

Dan Rosenblatt

by Doug Kent

It was a cool, overcast Sunday, July 21st, 1946 in Manhattan, New York, so Mr. April (Mr. A) decided that since he would be the only child of his parents, that this would be a great day to come into this world. He had no idea that he would be traveling to Haifa Israel, and Havana Cuba before he would finally settle into a routine life in Levittown, New York to acquire his education. He was an above average student and managed to complete high school in 1962 at the age of 15.

He entered C. W. Post College in Brookville New York. He majored in English and lived on campus, which was about 20 miles from his parent's home. It was March of 1964, well into his second year of college, that Mr. A began noticing some strange things happening to his body. He could not get through an hour long class without urinating, he was drinking large amounts of water, and his skin was becoming blotchy. His parents were concerned and he consulted a physician. On Monday, April 27th, 1964 he was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. He was put into the hospital that day and began his life long education on how to manage his blood sugar. He had to deal with low blood sugar episodes and had to learn about nutrition and exercise. But in those days diabetes was know to shorten life expectancy, and the prospect of reaching old age was lessened with this disease.

Life continued despite this obstacle. While at C. W. Post, Mr. A developed an interest in Radio. He graduated in June 1966 and wanted to pursue a career in news radio. His parents were concerned that this life style of irregular work hours would adversely affect the successful management of his diabetes. His father suggested that he look into a career of computer programming. After several interviews with various companies, Mr. A successfully landed a position with Readers Digest as a computer programmer trainee. Initially, programming did not come easy to Mr. A, but this work proved to be a very good career decision.

In 1967 Mr. A's parents moved from Long Island to Palm City, Florida. As an only child Mr. A did not want his parents that far away, so he relocated in March 1968 to Miami, Florida and accepted a position with Eastern Airlines as a computer programmer. This was the launch of his career in the travel industry that spanned 32 years, and he was able to secure his MBA from the University of Miami in 1974. He was able to travel around the

world and live in many different states, finally settling in North Carolina working for US Airways.

In January 2000, US Airways eliminated Mr. A's position, so he decided to retire. Being single his entire life, he continued to enjoy world-wide travel. In June 2004 while walking down the streets of New York just prior to boarding a cruise, he passed out and was rushed to the hospital with hypoglycemia. Mr. A was taking up to six insulin shots per day and in January 2005 it

was decided it was time to start wearing an insulin pump. Life became a bit easier with the pump, because it continually administers insulin, thus eliminating the need for multiple shots per day. April 2014 will mark the anniversary of 50 years of living with diabetes for Mr. A, who enjoys a much longer life than originally expected when he was diagnosed.

For many reasons, Mr. A had remained closeted most of his professional life. He had some casual male contacts, but on a cruise in 2005, Mr. A received a massage from another man that awakened his interest in sexual activity. He continues to look for that special person to share life experiences.

Mr. A has been the President of the Fort Worth chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and has been President of the American Diabetes Association Chapter in Winston-Salem North Carolina. Mr. A is an avid bridge player and has acquired the rank of Silver Life Master in 2012. New to our Fort Lauderdale Prime Timers, Mr. A enjoys the many social opportunities the group offers. Who is this well managed diabetic, with a very active libido and a loaded insulin pump?

