

Stan Paley

by Doug Kent

Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel had no idea that they were classmates to our now famous Mr. September (Mr. S), who was born September 18, 1940 in Manhattan, New York. By the second grade, Mr. S found himself in Forest Hills, Queens and decided this was a great place to further his education and his experience in the world. He attended Elementary, Junior and High School there and graduated in 1958. He attended Queens College and received his BA Degree in Economics. It was here that he met and dated his "wife to be". All was right in his world and Mr. S was prepared for all the challenges that were ahead, except for one. That was, "What do I do with a Bachelors in Economics"???

As the complicated world would have it, the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene was testing individuals for jobs. Mr. S tested very high and was offered a position. He accepted, and was assigned to Queen's Children's Psychiatric Center at Creedmoor Hospital. New York State was actively encouraging individuals to secure their Masters in Social Work. With that, the State gave him a paid leave of absence for two years, and in 1967 the Economics Major had his MSW. Strange, but true.

Remember that girl that he dated in High School, well they are married now. Mr. S was now a Professional Social Worker and for the next 20 years he worked at Queens Children's Psychiatric Center. He had two boys of his own and a lovely daughter. He moved his family to Long Island and enjoyed what appeared to be a happy, normal life.

Around 1977, he took on a part time position in Brooklyn to avoid the rush hour traffic to Long Island. He also saw private clients. It was during one of these quiet drives home that "nature called" and he stopped at a rest area to relieve himself. What began as an innocent stop developed into a life changing event - with a total stranger. As he drove home after the encounter he began to think that if he enjoyed this so much, maybe there is something in his future that he never expected.

Three nights a week he would stop at the rest area and enjoyed the company of other men. A sort of group formed and Mr. S. realized then and there that he was gay. He met a 22 year old gay man who took him under his wing, showed him the ways of the gay world. He provided access to his Long Island apartment so Mr. S had a place to be with new friends.

At age 45 Mr. S met his long time partner at a bathhouse in Queens. They both attended a Married Men's Group. With support from the group, Mr. S came out to his wife and that ended the marriage. In July of 1986 Mr. S and his partner moved to their place in Freeport Long Island. Mr. S. was promoted to Director of Social Work at Central Islip Psychiatric Center, and remained there until he retired from the State of New York in 1995. He and his partner moved to Florida and in 2003 they finally landed in Palm Aire where they still reside today.

Mr. S secured his Florida LCSW License and worked as a Custody Evaluator for the Broward County Court System. After a year, he worked as a therapist at the Pride Unit of the Fort Lauderdale Hospital and was eventually promoted to Director of Social Work. He remained there for two years and did some private practice as well.

Mr. S enjoys the theater as do most transplants from New York. He and his partner travel the world and enjoy cruises on ships. They both are politically active in the community. Both enjoy the social activities provided by the Prime Timers and are active in the group. Mr. S ran a support group for two years at the GLCC on Andrews Ave., helping individuals struggling with "coming out". This unassuming, quiet individual is well spoken and articulate with a dry sense of humor. With all this information can you identify Mr. September?

