

men talk

tcmc
twin cities men's center

in our 35th year
of public service

August/September 2011
Volume 35 #4

The Awesome Power of Family Courts

© 2011 BY BILL RONAN, LIC.S.W.

Family courts routinely deprive divorced fathers not only of their own children, but even many constitutional rights.

For example, do you think judges should have the power to decide to which religion your children must belong and which churches they may be prohibited from attending? In December 2009 a Chicago judge did exactly that.

Cook County Circuit Judge Edward Jordan issued a restraining order to prohibit Joseph Reyes from taking his three-year-old daughter to any non-Jewish religious activities because his ex-wife argued that would contribute to "the emotional detriment of the child." Mrs. Rebecca Reyes wants to raise her daughter in the Jewish religion, and the judge sided with the mother. Joseph Reyes' divorce attorney, Joel Brodsky, when he saw the judge's restraining order, said, "I almost fell off my chair. I thought maybe we were in Afghanistan and this was the Taliban."

Mr. Reyes took his daughter to church anyway. Soon he was back in court to be prosecuted for contempt in violating the family court order.

In my opinion, this case is a good illustration of the dictatorial power of the family courts. The choice of a church should be none of the government's business, even if the parents are divorced, and "best interest" should be decided by parents, not judges.

Not only did the family court try to take away a father's parental rights and his freedom of religion rights, but also his First Amendment free-speech rights. It's important to shine the light of publicity on the outrageous denial of parental rights by the family courts.

Where did family court judges get the power to decide? Family court judges have amassed this extraordinary power by co-opting and changing the definition of a time-honored concept: "the best interest of the child."

This rule originally came from English common law as compiled by William Blackstone in 1765, and meant that parents are presumed to act in their own children's best interest. For centuries, English and American courts honored parents' rights by recognizing the legal presumption that the best interest of a child is whatever a fit parent says it is, and should not be second-guessed by a judge.

However, when U.S. state legislatures revised their family-law statutes in the 1970s, the "best interest of the child" became disconnected from parents' decisions. Family courts assumed the discretion to decide the best interest of children of divorced and unmarried parents, and enforce their opinions by using their power to send parents to jail and to tell them how they must spend their money.

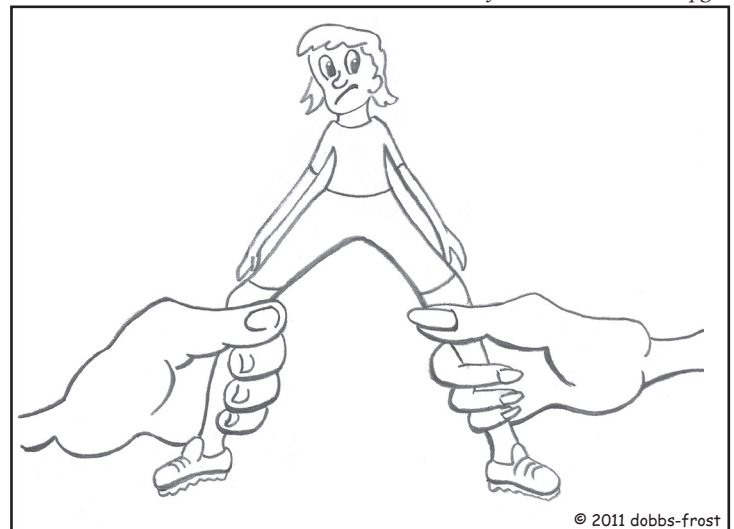
The notion that persons other than parents should decide what is in a child's best interest is illustrated by the slogan "it takes a village to raise a child." I believe that those who use that slogan understand "village" to mean government officials and employees of the courts, the public schools, and the departments of children and family services.

I think the "best interest" rule is subjective; it's a matter of individual opinion. Parents make thousands of decisions about their children, and should have the right to make their decisions even if they contravene so-called experts. Whether the decision is big (such as where to go to church or school), or small (such as playing baseball or soccer), there is no objective way to say which is "best."

