



THE
MEN'S
CENTER

MEN TALK

THE MEN'S CENTER NEWS

June/July 2002 VOL. 26 #3

When a Mom is a Dad: Overcoming Bias Against Male Nurturing

— BY JOHN WATKINS AND TOM GLASER

If you put twenty gay, bisexual, or transgender male parents in a room and ask them what it is like to be a child's primary care provider, brace yourself for the stories. At "When Mom is Dad," a session at the annual Rainbow Families Conference last year, the emotions ranged from amusement to frustration to outrage as participants shared their memories. Co-chair Tom Glaser recalled how a neighbor offered to be "the woman in little Elliot's life" shortly after his son arrived from Ukraine. Co-chair John Watkins remembered his encounter with a fundamentalist neighbor less than a week after he returned from Russia with his son Dmitri. The woman looked into his stroller at the sleeping one-year-old and then glared at John in unmasked horror: "What . . . you . . . you've ADOPTED HIM! You can't possibly take care of him." A member of the audience recalled more fondly an encounter at Old Country Buffet, where he and a group of other gay dads were having dinner with their toddlers. A beaming octogenarian came up to the table and said: "What I would have given if my husband had known how to take care of a little child like that. Your wives sure are lucky!"

One common theme united all the stories, from the funniest to the most politically and personally disturbing. We live in a society that has traditionally assigned the nurturing of small children to women. Times are changing. Heterosexual men, for instance, are playing increasingly prominent roles in the lives of their children. The men seen on the playground at 10 AM on a weekday are not necessarily gay. But even among GLBT parents, men who are the primary or sole care providers for infants and small children still constitute a distinct minority. Unlike men who fathered children in heterosexual marriages, or men who share their parenting responsibilities with lesbians, they have never co-parented with a woman. In many cases, their children's biological mothers have renounced all claims to their children and live on other sides of the globe. For these kids, the only mom in their life is their dad.

Social structures have changed dramatically, but the old attitudes that barred men from their children's lives remain intact. English-speakers use the verb "to mother" to mean things like "to comfort," "to nourish," and "to console." "To father," on the other hand, has one distinct meaning: "to procreate." Our language itself reinforces the assumption that men are primarily impregnators and bread-winners, not care-providers.

The old attitudes sometimes come up in the most unexpected places. The neighbor who offered to be the "woman" in Elliot's life was no homophobe, and she did not mean to suggest that Tom was incapable of sufficiently caring for his child. But she was speaking from the assumption that every child needs a female mother-figure in his or her life if he or she is to have a "normal" life. Even some of the most gay-friendly adoption agencies ask their male clients what they plan to do to ensure their child will have important female relationships in his or her life. For most of us, the question seems perfectly reasonable and we can usually answer it by talking about our own close relationships with female friends and relatives. But the question reinforces the assumption that gay households are inherently deficient. It is highly unlikely that agencies ask parallel questions about other social variables, such as "what are you as a white professional going to do to make sure that your child has strong relationships with people of color or blue-collar workers."

Identifying the hidden assumptions that shape our attitudes toward parenting is often difficult, and changing them is harder yet. The more visible gay men become as primary child-care providers, the more society at large will begin to recognize the validity of our parenting vocations. But passengers on airplanes and grandmothers on playgrounds are not the only people who harbor the suspicion that women are better suited to childcare than men. Gay parents themselves must work to identify and overcome their own feelings of inadequacy.



Library Corner

—RANDY GENRICH



Have you visited the Men's Center library? Checked out a book or just browsed? Please do so - it's a membership privilege! It's an easy process. Just write your name and phone on the book card, put it in the box provided - and read.

Many current periodicals and magazines are available as well as archive copies for research:

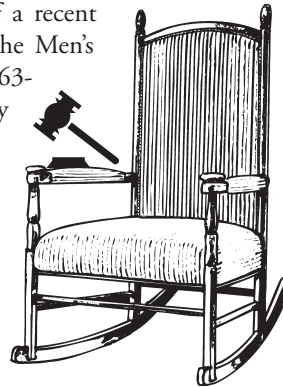
- Men's Health
- Every Man
- Lavender
- Men's Journal
- Transitions
- Rainbow Families
- Bi All Means
- Wellness Journal
- The Edge
- and others

Letter from the Chair

We are almost at the half-way point of the year 2002 and the Men's Center is doing well. We have many new items going on such as the Volunteer board with opportunities for everyone to contribute to the Men's Center. Thank you to a newer volunteer, Larry, for developing the board and program. The Volunteer board is to the left of the Men's Center office door. Check out where you can help.

