coalition and the American Red Cross AIDS Task Force. A member of the American Public Health Association and the American Psychological Association, he also held a guest faculty position with the latter group.

Hymes began his career with the health department in 1979 with the office of Mental Health/Mental Retardation (MHMR) where he served as a public health program analyst responsible for monitoring and evaluating contracted community-based programs.

As the AIDS epidemic began to surface, Hymes took a leading role in the city's prevention efforts and in 1985 was named MHMR AIDS coordinator.

A 1972 graduate of West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science degree, he received his Master's degree in Public Health from Temple University's Department of Health Education in 1990. He lives in Philadelphia.

Nugent 25th Anniversary

The Rev. Robert Nugent will serve the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood in June.

While working as a priest in Philadelphia, he was one of the earliest in Catholic ministry with and lesbian people and was the Catholic priest to testify publicly before City Council in 1974 in favor of the city's first gay rights law. The law failed, but was eventually passed in 1982.

Nugent was also one of the priests who founded the local organization of Dignity, the gay/lesbian organization, and served as its chaplain for several years.

Nugent was born in Norristown in 1937 and educated at St. P



About 27 people attended Independence Mall sponsored Network. Pictured above: Gail Didich

AREA BRIEFS

Photo exhibit explores lives of Jewish women

The National Museum of American Jewish History at Independence Mall East premieres an exhibit called "The Invisible Thread" on Tuesday, June 12. The exhibit features photographs and quotes from personal interviews, revealing "the invisible thread" connecting Jewish women of all backgrounds in a sense of shared identity.

The project was developed by writer Diana Blester, Associate Editor of the Jewish feminist magazine Lith, and photographer Lori Grinker, author of From Here to Maternity. A discussion and reception with Blester is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 27 free with Museum ad-

will be holding a Thursday Supper Club for those with HIV disease and their guests. The Best of Broadway, featuring Joey Giordano as vocalist and Don Kawash on the piano, will provide special entertainment on the 14th. The Supper Club starts at 6 PM, with dinner served at 6:30 PM, at the University Lutheran Church on 3637 Chestnut Street. Reservations required, call (215) 545-6868.

Spruce Street pride march cancelled

At the Parade 90 festival on June 2, mistress of ceremonies Linda Moakes announced that Robert Rowland cancelled the second pride march that

table. Sponsored by the Wilderness Womyn, proceeds will go to the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force. Tickets are available for \$35 each from Giovanni's Room or by calling Wilderness Womyn at (215) 483-7997.

Wilderness Womyn director Maxine Kroll says, "The boys have fancy stuff all the time, and this is the first time that women are having it. The women love it, they think it's a great idea."

For some women the costs are too high, and it's a drag because we know a lot of women in the community don't make a lot of money, but it's the only way that the Task Force can stay alive," said Kroll. "We're hoping that those women who have money will come and donate