

# Auggie Azzarello

By Ken South

In December of 1961, the Beach Boys released their first album, Floyd Patterson was heavy weight champion, the Vietnam War officially began, Pope John XXIII, opened the Second Vatican Council, and Jimmy Dean's "Big Bad John" is the #1 country hit song. While in Chicago, Illinois, on the 28th, Mr. June was born into a family of his parents and an older brother, 10 years his senior. Since Mr. June and his brother were born so many years apart, they never found much in common.

Mr. June spent his years in elementary school in Chicago, but his high school years transpired in Phoenix, Arizona. His parents had opened a printing business, where they and his brother worked. Mr. June graduated in 1976. In talking about his high school years, Mr. June describes himself as "a loner" who really didn't care for most of the standard school's activities. He got by with a respectable "gentleman's C".

Choosing to bypass college, Mr. June attended a technical school in Vancouver, Washington for three months to receive certification as a travel agent. Returning to Phoenix, and not finding many travel agent jobs, he worked for the next 25 years. Employed by the Best Western Hotel in reservations and marketing management, leaving in 2004. Next, he moved to the Choice Hotels chain and for six years, managed their database and marketing operations.

Like many of his peers, Mr. June thought that getting married would help him deal with his gay feelings. Several years of marriage and one daughter later, he found it just didn't work for him.

Around 2010 he found himself in Southern Florida where a condo was purchased, enabling him to become a snow bird from Phoenix, and eventually moving here to work for a brief time for American Express, which was not a pleasant experience. During this period Mr. June made the big decision to work for himself. He and his partner formed a multi-services business which they still run today. The business has three branches, housecleaning services, personal homecare services and travel services.

Mr. June met his partner in 1999 in Phoenix. Well before computer sites like Silver Daddies, they found each other's ads. They decided to meet for a first date. Mr. June had just discovered PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) so he suggested they grab a bite to eat and attend a meeting together. The custom of the meeting was to break up in small groups for discussions. Mr. June went to one room and his date, Stewart went to another. When the groups were done they just left the building. Stewart left his room and found that all the others had already gone! He panicked as he thought his first date had just abandoned him, without a car no less! Low and behold, he opened the last door and there was his date!

They have not been separated since and were legally married in New York City on October 26, 2014. They bought their condo together in 2010 and were thrilled to find the tenants of their building were at least 90% gay men. About six years ago they joined Ft. Lauderdale Prime Timers. Mr. June's partner is a member of Prime Gentleman's Board of Directors.