We also have an opportunity for an individual to become part of the Men's Center Board because of a recent vacancy. Please contact the Men's Center office or me (763-295-2446) if you have any questions.

The Men's Center Will be conducting the second phase of our Strategic Plan. New Board member, James Quenzer, championed the first phase of developing the survey to be



mailed out in the next few weeks to various Men's Center members. The Strategic Plan will provide the organization a vision for the future. Many organizations that we may ask for donations require that we have one. Thank you James for your very professional work.

Happy Father's Day to all fathers. The role of father is very important to the fabric of our society.

May the members of the GLBT community have a fulfilling Pride Celebration at the end of June. With tradition, The Men's Center will have a booth there and be in the parade. Call the Men's Center offices if you can help with the Pride Festival booth/parade entry.

For Men, For All,

**TOM PERRAULT
BOARD CHAIR**

Letter to the Editor

Editor's Note: We received several letters, emails, and calls on this subject. This is a representative sample.

Dear Mr. David Decker c/o Twin Cities Men's Center

I read with interest your recent article on anger management in Men Talk. I want to thank you. The work you do is so important. I was a little concerned, however, by some of your comments concerning domestic violence by women. You seem to be minimizing what is a very real problem. I'm sure you're aware that since the pioneering work of Straus and Gelles, to which you refer in your article, over 100 studies have confirmed that in domestic conflicts, women are as likely as men to resort to violence at all levels of severity. This same body of research also contradicts some of the myths that I'm afraid your article may have inadvertently propagated. Foremost among these myths is the idea that even if women are sometimes violent, men don't have much to fear from that violence. This is a dangerous misconception. The fact is that women's violence is dangerous. That fact doesn't always show up in crime statistics. Male victims are much less likely to call the police or seek medical care, even when they are injured. Men that do seek help are better able to mask their injuries as workplace injuries. Medical personnel are also less likely to question men about suspicious injuries. But even with all that, one urban study for example found that while only 15% of domestic violence police calls involved male victims, 30% of the victims with serious injuries were male.

Sometimes violent women are stronger than their victims, as is often the case in elder abuse for example. Other violent women make up for what they lack in upper body strength by using weapons, attacking their victims when they are asleep or incapacitated, or using the element of surprise. Violent women also use proxy violence, i.e. they persuade or coerce a male relative or boyfriend to do violence on their behalf. But the main weapon violent women use to neutralize their victim's greater physical strength is the sexism inherent in society. That sexism starts young. Boys are taught from a young age never to hit a girl. (The fact that your classes are necessary is proof that some men don't learn that lesson, but nevertheless most men internalize that message to one extent or another.) By omission, boys, and girls, learn the sexist message that girls hitting boys is perfectly acceptable.

Even when a male victim realizes that it isn't O.K. for his wife to hit him with a frying pan, or burn him with boiling water, or threaten him with a knife, he faces obstacles to ending the abuse different from that faced by women. If he calls the authorities, he faces the real likelihood that *he* will be labeled the abuser. If he has children, it's very likely he will lose custody of them in our hopelessly biased court system. And he faces the near total certainty that he will be humiliated for being "beat up by a girl." Female victims evoke our sympathy. Male victims evoke our scorn.

I realize the target audience for your message is violent men, men who are looking for excuses to justify their violence. No doubt some of these men try to use women's violence against them as an excuse. But I hope you will consider modifying your message, especially when it may be seen by a man who is attempting to come to terms with the violence he is receiving at the hands of a woman. I would hate for that man to come to the erroneous conclusion that a woman can't do any real harm.

Sincerely,
Mark J. Lesmeister



MEN'S CENTER EVENTS

The mission of the Men's Center is to provide resources for men seeking to grow in body, mind, and spirit; and from that foundation to advocate for healthier family and community relationships.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Jun/Jul 02

Call for info on Anger Management classes.
The Men's Center number is
612 / 822-5892

