

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

Dear First Name,

Because you were there, when Lenny lost Jane she found the strength to carry on.

Lenny and Jane first connected with the Pride Center in the 1980s, before they had met each other. ~~Their involvement was sporadic throughout the decade and intensified as they aged.~~ Jane had been an out, loud and proud lesbian much of her adult life, but Lenny was more reserved about being gay and being partnered with Jane.

I don't know that this sentence is necessary to the story

They started connecting with the Pride Center on a more regular basis in 2006, with the start of the Vintage Pride program for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults. By attending potlucks, panel discussions and movie showings, they became more familiar with the Pride Center 25 years after they were first introduced, and were pleased with the evolution. They connected with others from the community and their presence became **one of the threads in the fabric of the vibrant and diverse LGBT community in the Capital Region.** They valued the Pride Center so much they gave their time and energy in all the different ways they could.

The Pride Center relies on supporters like you, and like Lenny and Jane, to provide support, case management and social services to thousands of LGBT people of all ages each year.

A favorite Pride Center story is of the time Lenny and Jane volunteered at the Alternative Prom. Eager to get to work, they showed up an hour before their shift started at 4pm. They were both in their 70s by this time, and toted walkers to ensure their balance, and for Jane to carry her oxygen. But that didn't stop them from dancing the night away to pop music with the 350 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, ally, costumed and primed adolescents who attended the energetic, and sweaty event. Enamored by an older lesbian couple, the youth (alt. "kids") flocked to Lenny and Jane throughout the night, asking about their secrets to a long and happy relationship.

As the night came to an end, staff looked for Lenny and Jane but they were nowhere to be found. We assumed they had left early, exhausted. In fact, they were out in the parking lot, greeting parents coming to collect their kids and directing traffic! Lenny and Jane were among the last to leave.

The following Sunday, they rode in the Pride parade, grinning as they waved their rainbow flags at the hundreds of spectators. They spent the afternoon collecting rainbow trinkets, befriending drag queens and reveling in the collective joy they had never experienced with so many LGBT people and our supporters before.

That was in 2010, and since that time, Jane's health had been failing. One of Jane's final wishes was to attend the Pride Cruise, which was fulfilled this past June. Lenny recalls how courteous fellow cruisers were to the couple, and how important it was that the couple had one great last hurrah.



Jane passed away in September, and one of the first phone calls Lenny made was to the Pride Center.

Losing her partner of 20 years was unthinkable, and Lenny attributes the Pride Center and the connections she has made in our community as the thing that got her through this time. People she met at the Pride Center reminded her to eat and brought meals in the first few days, helped her clean out Jane's apartment and plan her memorial service. The drag queens Jane and Lenny met at pride sang at the service, which was more accurately a celebration of Jane's full life. the celebration of Jane's life.

If you have a direct quote here from Lenny that would add impact.



Thanks to your support, our LGBT community has been immeasurably strengthened by the programs and service of the Pride Center, ~~by our long visible presence in the community.~~ The lives we have touched are countless, and the Pride Center needs your support.

- A \$40 contribution covers the cost of one of our monthly Vintage Pride potlucks.
- A \$75 gift will help cover the cost of the Pride parade.
- A \$100 gift underwrites the cost of the planning and volunteer coordination of the annual Alternative Prom.

Lenny and Jane's story demonstrates that we are a community that is there for each other. Please help us continue this strong tradition of giving.

Sincerely,

Curran Streett

P. S. – Monthly giving is one of the easiest and most effective ways to help LGBT people in the Capital Region. Enclosed is an informational card and reply envelope. Please consider joining our group of monthly donors to support the Pride Center all year long!

I love that you have a monthly giving program! I might use the PS to strengthen the ask and SAVE monthly giving for another mailing in the spring.