

Anthony Kulp

by Doug Kent

Things were very quiet in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania on October 19, 1964, but for one Catholic, Italian family it was a very special day--Our Mr. August (Mr. A) was born. The third child, Mr. A had a very normal early childhood, attended the Loomis Elementary School and generally was an average student. He loved his school with very small classes and was comfortable in his suburban neighborhood. It was when he had to change to middle school that things began to change. Smoking, dirt bikes, hideaways in the woods, along with sex, drugs and rock and roll filtered into his life. Nothing too serious, but a definite change. School began to become difficult and uninteresting; however, with help and some mentoring and strong advice from his school Principal, Mr. A was able to turn his life around and his grades improved. Mr. A was able to graduate from Marple Newtown High School in 1982. He began working at age 17 and has never stopped.

With his vocational mechanical background, Mr. A took a job after high school with a chewing gum factory. Shortly after, he had an opportunity to do some carpentry work and found his true love and talent. He decided to return to school and work on an Associate's Degree so he could work for Architects doing high end carpentry work. He showed outstanding talent in this area. His grades earned him a place on the Dean's list. In 1984, he had a serious fall and was paralyzed for 4 days. This unfortunate accident altered his plans and life. Not being able to work, he returned to his life of alcohol and drugs. Things were not good for many years for Mr. A. He had many part time jobs to sustain himself and in 1992, he began working for a chauffeur service. In 1994 he opened a small restaurant with another person and in 1996 another major change happened in Mr. A's life.

Let us digress at this moment. Mr. A began to discover his gayness at the tender age of 7. He became aware of his attraction to older men at the community swimming pool changing room. Being Italian and Catholic made being gay an impossibility, even though this fantasy became stronger as he got older. At age 20 Mr. A experienced his first gay encounter, but this was not a freeing experience, it just reinforced his determination to suppress further

his gay side. It was over a year before he had another gay experience. His gay life remained in the shadows of bookstores and back allies for the next 8 years. He then moved to New Jersey. In a gay bar Mr. A met an attorney who was not closeted. This was an epiphany for Mr. A seeing someone gay and professional who was out to the world. He felt there may be hope for himself.

Let us return to Mr. A's life. He is operating a restaurant with another man who just happened to be his partner. The restaurant closed and his partner did the worst thing that could be done. He outed Mr. A to his family in 1998. This one event was thought by Mr. A to be the worst thing that could happen to him, but in reality it turned out to be the most freeing experience in his life.

Accepted by his family and friends, Mr. A was free now to live his life as it should be lived. He met his partner in 1998, and has never looked back. No more drugs, no more alcohol, his world began to soar. He figured out his life, reclaimed his self-worth, learned the difference between religion and spirituality and became wildly successful in his business. He and his partner moved to Florida full time in 2014. His story is still unfolding as he works hard to sustain his business and enjoys life to the fullest.

Mr. A is involved in Prime Timers and has an extensive circle of friends. He enjoys vintage automobiles, enjoys his home and home projects. He is the most comfortable when he is socially engaged with older gay men. This bubbly, outgoing man is a pleasure to be around and is always positive and realizes that life is finite, and he lives it to the max.