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						SUPPORT GROUP 20's GLBT 2:00 p.m.
	SUPPORT GROUPS General Issues 12:30 p.m. Men/Women 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues in Mpls Divorce/Uncoupling/ General Issues in St. Paul 7:30 p.m.	PRESENTATION Depression: Not for Women Only 7 - 9 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Div/Uncpl/General; Male Surv. Sex Abuse. Emotional Abuse 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUP Men's Bisexual issues 7:30 p.m.	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	BOARD MTG. 7 p.m. SUPPORT GROUPS General Issues 12:30 p.m. Men/Women 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues in Mpls Divorce/Uncoupling/ General Issues in St. Paul 7:30 p.m.	PRESENTATION A Chapter We Always Omitted: Homosexuality 7 - 9 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Div/Uncpl/General; Male Surv. Sex Abuse. Emotional Abuse 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUP Men's Bisexual issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUP 20's GLBT 2:00 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH 10:00 a.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS General Issues 12:30 p.m. Men/Women 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues in Mpls Divorce/Uncoupling/ General Issues in St. Paul 7:30 p.m.	PRESENTATION I Will Be Well 7 - 9 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Div/Uncpl/General; Male Surv. Sex Abuse. Emotional Abuse 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUP Men's Bisexual issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUP 20's GLBT 2:00 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Men's Retirement 5:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS General Issues 12:30 p.m. Men/Women 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues in Mpls Divorce/Uncoupling/ General Issues in St. Paul 7:30 p.m.	PRESENTATION Sexual Trauma 7 - 9 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Div/Uncpl/General; Male Surv. Sex Abuse. Emotional Abuse 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Men's Bisexual issues 7:30 p.m.	PRIDE FESTIVAL SUPPORT GROUP 20's GLBT 2:00 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
PRIDE FESTIVAL	SUPPORT GROUPS General Issues 12:30 p.m. Men/Women 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues in Mpls Divorce/Uncoupling/ General Issues in St. Paul 7:30 p.m.	PRESENTATION No Presentation 7 - 9 p.m.	HOLIDAY FOURTH OF JULY	SUPPORT GROUP Men's Bisexual issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUP 20's GLBT 2:00 p.m.
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	BOARD MTG. 7 p.m. SUPPORT GROUPS General Issues 12:30 p.m. Men/Women 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues in Mpls Divorce/Uncoupling/ General Issues in St. Paul 7:30 p.m.	PRESENTATION Men's Health Care Issues 7 - 9 p.m.	MT. ARTICLE DEADLINE SUPPORT GROUPS Div/Uncpl/General; Male Surv. Sex Abuse. Emotional Abuse 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUP Men's Bisexual issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUP 20's GLBT 2:00 p.m.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	SUPPORT GROUPS General Issues 12:30 p.m. Men/Women 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues in Mpls Divorce/Uncoupling/ General Issues in St. Paul 7:30 p.m.	PRESENTATION Living Deliberatively 7 - 9 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Div/Uncpl/General; Male Surv. Sex Abuse. Emotional Abuse 7:30 p.m.	MT. FINAL DEADLINE SUPPORT GROUP Men's Bisexual issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUP 20's GLBT 2:00 p.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
BRUNCH 10:00 a.m. Men's Retirement 5:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS General Issues 12:30 p.m. Men/Women 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues in Mpls Divorce/Uncoupling/ General Issues in St. Paul 7:30 p.m.	PRESENTATION Vivation - The Skill of Happiness 7 - 9 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Div/Uncpl/General; Male Surv. Sex Abuse. Emotional Abuse 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUP Men's Bisexual issues 7:30 p.m.	MAILING PARTY 10:00 a.m. SUPPORT GROUP 20's GLBT 2:00 p.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	SUPPORT GROUPS General Issues 12:30 p.m. Men/Women 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues in Mpls Divorce/Uncoupling/ General Issues in St. Paul 7:30 p.m.	PRESENTATION Making Healthy Sexual Choices 7 - 9 p.m.			
28	29	30	31			

1976 - In Our 26th Year - 2002
of Public Service

Check out our web site: www.tcmc.org
email: tcmc@freenet.msp.mn.us

SUPPORT GROUPS

"The mission of the Men's Center Support Groups is to create a safe place, in times of personal and social challenge, for any men and women to receive and give support to one another and share feelings and experiences to facilitate SELF-ACCEPTANCE and PERSONAL GROWTH."

The Men's Center support groups are hosted by a trained facilitator. Although each group has a specific focus, all groups are open to general discussions and attended as a Drop-In basis. Support groups begin promptly at 7:30, so arrive early such that you can browse the many resources and library materials. A donation of \$3-9 helps keep TMC operational. Liquid refreshments are available at a separate donation rate. All groups are men only, except where listed for women and men.

