

Allan Dewes

By Ken South

The 1954 World Series saw the New York Giants sweep the Cleveland Indians. The Supreme Court ruled in the historic Brown vs Board of Education case, and gas was 22¢ a gallon. Senator Joe McCarthy, and his henchman, Roy Cohn, were finally put in their place by the Congress. Marlon Brando starred in “On the Waterfront” while “Oh My Pa-pa” and “Sh-Boom” were among the top ten songs. Oh, and in Brooklyn, on May 17th, Mr. December (Mr. D) joined a proud family of his parents and his older brother.

Mr. D’s dad followed his sales work to New Jersey where the family lived for many years and he attended 4-12 school. In 4th grade he started playing saxophone in the school band and during high school, he also enjoyed the brotherhood of The DeMolay. He studied for two years at Waynesburg University in Pennsylvania, and then returned to New Jersey to attend Ramapo College where he earned BA degrees in psychology and business. By 1979, Mr. D had also earned a Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology from Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. D started his professional life as a staff clinical psychologist in a mental health facility in Petersburg, Virginia. After two years providing various testing services for patients in that facility, Mr. D found that his skills were more inclined towards training. This realization led him to Merck & Co. in Elkton, VA, where he increased his technical training skills. In 1990, after five more years at another pharmaceutical company in Raleigh, NC, Mr. D experienced the ugly reality of corporate sexual orientation discrimination. He left that company with a healthy severance and vowed to himself to never be subjected to that kind of discrimination ever again.

This experience motivated him to start his own Technical Training and Consulting business which has been successful for the past 28 years. Since his clients include companies from all over the world, he has benefitted from many long trips to them by accumulating vast amounts of frequent flyer miles.

Mr. D married in 1979 and with his wife, Laurie, had two children: a daughter in 1985 and a son in 1988. His coming out in 1989 meant an end to the marriage. Both his children have married and provided him with three grandchildren. While there were several years of family estrangement, today he, and his former wife see each other occasionally. He and his partner see the children and grandchildren often.

Like many of his generation, Mr. D knew at an early age that “something was different” about him because he was attracted to men. He didn’t act upon those feelings however, until 1989. A guy he met in a gay bar in Raleigh became his first

adult sexual partner. An important part of Mr. D's coming out journey was enhanced by a counseling session he had with Rev. Wayne Lindsay, the Pastor of St. John's Metropolitan Community Church, also in Raleigh. Mr. D joined MCC and it was there that he met his life partner of the last 23 years! He and his partner are currently active members of The Sunshine Cathedral and Mr. D serves on its Board of Directors.

The couple moved to Ft. Lauderdale from San Francisco six years ago. Enjoying a cocktail at Tropics soon afterwards, they met Ron Grassullo who told them about Prime Timers and they joined soon thereafter. Between the MCC church and Prime Gentleman, the couple now have a bevy of friends. Mr. D also loves to play golf and travel. Given his bank of air miles, the couple have enjoyed travels to numerous destinations as well as ocean cruises.

