THE NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN NAMED AS A MAJOR BENEFICIARY
for this year’s Macy’s Passport September 18 to 20 at Fort Mason Center. This year the widely
acclaimed fashion show marks the 25th anniversary of Passport. Memorial co-chair, Margarita Gan-
dia, said, “We are honored to have Passport recognize the Grove, particularly on this important occa-
sion, its 25th anniversary.”

The National AIDS Memorial is one 11 major beneficiaries. There will also be four “Fashion Inform”
beneficiaries (an evening for youth focusing on HIV prevention), and close to 50 HIV/AIDS benefit-
ing agencies in Macy’s West seven-state region. For the past three years Macy’s has presented local
AIDS service organizations with their checks on World AIDS Day in the Grove.

Macy’s Passport has increased social awareness of HIV/AIDS-related issues and raised more than $25
million to benefit HIV/AIDS research, care, prevention and education programs. These programs
reach thousands of adults, teens and children living with, or at risk of contracting, HIV, ensuring that
they live their lives with dignity.

In commenting on the history of Passport, Macy’s West Chairman and CEO Robert Mettler said,
“People of conviction began this fight and people of compassion must keep it going—until education and
treatment are available to all, until no child grows up alone because of HIV, until there is finally a
vaccine that rids our world of this devastating disease.”

The theme of this year’s event is
“25 Years, $25 Million.”
Honorary Co-chairs for this event are Jim
Hormel and Tim Wu. Here is a sampling of this year’s Passport events:

FASHION INFORM: HIV PREVENTION 101
Tuesday, September 18, 2007
Fort Mason Center. A private evening for youth by invitation only.

AMERICAN EXPRESS OPENING NIGHT
Wednesday, September 19, 2007
Fort Mason Center

VIP GALA EVENING
Thursday, September 20, 2007
Herbst & Festival Pavilions

Shop for a cause!
Macy’s Passport
In-Store Event
Friday & Saturday,
September 21 & 22

Passport In-Store is a shopping event to benefit local HIV/AIDS agencies. Purchase tickets at participating
HIV/AIDS organizations, or at the Bay Area Macy’s:
- Macy’s Union Square
- Macy’s Valley Fair (San Jose)
- Macy’s Corte Madera at the Village
(Marin county)

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!
Photo coverage of the Grove’s fabulous tea party, page 3

Message from the Grove board co-chairs, 2
A Thriving Partnership, 3 ■ 2006 donors, 4
Memorial design update, 6 ■ Documentary Update, 7
I t’s been a beautiful spring in the Grove, and it reminds us that the Grove is an active and changing place: the landscape changes, the seasons change, the need to fight the AIDS pandemic change, and the purpose of the Grove—with its restorative and healing powers—changes as we reach toward greater national recognition and prominence. We remain forever grateful to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi for setting us on the course to become a national memorial when she drafted the bill in 1996 that gave the AIDS Memorial its current standing as the National AIDS Memorial. The board of directors takes its role very seriously as the steward of the nation’s memorial to the AIDS tragedy. We are working hard to achieve national prominence to ensure the gift of the Grove is shared with an even wider circle of visitors, mourners, and supporters. We are very grateful to all of our donors and volunteers for their support in this effort and, most especially, to last year’s major donors (gifts of $25,000 or more): the de Laveaga family, the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, the Donald Hickey Trust, Daniel Renberg and the A. Spencer Andrew Foundation, Jeff Wiggins and Joe Olivo, and the Wells Fargo Foundation.

The board of directors has experienced a few changes, with longtime board member Paul Loeffler leaving to spend more time with his son. Paul remains an active co-chair of our site committee. Kurt Stammberger joined the board, and Jon Zimman has taken over the role of treasurer from Jeff Wiggins. We are pleased to have a strong core of dedicated committee leaders on the board of directors, and express our appreciation to them all.

Another change this year is the decision to move the annual fundraising event, held last year in the fall, to the spring of 2008. We will send more information about our exciting 2008 event as details are finalized. We hope our many donors and friends will continue to support the Grove at their usual generous level in 2007, as we take a break this year from the usual fundraising cycle.