• Minneapolis Location

3249 Hennepin Ave. S. Suite 55

• St. Paul Location

Memorial Lutheran Church

NE Corner Maryland Ave. & Earl St.
(not a mailing address.)

Men's and Women's Issues

General Mixed-Gender Issues

Participants can express what it means to be male or female, and hear constructive feedback in a safe, mixed-gender environment.

- Mondays (Mpls) 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Emotional/Psychological Abuse

This group is for people who are or have been in abusive relationships that interfere with health living.

- Thursday (Mpls) 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Twenty-Something (20 to 30 year olds)

This group offers a supportive place for GLBT's to socialize and to discuss life's challenges and experiences.

- Saturdays (Mpls) 2:00 - 4:00 pm

General Men's Issues/Relationship Issues

Gay Issues

Men express feelings about life's challenges and experiences, and what it means to be gay and male (you don't have to be gay to attend.)

- Tuesdays (Mpls) 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Divorce/Uncoupling/Family of Origin/ Workplace

Men express feelings about separation, divorce, breaking up with a lover, and topics such as child custody/legal hassles. Men can express what it means to be a man in our culture and other issues in their lives.

- Mondays (Mpls) 12:30 - 2:30 pm
- Tuesdays (St. Paul) 7:30 - 9:30 pm
- Thursdays (Mpls) 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse

You may feel alone. It is a brave step to seek out other men who can share from this perspective the deep feelings of shame. Only by talking it out can freedom evolve from this secret prison.

- Thursday (Mpls) 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Bisexual Men

This group will allow Bi men to explore personal issues of all kinds while learning from each other what it means to be a Bi man.

- Fridays (Mpls) 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Men Facing Retirement Issues

A support group for men thinking about retirement or who have already retired. It is an opportunity to share feelings with other men about the importance of work and what happens when paid employment is no longer part of a man's life.

- 3rd Sundays (Mpls)

5:30 - 7:00 pm

PRESENTATIONS

Workshops and presentations have been a part of The Men's Center offerings to the community since it's beginning 25 years ago.

Whenever possible we will continue the "Men's Wellness" Theme for Weds. night presentations. We welcome your suggestions for topics and presentations.

Presenters new to the Men's Center are: Keri Anderson, Ron Barnes, Christopher Bornhauser, Aaron Keith Stewart, and Brian Williams. Returning to continue their support of the Men's Center are: John Bullough and Ron Groat.

The Men's Center Board appreciates the volunteer presenters who return from time to time and welcome first timers. Their presentations add a new dimension to our weekly Wednesday night gatherings.

All presentations meet at TMC, 3249 Hennepin Ave. So, Suite 55, unless otherwise noted. These low cost presentations are shown in the Calendar of Events and a more extensive description follows. No pre-registration is needed; entrance fees collected at the door are:

Non-Members of TMC - \$5.

Regular Members (\$20 level) - \$3

Sustaining Members - FREE

Please take time to read the descriptions and plan to attend if they stimulate your interest. Bring a friend to share the experience and acquaint him/her with the Men's Center.

Each presentation is intended to promote personal growth, stimulate your interest in a topic, and to give you an opportunity to interact with other attendees.

Note: All events are for men only unless otherwise stated.

Presentations are the sole responsibility of the presenter(s). The Men's Center does not endorse, takes no specific position, nor does it hold any opinion on the presentations, or of any information imparted, or of the presenter(s) themselves.

DESCRIPTIONS

Depression: Not for Women Only

Presenter: Dr. Ronald Groat

When: Wed., June 5, 7-9 pm

Open to men and women

Depression is a common illness affecting at least 20 million men in America today. Dr. Groat will focus on depression as an illness and how it uniquely affects men. There will be an opportunity for participants to interact with Dr. Groat.

Dr. Groat is a psychiatrist practicing in the Minneapolis area for over 20 years. He is a frequent speaker and educator to the public.

A Chapter We Always Omitted: Homosexuality

Presenter: Christopher Bornhauser

When: June 12 7-9 pm

Open to men and women

Until recently, homosexuality has been a topic that neither Christian churches nor society-at-large would acknowledge or discuss. Consequently, most homosexuals or bisexuals did not disclose their sexual preference. Now the topic is discussed in the military, church synods and the Boy Scouts of America. This evening Christopher Bornhauser will talk about homosexuality, our thoughts and assumptions, our fears and hopes.

