

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/

celebrating the lives and times of rainbow folk in Grand River country

Rainbow Chorus Events (1995-)

Publishing History: Documents issued at irregular intervals by the **Rainbow Chorus** for its concerts, fundraisers, and other events.

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Waterloo Region AIDS Memorial 2002

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



INTERNATIONAL
AIDS
CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL

SEPTEMBER 21, 2002



ACCKWA

The AIDS Committee of Waterloo Region
Waterloo, Ontario



Welcome and thank you for joining us for ACCKWA's 1st AIDS Walk Weekend Vigil. ACCKWA was chosen as one of two Canadian sites to hold the '2002 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial.' This is a memorial that is held internationally in more than 85 countries around the world.

The theme for this year's vigil is 'A Celebration of Life.' The vigil is an opportunity to celebrate life, courage and achievement. It is also a time to remember those infected, affected and impacted by HIV/AIDS.

This year at ACCKWA the 'Interfaith HIV/AIDS Group' was formed. Although this group is quite new it is hoped that this is an exciting chance for ACCKWA volunteers, clients and staff to work together with representatives from a variety of faith communities to support people living with HIV/AIDS and further educate our community. We are looking forward to having the 'Interfaith HIV/AIDS Group' coordinate the AIDS vigils in years to come. If you are interested in joining this group please contact ACCKWA.

Thank you to all the volunteers who donated their time and talents to this service. A special thank you to Mayor Lynne Woolstencroft and the Rainbow Chorus for your participation.

Suzanne Dietrich
Education & Prevention Coordinator
ACCKWA

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Program:

PRELUDE: "Circle of Life"

Welcome

Seasons of Love (Musical Piece)

A Personal Story

One Song (Musical Piece)

We Bring A Quilt

The Way Old Friends Do (Musical Piece)

The Foreign Element

Empty Chairs At Empty Tables (Musical Piece)

Thank You

They Live In You (Musical Piece)

The Lighting of Candles:

Light A Candle (Musical Piece)

Amazing Grace (Musical Piece)

Closing: "Only By Healing"

PRELUDE:

Circle of Life: (Musical Piece)

By Elton John & Tim Rice

From the day we arrive on the planet
And blinking, step into the sun
There's more to be seen than can ever be seen
More to do than can ever be done

Some say eat or be eaten
Some say live and let live
But all are agreed as they join the stampede
You should never take more than you give

(Chorus)

In the Circle of Life
It's the wheel of fortune
It's the leap of faith
It's the band of hope
Till we find our place
On the path unwinding
In the Circle, the Circle of Life

Some of us fall by the wayside
And some of us soar to the stars
And some of us sail through our troubles
And some have to live with the scars

There's far too much to take in here
More to find than can ever be found
But the sun rolling high
Through the sapphire sky
Keeps the great and small on the endless round

(Chorus repeats)

On the path unwinding
In the Circle, the Circle of Life.

WELCOME:

SEASONS OF LOVE: (Musical Piece)

From RENT, by Jonathan Larson

Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand
Six Hundred Minutes
Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand
Moments So Dear
Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Six Hundred Minutes
How Do You Measure - Measure A Year?
In Daylights - In Sunsets
In Midnights - In Cups Of Coffee
In Inches - In Miles
In Laughter - In Strife
In - Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand
Six Hundred Minutes
How Do You Measure
A Year In The Life
How About Love?
How About Love?
How About Love?
Measure In Love
Seasons Of Love
Seasons Of Love

Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand
Six Hundred Minutes
Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand
Journeys To Plan
Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand
Six Hundred Minutes
How Do You Measure The Life
Of A Woman Or A Man?

In Truths That She Learned
Or In Times That He Cried
In Bridges He Burned
Or The Way That She Died
It's Time Now - To Sing Out
Tho' The Story Never Ends
Let's Celebrate
Remember A Year In The Life Of Friends
Remember The Love
Remember The Love
Remember The Love
Measure In Love

Measure, Measure Your Life In Love
Seasons Of Love...
Seasons Of Love

A PERSONAL STORY:

Lynne Woolstencroft—Mayor, City of Waterloo

ONE SONG: (Musical Piece)

By Tevin Campbell

If we all sing one song
One song of love
One song of peace
One song to make all our troubles cease
One hymn, one theme, one hope, one dream
Imagine what tomorrow would bring
If we all sing one song
If we all learn the words
Just think how great the sound would be
And since the tune is in freedom's key
One voice you'd hear, so pure, so clear
Imagine what tomorrow would bring
If we all sing one song

There's just one sun that warms our day
The same moon and starts light our way
This little ball whirling in space
It's our only home, our only place
If we all sing one song
One song of love
One song of peace
One song to make all our troubles cease
Imagine what tomorrow would bring
If we all sing one song
If we all sing one song
One song of love One song of peace
One song to make all our troubles cease
Imagine what tomorrow would bring
Just imagine what tomorrow would bring
Just imagine what tomorrow would bring
If we all sing If we all sing one song

WE BRING A QUILT:

An excerpt from "Stitching a Revolution", by Cleve Jones

"There was a deep yearning not only to find a way to grieve individually and together but also to find a voice that could be heard beyond our community, beyond our town. Standing in the drizzle, watching as the posters absorbed the rain and fluttered down to the pavement, I said to myself, *It looks like a quilt*. As I said the word quilt, I was flooded with memories of home and family and the warmth of a quilt when it was cold on a winter night....

