

Michael Burtwick

by Doug Kent

Surviving two brushes with death makes for an interesting story. But consider when one brush with death occurred before you were born, that makes for an *incredible* story. And so it was that Mr. June survived the miscarriage of his fraternal twin and on August 28, 1947 became the only child of his parents. His early childhood was uncomplicated, and his grandmother pretty much raised him while his mother ran her beauty salon and his father worked in the shoe manufacturing business in New York City. PS253 was his elementary school and PS225 was his Jr. High. An above average student, he managed to make friends easily and excelled in his studies. At Abraham Lincoln High School he was class president for two years, and participated in the Sing Program and in his final year actually achieved his goal which was to dance in that year's Sing Program.

The second brush with death occurred while walking home one day during his sophomore year of high school. After school one day, Mr. June and his friend wanted to smoke a lot of cigarettes, so they decided to take the long way home. On that fateful walk, Mr. June was struck by a car as he walked down the sidewalk. He was pronounced dead at the scene. His body lay covered on the sidewalk. While being transported by ambulance to the morgue, he began moving and was immediately taken to the hospital, and two weeks later was released, much to the happiness of his close family.

After high school Mr. June attended CCNY, pledged his fraternity, worked part time as a bookkeeper during the summers to help out with expenses and to have spending money. He graduated in 1970 with his BBA in Accounting. Upon graduating Mr. June was offered a position in California, but his parents were not happy with his living that far away. They offered to give him a trip to Hawaii, but Mr. June took the money and spent 3 months backpacking throughout Europe, a decision he has never regretted. When he returned to New York, he took a position with the accounting firm of Eisner & Lubin, the same

company he worked part time for during college. Dedicated to the field of Accounting, Mr. June received his CPA in 1973. It was at this time that he decided that he was NOT going to work until age 65.

He proceeded in his accounting career by taking on more responsibilities in a series of positions as Controller and VP of Operations with various companies. He also began purchasing homes in the Miami, Florida area, where he now worked and traveled throughout the country. His parents finally moved to Florida and the family was once again together. Mr. June continued to build his fortune and at the age of 47 he retired.

Back when he was age 25, Mr. June was engaged to be married, but through no fault of either party, the marriage never took place. Two years later, Mr. June came out to a fraternity brother who was gay, and was visiting him in Florida. This friend introduced Mr. June to the gay bar scene in Fort Lauderdale. Shortly after, Mr. June met his first partner and they were together for 2 and a half years. Several other relationships transpired, and the last one ended in 2000 after being together for 10 years.

Single now and retired, Mr. June took up art as a hobby, specializing in the pallet knife technique with oils. He also designs jewelry and is a patron of all the arts. Mr. June is involved with Prime Timers and is a collector of antique glass. His current partner "muffin" is a loving little dog that is constantly by his side. This interesting, well organized accountant/artist is known to many Prime Timers.