Christopher Bornhauser, D.Div., is an ordained Lutheran minister and psychologist from Germany where he served 22 years as the director of a counseling center. In 1999, he and his wife, a native of Minnesota, moved to Cambridge, Minnesota, where, in addition to other responsibilities, he facilitates men's groups.

I Will Be Well

Presenter: Keri Anderson

When: Wed. June 19 7-9 pm

Open to men and women

The educational program, "I Will Be Well", offers you the opportunity to learn more about the warning signs and risk factors associated with stroke. We will also outline the steps you can take to help reduce your stroke risk and how Life Line Screening can play a role in your own personal wellness program.

Life Line Screening has more than 8 years of experience saving lives with the early detection of strokes, aneurysms, peripheral artery disease and osteoporosis. We are the leading mobile health screening service utilizing the state-of-the-art ultrasound technology to perform non-invasive, painless, and extremely accurate tests. Our goal is to create health awareness in your community about potentially serious and disabling diseases that are difficult to detect in routine physicals.

Keri Anderson has her Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health from St. Cloud State University. Her career experience includes working as a cardiac monitor technician at Abbott Northwestern Hospital; as a pediatric health educator for the American Lung Association and as the communications director for the Brain Injury Association. She has had first hand experience working with stroke victims and their life challenges and has coordinated continuing medical education programs and marketing projects for the International Diabetes Center. She has a vast background and knowledge in community health issues.

Sexual Trauma

Presenter: John Bullough
When: Wed. June 26 7-9 pm

Open to men only

Sexual Trauma, from a single incident to ongoing abuse, affects a man's life in many different areas: from self esteem, sexual behavior and work performance, to impairment in establishing and maintaining intimate relationships. This workshop is designed to be interactive in discussing the impact that sexual trauma has had on your (or a partner's) life). We will talk about strategies to aid in the healing process.

John Bullough, LICSW, is a psychotherapist at the Neighborhood Involvement Program specializing in sexual trauma recovery. He practices in two NIP and NIP Therapy Associates. John is a previous presenter at the Men's Center.

Holiday

No Presentation
When: Wed. July 3 7-9 pm

Men's Health Care Issues

Presenter: Brian Williams
When: Wed. July 10 7-9 pm

Open to men and women

Brian will lead participants in a discussion about the disparities in health care for men in our community, and the need for men to be more attentive to their health care.

Brian Williams is a patient advocate with the Southdale Community Services in Minneapolis.

Living Deliberatively

Presenter: Elleva Joy McDonald
When: Wed. July 17 7-9 pm

Open to men and women

Living Deliberatively means you decide for yourself what to believe and, therefore, what you want to experience. When you change your beliefs, you change your life. What are your answers to the big questions of Life - Who am I? Where am I going? What is my life purpose? Come, explore, experience, discover YOU!

Elleva Joy is a licensed Avatar Master. She teaches a self empowerment training that presents practical and mystical tools to facilitate your life's journey. She has been a guide on personal and spiritual path for almost 30 years. She had taught yoga, tai chi, movement meditation, A Course in Miracles, The Official Reiki Program. She has been a Trager Body work Practitioner and a hands-on healer. She brings a wealth of experience, wisdom and compassion to her presentation about Living Deliberately.

Vivation - The Skill of Happiness

Presenter: Alexi Kolov & Hank Bruns
When: Wed. July 24 7-9 pm

Open to men and women

This presentation will introduce you to Vivation. Vivation is an internal, breath-based skill that can help you to overcome blocks to success such as lack of self-worth, fear, anger, sadness, self-imposed, family or cultural limitations and others. Vivation uses circular breathing (no pauses between inhale and exhale) to change the way you experience the energy in your body.

Alexi Kalov was born in Siberia, Russia and spent time in the Russian army. He is a an organizer of meetings and symposiums. His goal is to establish a Center for Vivation. He is a professional in self-hypnosis.

Hank Bruns is a longtime member of the Men's Center. He has been a board member, currently facilitates groups and anger management classes. He is a certified Reiki practitioner.

Making Healthy Sexual Choices I

Presenter: Aaron Stuart & Ron Barnes
When: Wed. July 31 7-9 pm

Open to men and women

This session will focus on making healthy sexual choices that reduce risk factors of getting or passing on HIV or other STDs. The leaders will discuss risk factors, how to spread or prevent getting STDs and how to negotiate condom use.