Since judges are supposed to base their decisions on evidence presented in open court, and there is no objective basis for deciding thousands of questions involved in raising a child, judges often call on the testimony of expert witnesses. A big industry has grown up of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, custody evaluators, and counselors who are eager to collect fees for giving their opinions. Having opinions produced by persons with academic degrees is a way to make subjective and arbitrary judgments appear objective. With the volume of cases coming through family courts, judges can evade responsibility for controversial decisions by rubber-stamping opinions of these court-appointed experts.

This author has experienced subjective bias first-hand. I was falsely accused of domestic abuse by my wife so that she could obtain citizen-

Family Courts continued on pg 2



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Careful what 'cha WISH for.

Library Corner

— JIM HEANEY, LIBRARIAN



We have a unique and extensive collection of books on men's and general topics which can be checked out by members. Our periodicals include; *Fathering Today*, *Men's Health*, *Men's Journal*, *Lavender*, *Transitions*, and *Voice Male*.

Recent Additions: The Library is very happy these days. Paul Larrels of Ally Press in Saint Paul has donated over 100 books. The Men's Center thanks Paul for his generous contribution.

A sample of these titles are:
AWAKENING FROM THE DEEP SLEEP, a powerful guide for courageous men, by Robert Pasick, Ph.D..
BECOMING A MAN, by Paul Monette.
BOYHOOD, GROWING UP MALE, a multicultural anthology, edited by Franklin Abbott.
IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS, making Community in the modern world, multi contributors, edited by Claude Whitmyer.
CROSSING THE SOUL'S RIVER, a rite of passage for men, by William O. Roberts Jr. and many more.

Address Change Notifications

from the post office cost the Men's Center \$1.14 each. Please let us know in advance of mailings! Thanks!

Men Talk is a bi-monthly publication of the Twin Cities Men's Center. Call 612-822-5892, or e-mail us at tcmc@tcmc.org

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Greetings from the Chair

Running the Twin Cities Men's Center on a day-to-day, week-to-week basis takes the combined efforts of a large number of volunteers. These dedicated men routinely donate thousands of hours a year to make sure TCMC can continue to provide its many valuable services to the men of the Twin Cities.

It would be nearly impossible to list all of the men who help keep TCMC running, but this column is the first in an occasional series of Letters from the Chair in which I'll spotlight a few of the incredible volunteers that make TCMC the amazing place it is.

Bill Dobbs has spent countless hours over the last two decades designing and editing this newsletter. If you have any experience with design and page layout software, you know how exacting and time consuming this work can be. And yet Bill has done this, issue after issue, with professionalism, dedication, and good humor. It's hard to overstate the importance of Bill's contribution to TCMC's overall mission, and I would personally like to offer Bill my heartfelt thanks for his work.

Scott Benson is the man who for over 20 years has managed our member database and made sure this newsletter gets to you and more than 2000 others on our mailing list. Because Men Talk is the primary way TCMC communicates with its members, making sure this gets done consistently and correctly

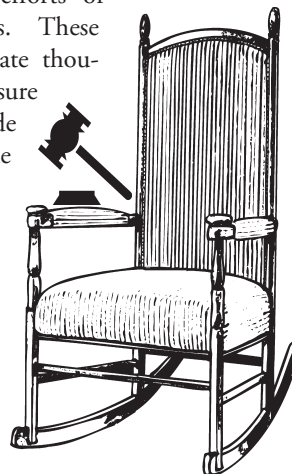
is immensely important. Over the years, Scott has quietly and reliably made sure news of our services gets to the men who need it. Thank you Scott for your dedicated service.