The Memorial Design Committee has been actively engaged in a comprehensive feasibility study to determine the viability of implementing the award-winning design from the 2005 International Design Competition. An important part of the study will be to gather input from the Memorial’s community of supporters and friends. The committee is providing several ways for interested friends of the Grove to share ideas and suggestions with the committee as it continues its data collection over the next few months. The committee’s goal is to make a recommendation to the board on the viability of implementing the memorial design by the end of the year. See article on page 6.

Even as nature makes her inevitable changes to the Grove’s landscape, we remain committed to maintaining it as a garden of remembrance, hope, and healing. And we strive to ensure that the National AIDS Memorial fulfills its role as the nation’s reminder of hard-learned lessons of this pandemic that has touched so many lives.
Who would have thought that the National AIDS Memorial has so many quiet supporters? I was surprised to recently discover just how many individuals and families designate the Memorial several times a year as the recipient of their donated items at the Community Thrift Store (CTS), 632 Valencia Street in San Francisco’s Mission District. From 2002 to 2006, more than $17,500 was received from Community Thrift, a reliable source of income for the National AIDS Memorial.

Community Thrift’s main source of merchandise is people like you and me who donate reusable items to be resold. Each donor may choose from a list of nonprofits that receive funds directly from the sale of their goods minus CTS operational costs.

Between 2002 and 2006, more than 150 individuals donated to Community Thrift in the name of the National AIDS Memorial. The Memorial is free to apply this quiet windfall toward year-round operational expenses.

Here is all I do: drop bags, boxes and furniture (no computer hardware or software, no clothing on hangers) at the loading dock on Sycamore Street, a one-way alley heading west between 17th and 18th Streets, and between Mission and Valencia. There I am asked to declare the resale value of each item, as well as the agency benefiting from my donation. That’s when I mention the National AIDS Memorial Grove, code number 31.

I’m now on the bandwagon to encourage my neighbors to do the same. Sometimes I even offer to bring their donations along with mine. It’s a great way to recycle usable items otherwise taking up space in my home or office. Plus I get a tax deduction—if I remember to ask for a receipt. Just like that, I’m a Grove donor.

There’s always someone out there in the community who will find new uses for my dishes, clothing, or furniture. This way, we can both feel good!
In Recognition of Your Support, We Thank You

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SPECIAL THANKS

Larry Adams; Yoni Aguabianca; Ian Anderson; Lynne Baer; Bay Area Reporter; Derek Besendorfer; Sun Bunger; Mary Burns; Cal Callahan; Boney Calloway; Dr. Lisa Capaldini; Sharon Carney; Jim Cassio; Ezra Cattan; CBSS & UPN Bay Area; Children’s Day School; Kimberly Chow; Steve Cismowski; Tim Cooper; Sam Crocker; Damron Company; Danabase.net; Dana Hernandez; Bevan Duffy; Jamie Ennis; Farm Design; Ron Wiener; Catherine E. Fox; Mary Furlong; Leah Garchik; Tim Gaskin; Golden Gate Park Nursery, Phil Rossi; Gilly Gomer; Eric Jansen; Jannine Kim; Ira Kurlander; Brenda Larbee; Gary Lawson; Jennie Lee; Amy Karmanski; Mark Leen; Paul Loefler; Gina Mansfield; Tony Mariano; Susann Mark, Ph.D.; John McDonnell in memory of Chris Janecke & Ray Muffin; Gap Foundation; George Ophthalmology.; AT&T; Beta Alpha Psi, SFSU; Calvary Connect; CCSF Americorps; Adobe; Alameda County Leather; Alternative Breaks; American Academy of Ophthalmology.; ATST; Beta Alpha Psi, SFSU; Calvary Connect; CCSF Americorps; CWA Local 9423; Ed Ow in honor of the Stud Muffins; Gap Foundation; George Washington High; Hands On Bay Area; Japanese American Citizens League; Jewish Family & Children’s Services; Kittredge School; Lowell High School; McKesson Corporation; PG & E; Princeton Club of Northern California; RESPECT Sacramento; Robert Hiteley and John McDonnell in memory of Chris Janecke & Ray Dubreuil; Ron Masker in memory of Ray Hamilton, Jr.; SF Hiking Club; Studio Muffins; The Gap; The Kittredge School; Wayne Hill & Friends; UCSF; UCSF Phi Delta Chi; University High School; Urban School; Wayne Hill and Friends in Memory of Toshiyuki Iriyawa; Willis Law… and special thanks to all the INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS who continue to maintain the National AIDS Memorial.