Aaron Stuart and Ron Barnes are both certified Red Cross HIV/STD instructors and work for The Urban League in HIV/STD education.

Making Healthy Sexual Choices II

Presenter: Aaron Stuart & Ron Barnes
When: Wed. Aug. 4 7-9 pm

Open to men and women.

This session will focus on making healthy sexual choices that reduce risk factors of getting or passing on HIV or other STDs. The leaders will discuss risk factors, how to spread or prevent getting STDs and how to negotiate condom use.

Aaron Stuart and Ron Barnes are both certified Red Cross HIV/STD instructors and work for The Urban League in HIV/STD education.

The Young Life

Many young people today are searching for ways to solve problems. They are trying different directions — going to groups, coffee chats, meetings, and learning from other people's experience. They need someone who will listen and talk about how to solve problems on their own. The Twenty-Something group is a place to find your own people. Find a role model today. And be a role model tomorrow.

I should know because I go to groups that deal with many of today's problems such as Marriage, Jobs, Friends, Family and all kinds of Life. Find out that you are not alone! Solving problems on your own can be challenging, but rewarding. Life continues to go on — know how to be a rock and not to roll.

by John Ruud
Men's Center Facilitator
Twenty-Something group

Here and There

– Edited by Andy Mickel

Seventeen men attended April's brunch at Harry Greenberg's in St. Paul and 12 men attended May's hosted by Rick Gravrok. The next brunches will be: **Sunday, June 16th** (Father's Day – children welcome) at Jim Lovestar's backyard picnic table, 2626 Upton Ave N, Minneapolis (just east of Victory Memorial Parkway), 612/588-8984, and **Sunday, July 21st** at Paul Busch's, 4421 43rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612/721-4043. Eat and socialize at the next **Monthly Men's Sunday Brunches** (bring something to share/cook up). Men hang out together and enjoy good food with no agenda whatsoever. These brunches are open to all men from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.; plan to come and chat and eat for a 1/2-hour to 2-hour period anytime – inevitably some men stay on until 2 p.m.
– Andy Mickel, 2002-05-19.

The **Gay and Bi-sexual Father's Group** reports these events: June 8th: **Cookboyz Potluck** 6 pm (Saturday) Warren LeVake, 2925 Cherokee Place, Golden Valley, MN, 763-521-4389; June 10th: (Monday) **Rainbow Families Kids Picnic & Concert**, 6-9pm at Como Park Lakeside Pavilion in St. Paul; June 12th: **Fathers Group Support Meeting** Wednesday at Denny Siemers, 7-9 pm at 7631 Edinborough Way, Unit 5220, Edina, MN, 952-897-1281; June 22nd: **Fathers Group Support Meeting** 10 a.m. (Saturday) at David Eckholdt's 4820 Wellington Lane North, Plymouth, MN, 763-553-1086; June 22nd: Curt Peterson cordially invites men from the Gay Fathers Group to his **9th Annual Summer Solstice Garden Party** Saturday 7-midnight, 2815 Toledo Avenue in St. Louis Park (1 block east of 100 and 2 blocks north of Minnetonka Blvd.); Steve Dobberstein is having an **open house each afternoon Pride Weekend** June 29th and 30th at 2324 East 37th Street Minneapolis, MN Phone is 612-729-9416. Mid afternoon both days. To get more info about the group: <<http://www.gayfathersmn.com/>>

– Denny Siemers, 2002-05-19.

OurFamilyWizard.com is an innovative approach to help families experiencing the difficulties of divorce communicate more effectively. We came up with the idea of a website where we could go to exchange information, schedule activities, and maintain a defined access schedule for our children. The site is intended to reduce stress by allowing divorced couples to exchange information on the Internet to relieve the conflict that is often associated with verbal communication. **Not using the children as messengers.** Information is exchanged dependably, accurately and confidentially, taking the child out of the role as messenger. The site has databases for childcare contacts, medical information, insurance information, religious information, educational information, financial data and other elective information. The site allows for document scanning for retention and transmittal. <www.ourfamilywizard.com>

ourfamilywizard.com>
E-mail: <jkissoon@ourfamilywizard.com>
612/804-4478, FAX: 952/896-1132.
– Jai Kissoon, 2002-05-01.