...That night, standing with those few men and women in the damp and dark, I saw a way out for all of us, a method of surrounding our fears and coming together in a collective memorial of our experience: *all the sadness, rage, and anger; all the hope, all the dreams, the ambitions, the tragedy...*
... We bring a quilt. It grows day by day and night by night and yet its expanse

does not begin to cover our grief, not does its weight outweigh the heaviness in our hearts.

For we carry with us tonight a burdensome truth that must be simply broken: *History will record that in the last quarter of the twentieth century a new and deadly virus emerged and that the one nation with resources, knowledge, and institutions to respond to the new epidemic failed to do so. History will further record that our nation's failure was the result of ignorance, prejudice, greed, and fear...*

...People are ready and able to defeat AIDS. We know how it can be done and the people who will do it. It will take a lot of money, hard work, and national leadership. It will require us to understand there is no conflict between the scientific response and the compassionate response. No conflict between love and logic. Some will question us, asking how could that be. We will answer, how could it not?

We bring a quilt. We hope it will help people remember. We hope it will teach our leaders to act."

THE WAY OLD FRIENDS DO: (Musical Piece)

By Benny Andersson & Bjorn Ulveauss

You and I can share the silence
Finding comfort together
The way old friends do
And after fights and words of violence
We make up with each other
The way old friends do
Times of joy and times of sorrow
We will always see it through
Oh I don't care what comes tomorrow
We can face it together
The way old friends do

THE FOREIGN ELEMENT: by Greg Johnson

And so briefly we detained him in the hall,
Asked Why? Why? — not using even that word
But only the kind of shell shocked glare
These medical veterans dread, especially near
Dinner time. Sighing, he faced a quick witted blond aunt
And two blond cousins, a gaunt lover with rings
Under his eyes, and three others lacking acknowledged
Relevance or rank (we took turns delivering coffee)—
Yet at least the mother lay resting, in a spare bed

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Downstairs. "Think of it," he said, again,
"as a foreign element in the blood, against which we have
No defenses." Giddy with sorrow, I thought
We have no defenses, yes we have no bananas,
As he added, impossibly, "We're doing all we can."

The aunt, whom I'd gotten to know and dislike,
Marched back to Intensive Care when the white coat
Left, heels clattering like an infant's drums
As if she'd defend him, by God, but then stopped short
And threw herself in a nearby chair. The cousins
Attended her new display of grief, while the lover
Wandered off without meeting anyone's eyes
And we three milled without aim, as usual, becoming
Foreign ourselves in this timeless fluorescent world
Where the random invaded bodies came to die. Later,
We'd draw straws to see who would bear
The nightly non-news to his mother downstairs, recalling
All the way down
That in old times, when they killed
Their messengers, word had a harsh, consoling power,
Surging in the blood and cruelly expressed
In that thrilling reprimand.
Now, speaking a foreign language, we stare
At one another, useless, as we await another death
With this casual pomp and non-dramatic flair,
Its message we don't dare to understand.

EMPTY CHAIRS AT EMPTY TABLES: (Musical Piece)

There's a grief that can't be spoken
There's a pain goes on and on
Empty chairs at empty tables
Now my friends are dead and gone

Here they talked of revolution
Here it was they lit the flame
Here they sang about tomorrow
And tomorrow never came.

From the table in the corner
They could see a world reborn

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A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

And they rose with voices ringing
I can hear them now!
The very words that they had sung
Became their last communion
On the lowly barricade..
At dawn.

Oh my friends, my friends forgive me.

That I live and you are gone
There's a grief that can't be spoken
There's a pain goes on and on

Phantom faces at the window
Phantom shadows on the floor
Empty chairs at empty tables
Where my friends will meet no more.

Oh my friends, my friends, don't ask me
What your sacrifice was for
Empty chairs at empty tables
Where my friends will sing no more...

THANK YOU: by Robert Alexander

You reach out your hand
To take mine in yours. You
Hold me close and give
Me love. You hold my head
To your chest; I hear
Your heart beat with
Love and strength. You
Give me support
when I need it most.
You wipe my tears when
They roll down my face. You
Tell me it's okay to have
Fears and help me overcome
Them. You feel my pain
And share in my joy. You
Give me strength to face
What the future holds. You
Are my support when
I need it most.

