

Denny Hamann

By Ken South

In July of 1939, Lou Gehrig had his number (4) retired on his "Appreciation Day" at Yankee Stadium, where he made his iconic "luckiest man" speech. On the 24th of that month, Mr. August (A) came into the world the first of three boys, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A life then unfolded of a Veterinarian, free spirit, philosopher, friend, composer, writer, dreamer, musician, and much, much more.

He spent his childhood in Milwaukee, graduating from Washington High School in 1957 to go on to study at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music until 1967. Then it is off to veterinary medicine at Michigan State University, graduating with a DVM in 1962. He practiced medicine at his own clinic until retirement in 1984.

Mr. A's life has been about stepping through doors. One of the open doors he experienced was getting married in 1968, and having the pleasure of being dad to a son, Jeff and daughter Tammy.

He sold his successful Veterinary Practice in Milwaukee, in 1984 and spent that summer touring the USA in *Pegasus*, his bus, with his kids, Jeff, 16 and Tammy, 14. They spent July 4th weekend in a parking lot next to the Pan Am heliport. The family watched the incredible fireworks in lounge chairs atop the bus.

Jim Morningstar (founder of the School of Integrative Psychology in 1980), became Mr. A's mentor. Jim told him to: "Go deep inside, discover your highest good, bring it forth and share it with the world". When Mr. A drove his *Pegasus* bus into Guerneville, CA, he heard the ancient redwood forest say, "Come, this is where you belong." So, he got a job playing piano at a local large gay resort. One night, he told a patron, "I'd like to find a distress sale and live here." The fellow told him to call. He happened to handle all the repo Freddy Mac/Fannie Mae mortgages in the county! Mr. A's "flood distressed" home was purchased in September 1986.

An important part of Mr. A's world is music. He is currently writing a musical entitled, "The Dream Catcher". The story of an 8-year-old boy living with HIV in a world that tells him he has no future or dreams. It is a moving, inspiring story of the importance of living one's dream, no matter what the age or physical condition.

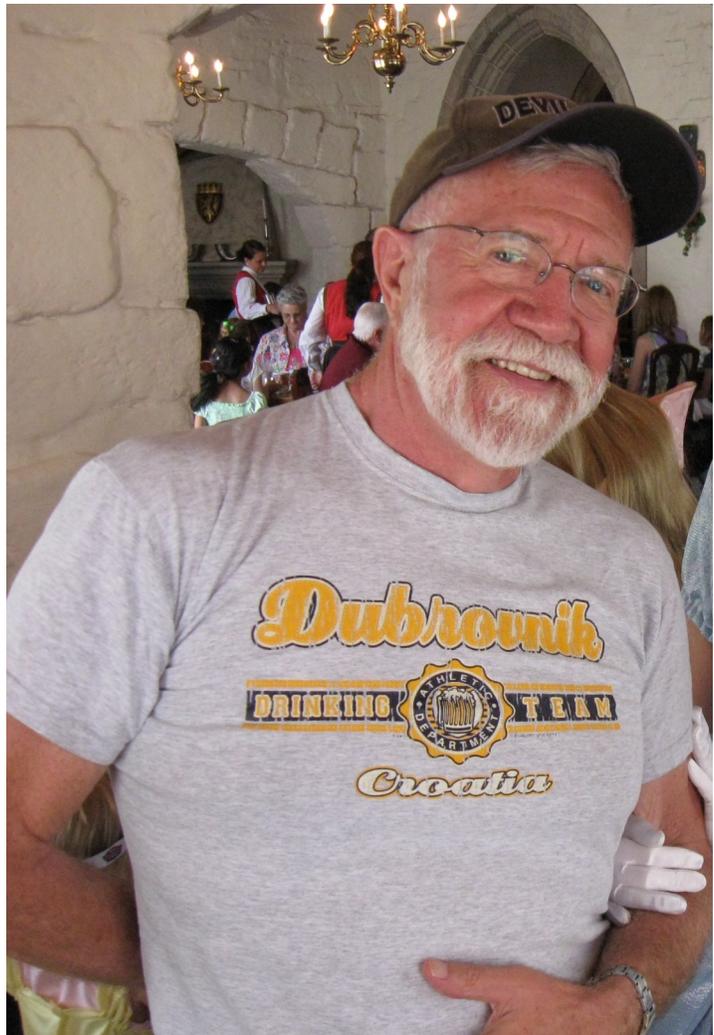
His first musical, "A Tribute To The Memory Of You", has been staged 42 times

across the U.S. "Tribute" is the story of a young gay man as he comes out to his family, struggles with religious values, falls in love, builds a relationship, loses his lover to AIDS, and attempts suicide, with a resolution and finale' that has brought audiences to their feet.

Mr. A's first gay experience at 15 was with a neighbor pal. During the rest of his life he had two long term relationships, one each with Dan and David.

He met Dan at the San Francisco Eagle. Dan disliked his job at San Francisco State. Mr. A asked him to do the "Jesus disciple" thing. Quit his job, sell his car and hop on his bus to move to Florida. Which they did, bought a home in Fort Myers, and moved in Valentine's day, 1990, they were together 10 years.

His other partner, David, sang in the choir at Sunshine Cathedral. He too, quit his job and joined Mr. A, winters in Fort Lauderdale, and summers at Russian River, they were together for 4 years.



Be sure to check out Denny's webpage:
<https://www.flyingpegasus.com>