Last but certainly not least is Randy Genrich. Randy has been TCMC's Office Manager for what seems like forever (actually 18 years), and though Randy is now a staff member paid for his hours in the office, he performed these crucial duties for 8 years without pay, and continues to give TCMC the benefit of many unpaid hours. For many men, Randy is the first point of contact at TCMC, and he always

makes sure newcomers are treated with the respect, compassion, and consideration we all deserve. I've lost track of the number of times I've mentioned TCMC to someone and heard, "Oh yeah, the Men's Center, how's Randy?" For many, Randy is the heart and soul of TCMC, and I want to thank Randy, on behalf of all the men he has helped, for his unwavering devotion to TCMC.

These 3 extraordinary men are just the tip of the volunteer iceberg at TCMC, and I plan in future newsletters to detail the contributions of other men who are giving of themselves so that others can heal, recover, and better themselves.

JOE SZURSZEWSKI
BOARD CHAIR



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ship. She was supported by the Sojourner Project of Minnetonka, MN for reasons of their own. Referee (Judge) Kevin McGrath would not allow any of my 25 witnesses to testify, including psychologists, social workers, ministers and the arresting officer. Witnesses came forth about my wife's intent to bring false charges of domestic violence. Then, at a second trial, Referee (Judge) Tsippi Wray refused the expert witness testimony of an attorney who was qualified in criminal, family and immigration law and would explain the immigration motivation for my wife's accusation.

Go to www.immigrationfraudvictims.com to learn more about this particular scam and how false accusations of domestic violence and rape destroy the American family. Or go to Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting (RADAR) <http://www.mediaradar.org/index.php> and Veterans Abroad <http://veteransabroad.com>

Sometimes these rulings are against women, but most decisions are against men, especially fathers. I believe it's time to call a halt to the practice of letting family court judges make decisions that are rightfully the prerogative of parents.

Bill Ronan, Lic.S.W., is the author of "A Psychological Autopsy of Elvis Presley". He has 40 years experience as a psychotherapist. He is a single parent who was widowed when his son turned 4. Bill identifies as a victim and survivor of our legal system, domestic violence system and false accusations. To learn more go to his website www.mnhypnosis.com.

EVENTS CALENDAR

The mission of the Men's Center is to provide resources for men seeking to grow in body, mind, and spirit; and from that foundation to advocate for healthier family and community relationships.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Call us about Anger Management Classes.	SUPPORT GROUPS General 12:30 p.m. Abuse Survivors 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues 7:30 p.m. Addiction Busters 7:30p.m.	PRESENTATION Family Law 7pm H.S.B. East 5:30pm Transition 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Divorce/Uncpl General 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Men's Bisexual & Gay Issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Healthy Sexual Boundaries 10:00 a.m.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	SUPPORT GROUPS General 12:30 p.m. BOARD MTG. 7 p.m. Abuse Survivors 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues 7:30 p.m. Addiction Busters 7:30p.m.	PRESENTATION A Circle of Warriors 7pm H.S.B. East 5:30pm Transition 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Divorce/Uncpl General 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Men's Bisexual & Gay Issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Healthy Sexual Boundaries 10:00 a.m.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	SUPPORT GROUPS General 12:30 p.m. Abuse Survivors 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues 7:30 p.m. Addiction Busters 7:30p.m.	PRESENTATION Starter Facts on HIV-AIDS 7pm H.S.B. East 5:30pm Transition 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Divorce/Uncpl General 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Men's Bisexual & Gay Issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Healthy Sexual Boundaries 10:00 a.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	SUPPORT GROUPS General 12:30 p.m. Abuse Survivors 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues 7:30 p.m. Addiction Busters 7:30p.m.	PRESENTATION Wellness and Weight Loss 7pm H.S.B. East 5:30pm Transition 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Divorce/Uncpl General 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Men's Bisexual & Gay Issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Healthy Sexual Boundaries 10:00 a.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
SUPPORT GROUPS Men's Retirement 5:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS General 12:30 p.m. Abuse Survivors 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues 7:30 p.m. Addiction Busters 7:30p.m.	PRESENTATION Keith Pederson 7pm H.S.B. East 5:30pm Transition 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Divorce/Uncpl General 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Men's Bisexual & Gay Issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Healthy Sexual Boundaries 10:00 a.m.
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues 7:30 p.m. Addiction Busters 7:30p.m.	PRESENTATION Family Law 7pm H.S.B. East 5:30pm Transition 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Divorce/Uncpl General 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Men's Bisexual & Gay Issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Healthy Sexual Boundaries 10:00 a.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	SUPPORT GROUPS General 12:30 p.m. BOARD MTG. 7 p.m. Abuse Survivors 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues 7:30 p.m. Addiction Busters 7:30p.m.	PRESENTATION A Circle of Warriors 7pm H.S.B. East 5:30pm Transition 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Divorce/Uncpl General 7:30pm	MEN TALK DEADLINE SUPPORT GROUP Men's Bisexual & Gay Issues 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Healthy Sexual Boundaries 10:00 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
BRUNCH 10:00 a.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS General 12:30 p.m. Abuse Survivors 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues 7:30 p.m. Addiction Busters 7:30p.m.	PRESENTATION A Circle of Warriors 7pm H.S.B. East 5:30pm Transition 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Divorce/Uncpl General 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Men's Bisexual & Gay Issues 7:30 p.m.	MEN TALK MAILING 9:00 am SUPPORT GROUPS Healthy Sexual Boundaries 10:00 am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
SUPPORT GROUPS Men's Retirement 5:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS General 12:30 p.m. Abuse Survivors 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Gay Issues 7:30 p.m. Addiction Busters 7:30p.m.	PRESENTATION Wellness and Weight Loss 7pm H.S.B. East 5:30pm Transition 7:30 p.m.	SUPPORT GROUPS Divorce/Uncpl General 7:30pm	SUPPORT GROUPS Men's Bisexual & Gay Issues 7:30 p.m.	
25	26	26	28	29	30	

