WHY I DECIDED TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER
Ron Podolske

A few years back my buddy Timmy and I went on our annual vacation to Europe. It’s not that we’re rich or anything, it’s just that he’s a travel agent and one of the perks of being a travel agent is getting free tickets. One of the perks of being Timmy’s friend is that he takes me.

On this particular trip we went to Munich. Visions of German food and beer filled my head and eventually my stomach. As always, Timmy made up his aggressive and totally unrealistic itinerary. On that itinerary was a concentration camp named Dachau.

At Dachau we toured the grounds. We walked on the foundations of the building that have long since been destroyed and saw the guard towers surrounding the camp which still stood. Later we watched a movie within the camp’s museum chronicling perhaps the worst genocide this world has ever known. We were glued to the screen witnessing actual film footage of the very people who would enter this camp and never leave. The narrator spoke of the many groups who the Nazi’s persecuted; Jews, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Gypsies, etc. The list went on and on as I listened closely for the group I belong to. I listened for the word homosexual. But my group was never mentioned, acknowledged, or recognized.

When I returned to the United States I contacted the German Consulate. How could an entire group of people who had their own Nazi identification, The Pink Triangle, not be included as individuals who were put to death because of who they were?
General Membership Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2004

Start Time: 7:40pm
End Time: 8:45pm
Number in attendance: 14
Number of voting members: 13*
(*Eligible membership count = 127)

Motions:
1. Approval of minutes from July General Membership Meeting. CARRIED
2. To instruct Corresponding Secretary to send letter to the office of Supervisor Bevan Dufty. The letter will reiterate EVPA's position on traffic flow related to the Octavia/Central Freeway project, and express disappointment that EVPA was left out of the final decision to restrict vehicle access to and from the freeway at Octavia and Market Streets. CARRIED
3. Motion to adjourn. CARRIED

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

Well, it is almost November and that means elections are around the corner! EVPA needs YOU to volunteer for office. We are seeking nominations. Being an officer or board member is a great way to get to know your neighbors better and help EVPA make our neighborhood a better place. You can nominate someone or yourself. The only requirement is that you have been a member in good standing for 6 months. To nominate someone, send an email to info@evpa.org or go to the www.evpa.org and click on the email address in the banner. Nominations will be announced at the October General Membership Meeting and posted in the November edition of the Eureka!

The Consulate informed me that the film was quite old and at the time it was made, homosexuals were not viewed of "favorably". This astounded me. A persecuted group of men and women were intentionally not being recognized. History was being amended by omission due to discrimination.

Since then, I have done what I can to keep the memory alive of those men and women who were persecuted. Those men and women who were treated horribly even by their fellow captives. And those same men and women who even after the camps were liberated were not set free but rather sent to prison for their sexual orientation. And this is why I pull weeds, and this is why I pick up everything from candy wrappers to bicycle tires at The Pink Triangle Park and this is why I am a volunteer. Because they deserved better and in some very small way, I'm making that happen.

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Make a door fit ♦ Restore/install artwork
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Bob 431-8838 bob@bobberside.com

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