River's Edge Playback Theatre is an original form of improvisational theatre in which audience members tell stories from their lives and watch them enacted on-the-spot. They find the emotional core of the story and bring it to life, and they don't compete with each other to see who is the quickest. The Friday, June 7th performance, **"An Evening with Father,"** will celebrate fathers. Brian Brooks, Christine Crider, Carolyn Campfield, Harry Greenberg, Susan Holladay, Claire DeCoster, Michael Leverentz, Jay McManus, & Charlotte Milstead are the actors. 8:00 pm \$8, Walker Community Church, 3104 16th Avenue S, Minneapolis – Harry Greenberg <harry@scc.net>, 2002-05-13.

Minnesota Boys to Men (BTM) Keeps Rolling Beginning with the first BTM Weekend last September, 14 mentors and 14 journeymen (the BTM term for boys aged 12 to 16 who have gone through the initiation rites) have been walking together on the path to manhood. Every other week they meet as a community, and during the off weeks meet 1-on-1. The success has been phenomenal. Many of the young journeymen have eagerly stepped up into positions of responsibility, even travelling to other BTM centers throughout the country to staff the rites of passage weekends for other communities. **This August marks the Second annual BTM weekend for Minnesota. Boys to Men is hosting an open house** to share their program with boys and their parents. If you have a boy who might be ready for the program, then you are invited! Please come at noon on Saturday June 15th to 9 W. Delos St. in St. Paul. Interested folks will have a chance to hear about Boys to Men, ask questions, and even get a small taste of the adventure weekend itself. Free food, snacks, and beverages will be provided. **The community is also looking for interested men and boys who would like to get involved in mentoring a young man.** Charlie Borden is the contact for any interested man. You may call him at 651/230-8002 or 651/222 2551.
– Eric Mann, 2002-05-17.

GAZE-TV re-appears on local cable TV beginning Saturday June 1 in Minneapolis Ch 16 at 10pm. For complete channel info: <www.gazetv.net> Submit news by E-mail to <gaze@gazetv.net>, as text or with word.doc attachment(s), .jpg or .tif photos and .gif graphics, or link to your web site. Or, mail to GAZE, PO Box 19307, Minneapolis, MN 55419. News is used in both GAZE Guide and GAZE-TV. – 2002-05-18.

The **National Coalition of Free Men-Twin Cities Chapter** is sponsoring a forum and lecture entitled **"Gender Feminism and the Voices Not Heard: Has America Gone Deaf In One Ear?"** Participants

include: Wendy McElroy, author, lecturer, foxnews.com columnist and <ifeminists.com> website editor, who will speak on the topic "Scrapping NOW: Time to Redefine Feminism" <www.zetetics.com/mac>, Trudy Schuett, publisher of *The DesertLight Journal* <www.desertlightjournal.homestead.com>, & **Warren Farrell** author of the best-selling book *The Myth of Male Power* and former board member of New York City Chapter of NOW <www.warrenfarrell.com>. The event free and open to the public Friday evening, June 21, 7-9 pm in the Ramsey County Room (Rm 317) of Landmark Center, at 75 W 5th S, downtown St. Paul. – Kyle Knutson, <kknutson@tcinternet.net>, 2002-05-17.

The next **Minnesota Men's Conference** is **September 10-15** at Sturgeon Lake, MN. Among the teachers are Robert Bly and Martin Prechtel. Contact: Craig Ungerman, 1-877/333-3136 (toll-free) <www.hiddenwine.com>, E-mail: <hiddenwine@earthlink.net> - Mark Stanley, 2002-04-05.

The next **Minnesota New Warrior Weekend** will be held by Mankind Project **Minnesota, October 4-6**. Cost \$595. FFI, Glen Stone: <mnenrollment@ix.netcom.com>, 612/827-6514 - Glen Stone, 2002-05-21.

Our web site, <www.tcmc.org> has been restored after a 3-week outage at the Twin Cities Freenet, and we have plans to move it to more reliable hosting soon.
E-mail: <tcmc@tcfreenet.org>
– Andy Mickel. - 2002-04-16.

Sunday Night Social

In response to the request in the surveys for more social activities, the Program Committee is offering Sunday night gatherings to build community and friendship by having fun!

On April 21st we had a fun night singing a variety of songs selected by those present, and led by J.C. Hancock. While it was snowing outside those 5 of us who braved the snow, had lots of fun inside. In the future, we hope to have singing be added on to another social event, such as a planned Fun in the Park evening in September, in one of our Minneapolis parks, look for details in the August/September Men Talk.

– Norm Petrik
Program Committee Chair.