Reach us at our
web site:
www.tcmc.org
e-mail:
tcmc@tcmc.org
phone:
612 / 822-5892

PRESENTATIONS

Nearly every Wednesday evening, the Men's Center is proud to offer a presentation on a wide range of subjects of interest to men as well as to the wider community. This tradition has been part of the Men's Center offering since its founding 35 years ago. These drop-in meetings require no pre-registration, and volunteer experts in the respective subjects conduct them all. Because of our primary mission, all presentations are for men only unless it is otherwise indicated in the individual descriptions.

Please read through these various descriptions to determine which is of interest to you, and consider bringing a friend. This could be an excellent introduction to the Men's Center for them. Each presentation is intended to foster personal growth and to stimulate interest in the topic.

Our presenters are **Jim Gerharter, Bob Manson, Karen Massoglia, Andy Mickel, Keith Pederson, Jimmy Lee Williams and Linda Wray.**

A small fee is collected at the door for each person attending:

Non-Members of TCMC – \$5.
Regular Members (\$20 level) – \$3
Sustaining Members – FREE

All presentations meet at The Men's Center, 3249 Hennepin Ave. So, Suite 55 Minneapolis, MN 55408

We welcome your suggestions for new topics and presenters. Please call Randy at 612-822-5892 with your ideas.

The Men's Center does not endorse, takes no specific position, nor does it hold any opinion on the presentations, or of any information imparted, or of the presenter(s) themselves. Presentations are the sole product and responsibility of the presenter(s).

DESCRIPTIONS

Family Law Clinic

Discussion Leader: Bob Manson
When: Wed, Aug 3, 7:00-9:00 pm

Open to Men and Women

Targeted to the needs of men or women going through or anticipating divorce or dealing with other family law issues, this Clinic will give you an opportunity to discuss your own questions on such topics as:

- * Divorce
- * Separation
- * Paternity
- * Property Division
- * Custody
- * Spousal Maintenance
- * Child Support
- * Financial Settlements
- * Co-habitation

Attorneys will volunteer their time and expertise for the benefit of those who attend. A nominal fee of \$5 is charged for the public. Members of the Men's Center receive a courtesy discount.

