

Obituary

Stanley Ward, 67, former PGN editor

By Jen Colletta
PGN Staff Writer

Stanley Ward, a former college professor and editor of PGN, died last weekend of complications from a stroke. He was 67.

Ward, a native of Bristol, Va., who was raised in Roanoke, served as PGN editor in the 1980s after a successful career as an educator.

Ward received his undergraduate degree from Duke University and went on to earn his Ph.D. in English from Harvard.

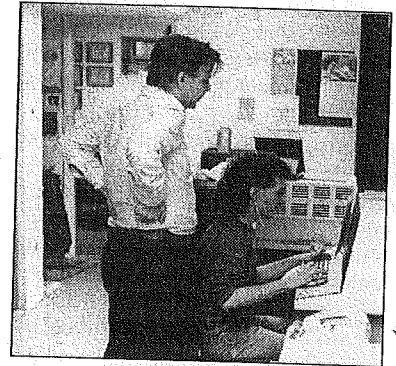
Lynn Bergesen met Ward when she was attending North Carolina State University, where he taught English and became her mentor, helping her navigate the process

of applying to grad school. Bergesen later moved north to study at Temple University and said Ward made his own move to Philadelphia in 1981.

"He'd been at this small college in Virginia for several years, and he eventually went to the dean and announced that he was gay," she said. "He never liked living in the closet. He said to him, 'I'm gay. Do you want my resignation?'" and the dean said yes. So my husband and I talked to him and suggested that he come



WARD IN 2006



WARD (LEFT) AND TOMMI AVICELLI MECCA IN 1985

PGN file photos

up to Philadelphia because there was a full-time teaching job open at the time at the University of the Arts."

While Ward didn't get that position, he did get a part-time teaching job at UArts and also took on courses at Temple and other area schools.

Ward started writing for PGN in 1982 and, a year later, was promoted to editor, a position he held until 1988.

Bergesen said Ward was an important fixture at PGN throughout the height of the AIDS crisis.

"He was very devoted to the paper," she said. "He was often the liaison on the news channels when anything broke about AIDS research. He was right there when everything started happening with the epidemic, and he had really good memories of his time working at the Gay News and all that he was able to do for the community."

Former PGN writer Tommi Avicelli Mecca worked closely with Ward during his time at PGN and said the editor had a unique and very effective way of approaching LGBT journalism.

"I dropped out of journalism school because I became really disillusioned because I had wanted to



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JOIN US MONTHLY FOR SHABBAT SERVICES AT 8:00 PM

Coffee, cake & conversation at the oneg following services

Thursday, September 9th, 12:45 PM: Beth Ahavah Rosh Hashanah Luncheon. Please join Beth Ahavah members and friends for a special High Holy Day meal. \$18 per person. Please RSVP via phone or email and send check/money order payable to "Congregation Rodeph Shalom".

High Holy Day Schedule of Services

Saturday, September 4th, 8:00 PM: Selichot. Grand Dessert Buffet followed by a Study Session with Rabbi Alan D. Fuchs: "Sin and Punishment - What Can We Learn From Moses?" Selichot services follow at 9:30 PM.

Wednesday, September 8th, 8:00 PM: Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Thursday, September 9th, 10:00 AM: Rosh Hashanah Morning Service **

12:45 PM: Beth Ahavah Rosh Hashanah Luncheon (See above.)

Friday, September 17th, 8:00 PM: Kol Nidre Service. **

Saturday, September 18th, 10:00 AM: Yom Kippur Morning Service **

1:30 PM: Informal Afternoon Study Group with Rabbi Jill Maderer

2:30 PM: Afternoon Service

4:00 PM: Memorial/Concluding Service followed by Congregational Break Fast

All services are held in the Main Sanctuary. Multi-Generational Alternative services (**) are also held at the same times on Rosh Hashanah morning, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur morning downstairs in the Teller Auditorium.

Beth Ahavah and Rodeph Shalom are affiliated in spirit and share a sacred home. In July 2007 Beth Ahavah affiliated with Rodeph Shalom. Beth Ahavah retains its congregational status within the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and proudly offers its congregation dual membership at both synagogues.

Visit www.bethahavah.org for additional information, programming and directions
615 North Broad Street, Phila, PA 19123-2495

Phone: 215.923.2003 E-mail: BethAhavah@rodephshalom.org

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