WORKDAY GROUPS

Adobe; Alameda County Leather; Alternative Breaks; American Academy of Ophthalmology.; ATST; Beta Alpha Psi, SFSU; Calvary Connect; CCSF Americorps; CWA Local 9423; Ed Ow in honor of the Stud Muffins; Gap Foundation; George Washington High; Hands On Bay Area; Japanese American Citizens League; Jewish Family & Children’s Services; Kittredge School; Lowell High School; McKesson Corporation; PG & E; Princeton Club of Northern California; RESPECT Sacramento; Robert Hiteley and John McDonnell in memory of Chris Janecke & Ray Dubreuil; Ron Masker in memory of Ray Hamilton, Jr.; SF Hiking Club; Studio Muffins; The Gap; The Kittredge School; Wayne Hill & Friends; UCSF; UCSF Phi Delta Chi; University High School; Urban School; Wayne Hill and Friends in Memory of Toshiyuki Iriyawa; Willis Law… and special thanks to all the INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS who continue to maintain the National AIDS Memorial.
Feasibility Study: Memorial Design Committee Weighs Possibilities

By NEAL SCHWARTZ
Chair, Memorial Design Committee

In January 2006 the National AIDS Memorial Grove board voted to conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of continuing to develop and potentially construct the 2005 competition-winning entry for the Memorial design, “Living Memorial” by Janette Kim and Chloe Town. This feasibility phase of the project involves exploring the community support, funding opportunities, and architectural feasibility of the Memorial design. Our goal is to gather as much information as possible to make an informed recommendation to the full board as to how best to proceed in order to foster the continued evolution of the Grove as a national memorial.

We are conducting community forums with our key constituents—longtime Grove supporters, Workday volunteers, donors, etc.—to explain the project, to explain the feasibility study process that we are following, and to give our constituents an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. This feedback will be included in the feasibility study, expected to be completed this fall.

The Memorial Helps Unite a Family

Jennifer Gilmore finally got to touch the engraved name of her long-lost birth mother in the Circle of Friends at the National AIDS Memorial on September 19, 2006. Jennifer was accompanied by (l. to r.) her adoptive father Doug Thayne and her recently discovered grandparents, Ellen and Harry Shepherd. Their reunion was filmed by documentarian Andy Abrahams Wilson.

An article about the Shepherds that was posted on the Memorial website played a key role in helping Jennifer find her family of origin. She asked a researcher to help her locate information about her birth mother, Kathleen Bowman. It was in the online article (originally published in this newsletter in 2001) that Jennifer learned that her mother, Kathleen Bowman, had died.

When the researcher, Lori Sanders, notified longtime Grove volunteers Ellen and Harry Shepherd that their lost granddaughter was looking for them, everyone’s dreams came true. Since the 2000 death of their daughter the Shepherds had been searching for the grand-daughter, given up for adoption in 1983. When Jennifer and Lori contacted them by phone, Harry and Ellen thought, what better place to reunite everyone than the spot so special and sacred to their entire clan—the National AIDS Memorial? And that’s why they all met to share their joy with the Grove community.
A Picture is Worth a Thousand—Dollars

By MICHAEL WEISS
Chair, Memorial Design Committee

In the last newsletter, I wrote about our first fundraising event held at my house in the spring of 2004, where we raised $10,000 to hire award-winning filmmaker Andy Abraham Wilson to write a professional "treatment" for a documentary film about the National AIDS Memorial.