A Circle of Warriors

Presenter: Andy Mickel
When: Wed, Aug 10, 7:00-9:00 pm

The Mankind Project is an organization of men working together to improve their lives and help other men. As New Warriors "We are an order of men called to reclaim the sacred masculine provides a model for men to generate and maintain a world in such a way as to include and yet rise above one's own issues for the betterment of one's self, one's own family, tribe, nation and race."

We are all familiar with a man's physical tools (a hammer, a sword, a plow....) Is this enough? What about integrity, commitment, action and clarity? I know that most men want and need these tools. The New Warrior Training Adventure can help. Join a circle of warriors to ask questions and hear how the adventure has changed men's lives.

"The initiation of men is the hope of the world." - Don Jones, former chairman, ManKind Project.

Starter Facts on HIV-AIDS

Presenter: Jimmy Lee Williams
When: Wed, Aug 17, 7:00-9:00

In this question/answer session, current CDC information on HIV-AIDS will be discussed. The leader will represent the African American AIDS Task Force.

Jimmie Lee Williams is certified by the American Red Cross as a Peer Educator. He has 21 years experience on these topics. For more info, he can be reached at 612-871-8203.

Wellness & Weight Loss

Presenter: Karen Massoglia
When: Wed, Aug 24, 7:00-9:00

Open to Men and Women

This presentation for those suffering from obesity or being overweight, type 2 diabetes, on medications for symptoms related to being over weight, or would like a simple system without drugs to reach optimal health.

Karen Massoglia is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University. Over the last 10 years, her work with HealthSource and Take Shape for Life has enabled hundreds of people to reach for optimal health. She mentors and develops health coaches because she believes that we can turn around the future of our country, one healthy person at a time.

Keith Pederson

Presenter: Keith Pederson
When: Wed, Aug 31, 7:00-9:00

No description submitted by press time. Check our online calendar for updates <<http://www.tcmc.org/events2/calendar.html>>

Family Law Clinic

Discussion Leader: Linda Wray
When: Wed, Sep 7, 7:00-9:00 pm

Open to Men and Women

Targeted to the needs of men or women going through or anticipating divorce or dealing with other family law issues, this Clinic will give you an opportunity to discuss your own questions on such topics as:

- * Divorce
- * Separation
- * Paternity
- * Property Division
- * Custody
- * Spousal Maintenance
- * Child Support
- * Financial Settlements
- * Co-habitation

Attorneys will volunteer their time and expertise for the benefit of those who attend. A nominal fee of \$5 is charged for the public. Members of the Men's Center receive a courtesy discount.

A Circle of Warriors

Presenter: Andy Mickel
When: Wed, Sep 14, 7:00-9:00 pm

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"The initiation of men is the hope of the world." - Don Jones, former chairman, ManKind Project.

A Circle of Warriors

Presenter: Andy Mickel
When: Wed, Sep 21, 7:00-9:00 pm

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We are all familiar with a man's physical tools (a hammer, a sword, a plow....) Is this enough? What about integrity, commitment, action and clarity? I know that most men want and need these tools. The New Warrior Training Adventure can help. Join a circle of warriors to ask questions and hear how the adventure has changed men's lives.

"The initiation of men is the hope of the world." - Don Jones, former chairman, ManKind Project.

Wellness & Weight Loss

Presenter: Karen Massoglia
When: Wed, Sep 28, 7:00-9:00

Open to Men and Women

This presentation for those suffering from obesity or being overweight, type 2 diabetes, on medications for symptoms related to being over weight, or would like a simple system without drugs to reach optimal health.

Karen Massoglia is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University. Over the last 10 years, her work with healthSource and Take Shape for Life has enabled hundreds of people to reach for optimal health. She mentors and develops health coaches because she believes that we can turn around the future of our country, one healthy person at a time.