You have no fear of
Me or what ails me.
You are not afraid to
Hold and touch me.
You do not turn from

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Me when I need you.
You tell me my fears do
Not have to be ignored.
You're there always with
Support when I need it most.

You listen to me with
An open mind. You tell me
My dreams will come
True. You stand by me;
Ready to face the future
Together. You don't back
Away when I feel alone.
You're always with me
In each precious moment
With the support I need most.
You are my friend without
Reservation. You make
Sacrifices to be there for
Me. You are my warmth when
I feel cold, you are my
Smile when I feel down and
Your are the song that
Beats in my heart each passing
Day. But above all; you are
My support when I need it most.

For all that you give me
And all you do to help
Me cope; I thank you.
For each day you share
My love, anger, fear,
And hope; I thank you.
For the love and joy
You give unselfishly;
I thank you.
For your friendship and
Support when I need
It most; I thank you.

THEY LIVE IN YOU: (Musical Piece)

By Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin & Lebo M

Night
And the spirit of life calling
Mamela
And a voice
With the fear of a child asking
Mamela

Wait

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A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

There's no mountain too great
Hear these words and have faith
Have faith

They live in you
They live in me
They're watching over
Everything we see
In every creature
In every star
In your reflection
They live in you

They live in you
They live in me
They're watching over
Everything we see
In every creature
In every star
In your reflection
They live in you

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES:

LIGHT A CANDLE

Just one little candle can shine through the night,
a symbol of faith.
A flame that keeps burning,
that never stops turning the darkness away.
Light a candle to start a new dawn.
Let it be like a prayer.
And together we'll shine
in a moment of time we can share.
Light a candle to start a new dawn.
Life is for giving, for those who are living
in love's ray of light.
And life is for caring,
so never stop sharing your beacon so bright.
Light a candle to start a new dawn.
Let it be like a prayer.
And together we'll shine
in a moment of time we can share.
Light a candle to start a new dawn
We can unite the world
from one tiny spark.
Better to light a candle
than curse the dark.
Light a candle for someone you love.
Light their name on your heart.

And no matter how far,
it will shine like a star,
like a beautiful gift from above.
Light a candle for someone you love.

AMAZING GRACE: (Musical Piece)

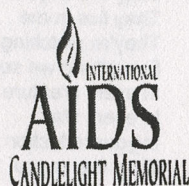
CLOSING: "Only By Healing"

By Stephen Wolf

*Only by healing can we be healed
Only by loving can we be loved
Only by caring can we be cared for
Only by reaching out can we be touched.*

2002 Candlelight Memorial Supporting NGO's

The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area - Canada
AIDS Resource Alliance, Inc. - United States
AIDS Support Network - United States
The Awareness Project of NWI, Inc. - United States
Capitol Hill United Methodist Church - United States
Coalition for HIV Awareness and Prevention of Central Virginia - United States
The Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS - The Netherlands
ICARE: Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources and Education - Canada
International Relief Friendship Foundation, Inc. - Cameroon, Africa
NAMES Project Fort Worth, Tarrant County - United States
Positively Blessed, Inc. - United States
St. Philip House Inc. - United States
The Shepard Wellness Community - United States
Step Forward Program, Abbott Laboratories Fund - United States



C a n d l e l i g h t M e m o r i a l F a c t s

Quick Stats

- Began in 1983 in San Francisco and New York
- Currently, there are more than 1500 Communities in 85 countries
- The largest grassroots AIDS event in the world
- More than 1 million individuals participating in 2002 The purpose is to remember those who have passed away, support those who are living, educate the public and community leaders, raise awareness and decrease stigma related to HIV/AIDS.

The History of the "Memorial"

The original International AIDS Candlelight Memorial was held in 1983, when the cause of AIDS was unknown and no more than a few thousand AIDS deaths had been recorded. The organizers wished to honor the memory of those lost to AIDS and to demonstrate support for those living with AIDS. That remains the focus of the event today.

Since 1983 the pandemic has claimed more than 22 million lives, with about 34 million now living with HIV and AIDS. As AIDS continues to ravage communities around the world, the Candlelight has become a way for communities to take action by publicly mourning loved ones lost to AIDS, and by strengthening local and national commitments to fighting the pandemic. In small communities, it can help to increase awareness, understanding, volunteerism, and fundraising. In large cities, it brings together a diverse spectrum of people who care about AIDS. In all cases, the event creates a sense of global solidarity, and generates worldwide media attention.

Purpose

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial acts as a catalyst for communities around the world to begin talking about HIV/AIDS in their community. It is a unique event that promotes discussion, education, awareness and action.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial have four main objectives:

- To honor the memory of those lost to AIDS
- To show support for those living with HIV and AIDS
- To raise community awareness and decrease stigma related to HIV/AIDS
- To mobilize community involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS