

Jerry Jensen

By Ken South

Baby boomers emerged after the end of World War II. During the boom, 1946-1964, 76 million babies were born in the United States.

The baby boomer phenomenon involved a combination of factors: people wanting to start the families that they put off during the war, and a sense of confidence that the future would be prosperous. Indeed, the late 1940s and 1950s saw increases in wages, thriving businesses, and a variety of products for consumers.

The G.I. Bill allowed returning vets to buy affordable homes. This led to a suburban ethos of the ideal family comprised of the husband as provider, return of the wife as a stay-at-home housekeeper, plus their children.

One of these children was born on September 27, 1947 in Chicago, Ill. Mr. March was the first child, followed by a younger sister, Sandy and brother, Jack a few years later. His dad was an 8th Air Force bombardier and his mom had worked in a plant during the war. Mr. M's early education was spent in Oak Park and Western Springs, graduating from Lyons Township HS in 1965.

A scholarship enabled Mr. M to earn a BA and Masters of Industrial Engineering at Cornell University. While there, he was also active on the rowing team, the Cornell Cinema Society and the Scouting fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega.

Mr. M's professional career, using his skills as an industrial engineer, was filled with much success involving a series of corporation and business endeavors all across the U.S. In the 70's he worked for General Foods, was a manager at their Kool-Aid Plant, re-organized divisions of Beatrice Foods from 84-88 as a consultant, and managed the Louver Drape company plant in Memphis, TN. During this time, he also kept his interest in theater arts alive by participating in the Memphis Theater scene. By 1988 he found himself in New Jersey consulting with the Coopers & Lybrand accounting firm, which also required him to assist with branches in France, Italy and Spain.

His consulting included moving back to Memphis in 1991 to Mueller Industries where, as vice president of sales, he was subsequently offered an attractive "parachute". While living in Wichita, KS, he employed his interest in theater again by becoming the executive director of the Wichita Center for the Arts. The center offered programs in film, play

production, a drama school and various professional workshops. In 1995 it was on to Omaha, NE to the Lozier Company followed by duties with 1st USA Bank, credit card division, including a move to Wilmington, DE.

It was while living in Omaha in 1997, during a "wild" party, that Mr. M met his partner Gene. The couple courted for several months, as Gene, the older of the two, was also an actor, they found lots in common. In late 97 they moved in together and in 99 they purchased a house in Wilmington. And later, they purchased a condo in Florida for winter escapes.

In 2005 they moved to Hallandale, FL to make their condo a home. Mr. M started his own consulting business helping smaller companies with their start-up and management plans. He remains very active with his theater activities. He is treasurer of the South Florida Theatre League, and has acted, directed and stage managed at a dozen local theaters.

Mr. M remembers being present at the old Gay Center at the first meeting of Ft. Lauderdale Prime Timers! Gene and Mr. M enjoy Prime Gentlemen and he participates in the Collector's Group.