SUPPORT GROUPS

"The mission of the Men's Center Support Groups is to create a safe place, in times of personal and social challenge, for any men and women to receive and give support to one another and share feelings and experiences to facilitate SELF-ACCEPTANCE and PERSONAL GROWTH."

The Men's Center support groups are hosted by a trained facilitator. Although each group has a specific focus, all groups are Open to general discussions and attended as a Drop-In basis. Support groups begin promptly at 7:30, so arrive early such that you can browse the many resources and library materials. A donation of \$3-9 helps keep TMC operational. Liquid refreshments are available at a separate donation rate. All groups are men only, except where listed for women and men.

• Minneapolis Location

3249 Hennepin Ave. S. Suite 55

General Men's Issues/ Divorce/Uncoupling

Open to Men Only

Men express feelings about separation, divorce, breaking up with a lover, and topics such as child custody/legal hassles. Men can express what it means to be a man in our culture and other issues in their lives.

- Mondays 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Abuse Survivors

Open to Men and Women

Many adults have been sexually abused in childhood or adolescence. Whether you have clear memories or vague recollections you probably experience difficult feelings of fear, anger, grief, or embarrassment. Sharing your story and feelings with others is proven to be a critical part of the healing process. The Abuse Survivors Group provides a safe environment to share your experiences and learn about how others are coping with these issues. Join us in developing healthier attitudes and behaviors that transform us from victims into survivors.

- Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Addiction Busters

Open to Men and Women

Struggling with chemical or behavioral addiction? AA not helping you? Frustrated with twelve-step programs? Don't like feeling powerless?

Want to bust your addiction rather than being busted FOR your addiction? Would you like to talk about Rational Recovery, SMART Recovery, the works of Stanton Peele, Ann Fletcher, James Prochaska and others in a supportive, confidential, comfortable atmosphere? Come to Addiction Busters support group and discuss alternative, cognitive approaches that may help you battle your addiction in new and different ways!

- Tuesdays 7:30- 9:30 pm

Gay Issues

Open to Men Only

Men express feelings about life's challenges and experiences, and what it means to be gay and male (you don't have to be gay to attend.) This is the Twin Cities longest running gay support group.

- Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Transitions

Open to Men and Women

This group is intended to focus on the difficulties persons face when leaving a prison environment and reentering the community, where a former prisoner can go for emotional support when he returns to the community, and where he can be openly honest about his discouragements, frustrations, temptations, and fear of public attitudes.

- Wednesdays 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Healthy Sexual Boundaries-EAST

Open to Men Only

Do you have concerns about your sexual behavior? Are you receiving negative feedback about your sexual choices? Worries about excessive, compulsive or obsessive sexual activities? Too much pornography in your life? Too many strip clubs? Ever feel like a sex addict? Feeling uncomfortable about inappropriate fantasies/thoughts/urges? Hurting or disappointing someone you love?

This group is a safe, non-confrontational, non-judgmental place to talk with other men about healthy sexual boundaries.

The group is open to all men, not just Project Pathfinder clients or former clients. If you are currently in primary treatment at Project Pathfinder, please consult with your therapist before attending this group.

Location:

Project Pathfinder Group Room "B"
Griggs-Midway Building (NE Entrance)
3rd Floor, Suite N385
1821 University Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55104

- Wednesdays 5:30 - 7:30 pm

NORTHSIDE General Men's Issues / Relationship Issues

Open to Men Only

Men can express thoughts and feelings about the process of life's challenges and experiences, and what it means to be a man in American culture. The North Metro especially the Northside has unique stressors as under-served, under-resourced area. This is a group to talk about it all on an interpersonal level from the support of other men. Facilitators: Michael Martens, Malik Holt-Shabazz

- First Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location:

Harrison Neighborhood Association -
503 Irving Ave N, Minneapolis 55405

FFI: Michael Martens, 612-377-5496

General Men's Issues/ Divorce/Uncoupling

Open to Men Only

Men express feelings about separation, divorce, breaking up with a lover, and topics such as child custody/legal hassles. Men can express what it means to be a man in our culture and other issues in their lives.

- Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Bisexual and Gay Issues

Open to Men Only

Men of all orientations explore a wide range of personal issues including our sexuality. We focus on our feelings about who we are and how we choose to live in the future.

- Fridays 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Healthy Sexual Boundaries

Open to Men Only

Do you have concerns about your sexual behavior? Are you receiving negative feedback about your sexual choices? Worries about excessive, compulsive or obsessive sexual activities? Too much pornography in your life? Too many strip clubs? Ever feel like a sex addict? Feeling uncomfortable about inappropriate fantasies/thoughts/urges? Hurting or disappointing someone you love?

This group is a safe, non-confrontational, non-judgmental place to talk with other men about healthy sexual boundaries.

Healthy Boundaries welcomes all men who are currently participating in, or who have completed, sex offender treatment. Facilitated by Tommy Jones and Bobby Schauerhamer.

- Saturdays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Men Facing Retirement Issues

Open to Men Only

A support group for men thinking about retirement or who have already retired. It is an opportunity to share feelings with other men about the importance of work and what happens when paid employment is no longer part of a man's life.

- 3rd Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Here and There

– Edited by Andy Mickel

Upcoming **Monthly Men's Sunday Brunches** (bring something to share/cook up): **August 21st** is cancelled. **September 18th** (Fall equinox) at Andy Mickel's, 106 SE Arthur Ave, Minneapolis, 55414 (in Prospect Park off University Ave near I-94 and 280), 612-331-8396.

About a dozen men attended Jim Lovestar's Father's Day brunch and about a half-dozen men attended Stephen Sewell's July brunch. - Andy Mickel, 2011-07-17.

Ancestralization Ritual Intensive August 18-21, (meet at Living Waters Market & Cafe, 12201 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. Facilitated by Terileigh and Yves, initiated elders in Malidoma Some's Dagara tribe.

In Dagara viewpoint/village life, Ancestralization is a part of the grieving process when family members die. It is done to keep the community in the physical world connected, communicating with, and receiving help from, the spirit world. Loss of ancestor connection is tantamount to having more than half of our wisdom and help cut off; arguably, that's part of the problem with the modern condition: here we hasten our elders and sick ones off to institutions, put them in the ground quietly when they die, then move on in life with a numb heart and memories of the past, with little connection afterwards.

According to Malidoma Some, departed relatives are eager to help us; most of them did not complete their "work" while they were alive in this world. Unresolved hurts and unfinished tasks remain their responsibility; they are hoping that we will invite them into our life so that we might together better face common challenges and mend broken parts of self and community. Ancestralization is like the formal invitation to work together, and it provides the pathway for working "partnerships".

The intensive begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday by lunchtime. All participants are expected to remain on-site during the intensive. Tenting is available, and some room space is available. Fee is \$495 to cover intensive and meals. FFI: Dan Gorbunow 612-987-0324 <thunderbird@live.com> Pre-registration recommended. To register and more info: www.mnritualhealing.com

weebly.com/abundance-ritual.html - Dan Gorbunow, 2011-07-15

27th Annual Minnesota Men's Conference, Sept 13-18, Camp Miller, Sturgeon Lake Attendance will be limited to 90 adult men and 30 young men. Cost : \$850 Adult Men, \$500 for Young Men. FFI: Craig Ungerman at Hidden Wine: 860-942-1658.

"When the Waters Rise: Men and the Work of Renewal" As the earth continues its natural upheavals, contemporary men struggle with disasters, social imbalances, persistent stresses, and the horror of multiple conflicts. A cultural wealth of old stories, rituals, companionship, artistic expressions and thoughtful questions would traditionally give men the clues for thriving in the darkness around us, which is deep.

For twenty-six years men have gathered at The Minnesota Men's Conferences to look for those clues and patterns as they strive to live with more purpose. Old folklore reminds us that the gifts of nature, in the feminine and the masculine, can bring heat and renewed joy into our lives. According to the Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca, something moist, dark and vital rises from the earth to provide great value for the soul.