The Men's Center ALL-PURPOSE COUPON

Clip this form and mail to The Men's Center. A regular annual membership at The Twin Cities Men's Center is \$20. With that you get access to the extensive reference library on Men's Issues, receive the Men Talk newsletter, participation in the annual meeting, and enjoy reduced fees to Men's Center sponsored events. If you are able to afford a membership at the Patron (\$40) level, you get free admission to all Wednesday workshops in addition to all the regular membership benefits.

- I want to sustain the activities of The Men's Center by becoming a "20 x 12 Honor Roll Member."
- Please ENTER/RENEW my membership at The Men's Center for the next 12 months:
 Enclosed please find \$_____ \$20 (Regular) \$40 (Patron).
- I want to make an additional, tax-deductible gift of \$_____. Thanks much.
- My new/correct address/phone is printed below.
- Please remove me from The Men's Center mailing list; the pre-addressed gummed mailing label is attached.
- I have these feelings, thoughts, opinions, ideas, news items for The Men's Center:

Date _____

FROM: name _____

Mailing address _____

Home phone _____

Work/other telephone _____

When Mom is a Dad continued from page 1

POSITIVE STEPS FOR DADS AND OTHERS

- Examine your own attitudes and assumptions regarding the ability of men to provide nurturing
- Don't be afraid to admit to harboring internalized homophobia and heterosexism; in fact, it can be critically helpful to discuss it with trusted friends
- Refrain from engaging in "male bashing" and gently confront it in others
- Contribute financial and/or volunteer resources to Rainbow Families, Family Pride, The Men's Center, OutFront Minnesota, etc.
- Be "out" as a gay dad · Socialize regularly with gay dads and other men who you know to be great care-givers

If you are gay and expect to be the primary caretaker of a child, be prepared:

- Talk with others who have been there
- Actively grieve the losses of or changes in identity

John Watkins, PhD, and his partner, Andy Elfenbein, live in south Minneapolis with their five-year-old son Dmitri. John is an English professor at the University of Minnesota, where he serves as academic director of the Steven J. Schochet Center for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies.

Tom Glaser, MS, is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Minneapolis. He and his partner adopted their now five-year-old son, Elliot, from Ukraine about three and a half years ago.

Advertising Rate Schedule:		
Full Page	7-1/2" x 10"	\$200
1/2 Page	7-1/2" x 4-7/8"	\$125
1/4 Page	3-5/8" x 4-7/8"	\$65
Business Card	2" x 3-1/2"	\$25
Space Rental Rate Schedule:		
	<i>Not for profit</i>	<i>Profit event</i>
Full Day (8 hrs)	\$50	\$100
Half Day (4 hrs)	\$25	\$50
Hourly	\$7.50	\$15

Address change notifications from the post office cost the Men's Center \$1.14 each. Please let us know in advance of mailings! Thanks!

TMC Office Hours: M, Tu, Th, F ;1-4:30pm. Our telephone (612) 822-5892 is answered 24-hours per day by US West voicemail, and an attempt is made to return calls within 1 or 2 days. Our FAX number is (612) 821-6424.

TMC is in the lower level of "Uptown Office Park," a brick office building on the Northeast corner of West 33rd Street and Hennepin Avenue in south Minneapolis, Enter through the door on the north (3249) end of the building (it has 2 numbers: 3249 and 3255!), immediately turn left and descend the stairway through the fire door to Suite 55. (Formerly) handicapped access is easiest through a side door on West 33rd Street.

Check out our web site: www.tcmc.org or correspond at our email address: tcmc@freenet.msp.mn.us

The Men's Center
3249 Hennepin Avenue South, Suite 55
Minneapolis, MN 55408 USA

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MEN TALK

The Men's Center News

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Boyhood Memories

- GUNNAR WIKSTROM

*There is some comfort in recollections
Reminders of my youth
Harbors with buoys and fog horns
Along the New England coast*

*As tides ebb and flow onto endless beaches
Lighthouses cast beams afar
Into the darkened night
Beacons for passing ships*

*An ocean with soft undulating waves
At a moment's notice altered
With crashing breakers from a "Nor'easter"
Sea gulls searching for a safe haven*

*Now from the Midwest shall these memories
Remain only in my mind's eye?
I think not. Before many more years
I must find my way back*

*Once again, I must feel the ocean breeze
See the sea gulls soaring, smell fresh salt air,
Touch bare feet on sandy and rocky shore
'Tis then I will have tasted the New England of my youth*

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