Have you ever tried to describe the National AIDS Memorial Grove to someone who has never been there? I have often tried, but it is nearly impossible. Oh, it’s beautiful…It is a place of hope and renewal dedicated to all lives touched by AIDS…In Golden Gate Park…7.5 acres…Used to be an overgrown, derelict area, transformed into a spectacular, tranquil refuge…You have to see the flowers or mementos left in the Circle of Friends—it is so moving…Volunteers from all over the Bay Area come to the Grove once a month to pull weeds, mulch, plant new life…The monthly Workdays often conclude with a healing circle in a serene, open meadow…It is such a spiritual place…We held a memorial service in the quiet of the Fern Grotto…You have to meet the Stud Muffins, the Grove’s most dedicated workday volunteers…People can go there and think about the people they have lost to AIDS…It is so peaceful…It’s unlike any other national memorial…It lives…You really have to see it.

Unfortunately, most people in this country have never even heard of the Grove, much less seen it. Even here in our tightly knit Bay Area community, there are still many who have never been there. Those of us fortunate enough to have regularly experienced the Grove’s healing powers have a responsibility, I believe, to spread the word within our communities and beyond. Sure, most of us who love the place have, over the years, done our best to bring family, friends, and coworkers to the Grove for Workdays and fundraisers. To some extent, the very existence of the Grove can be credited to this “word of mouth” effort. But there are thousands of other people whose lives have been touched by AIDS who need the Grove’s solace, too.

How do we reach people we don’t even know? If words alone fail to adequately describe what the Grove is, how can we meaningfully carry out our responsibility? Like the rest of us, they really have to see it.

That is why it is so important to complete “Forget Me Not,” the new documentary film-in-progress about the National AIDS Memorial Grove. This film will provide people all over the world with the essential opportunity to experience the Grove’s sights and sounds through the powerful medium of film. It really is the next best thing to seeing it in person. You don’t need to take my word for it. Please take a moment right now to visit our website and view the newly completed, five-minute film trailer: www.aidsmemorialfilm.com.

So far, we have been incredibly blessed to receive crucial financial support from a variety of generous foundations and individuals, including the Columbia Foundation, the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, the Wells Fargo Foundation, Margaret and Philip Hess, and the National AIDS Memorial itself. These visionary donors have contributed more than $100,000 to date just to get this documentary project started.

But we are going to need your tax-deductible contribution to complete it. Gifts of any amount are greatly appreciated, but donations of $1,000 or more will be rewarded with a film credit—either in your name or in the name of someone you wish to honor or remember.

With your help, we can provide audiences around the country with the unique and critical opportunity to experience the Grove. We can help the National AIDS Memorial fulfill its noble mission to provide much-needed solace to all lives touched by AIDS.

For more information, to view the film trailer, and/or to make a contribution, please visit our website: www.aidsmemorialfilm.com
In the interest of conservation, this newsletter is printed on recycled paper. Electronic versions of this newsletter can be found on our website, www.aidsmemorial.org.

Getting to the Grove

The Grove is located in the eastern end of Golden Gate Park at the intersection of Bowling Green Drive and Middle Drive East. It is easily accessible by public transportation on SF Muni Metro or buses. (Muni route info: 415-673-6863) By car: From downtown follow Fell Street west until it enters the park. Stay in the right lane and follow it onto JFK Drive. Turn left at the first stop sign. From the south, follow 19th Avenue north into the park and turn right at the first intersection onto MLK, Jr. Drive. Turn left at the second stop sign. From the north, follow Stanyan Street south to the park entrance and turn right. Stay in the right lane and follow it onto JFK Drive. Turn left at the first stop sign. For detailed directions, including bike paths and pedestrian access, please visit our website at www.aidsmemorial.org or call 415-750-8340.

Join Us for Grove Volunteer Workdays:

- June 16
- July 21
- August 18
- September 15
- October 20

Mark you calendar: every third Saturday through October, 8:30 AM!

In the interest of conservation, this newsletter is printed on recycled paper. Electronic versions of this newsletter can be found on our website, www.aidsmemorial.org.

We Love Trees at the Grove!

How would you like to save a tree and still get your copy of this newsletter? Let us know if you’d like to receive Notes From the Grove by email—or if you’d prefer to continue receiving a paper copy. Just drop an email indicating your choice at: newsletter@aidsmemorial.org.