Please join us this year as we make room at our table for the returning warrior, for the young man learning to struggle gracefully and for the refugee far from home. As we take nourishment and drink from the earth's gifts let us share in the healing companionship of other men and search the cumulative experience of those who came before us to find sustenance for soulful living.

Gifted teachers we welcome are: Dr. Edward Tick, Director of Soldier's Heart, a national not-for-profit working to heal the emotional, spiritual and moral wounds of war in our nation's veterans, their families and communities. John Lee will offer his profound insight into how we can navigate the trouble of regression and men's anger. Myth tellers Daniel Deardorff and Martin Shaw will join us together in a story. Malidoma Some and Miguel Rivera, with their deep feeling for the indigenous world of nature and ritual, will help us stay connected to these primary sources of the masculine heart. Tom Gambell, with

his compassionate, open-hearted Aikido, and Doug Von Koss, with his love song arrows, will engage us in two ancient expressions: the power of movement and the power of song. Timothy Young, Thomas R. Smith, and Jay Leeming will lead us through the forest of words to find our own poems of depth and praise. Robert Bly will hopefully be with us again reading new poems & old poems, and creating mischief as usual from his unique vantage of being an Elder. After your registration is received, a confirmation letter with conference details will be sent.

- Mark Stanley, 2011-07-08.

The next **ManKind Project-Minnesota New Warrior Training Adventure** will be held Sept 30 - Oct 2, 2011 at Eagle Lake Camp near Brainerd, Minnesota. \$150 holds your place for registration, with many payment plans and partial scholarships available. To learn more, attend an Open Warrior Circle event: Observe, Ask Questions (or Participate if you like) in a safe container with a group of men who are practicing authenticity and connection to feeling at **Open Circle of Warriors** events at the Men's Center every 2nd Wednesday, 7-9 p.m. Contact **Andy Mickel** with any questions 612-279-6416 or for Open I-Group dates/times, see: <<http://minnesota.mkp.org/>> . - Andy Mickel, 2011-07-18.

Men's Retirement Group Schedule Change

The monthly Men's Retirement Support group will meet the 4th Sunday of August, the 28th, and the 4th Sunday of September, the 25th, at 5:30pm, instead of the usual 3rd Sundays

The group is for men who are thinking about or have retired, and want an opportunity to discuss feelings about this major life change. Welcome if this sounds like it might help you!

Norm Petrik, Group
Facilitator

Twin Cities Men's Center

ALL-PURPOSE FORM

Men's Center members are entitled to: participate in our annual & monthly Board meetings, receive *Men Talk*, use the reference library, and enjoy reduced fees to Men's Center-sponsored events such as Wed. presentations.

- I want to sustain the activities of The Men's Center by becoming a "20 x 12 Honor Roll Member."
- Please ENTER/RENEW my membership at The Men's Center for the next 12 months:
Enclosed please find \$_____ \$20 (Regular) \$40 (Patron).
- I want to make an additional, tax-deductible gift of \$_____. (*Thanks much!*)
- My new|correct address|phone is printed below.
- Please remove me from The Men's Center mailing list; the pre-addressed gummed mailing label is attached.
- I have these feelings, thoughts, opinions, ideas, news items for The Twin Cities Men's Center / *Men Talk*

DATE: _____
 FROM Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____

 Home Phone: _____
 Work/Other Phone: _____
 E-mail Address: _____

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MEN TALK ADVERTISERS!

Anger Management Program

The focus of the twelve week anger management class is both education and support. Through class interaction, experiential exercises, lecture, and homework assignments, men will develop new ways to manage their feelings of anger. Following completion of the class, participants can join an ongoing support group to reinforce their new skills. These ongoing support groups will also be facilitated by the trained volunteer facilitators.

Length of Class:

12 consecutive weeks

Number of Participants:

Limited to 12 men per class

Cost: \$215 for TCMC Members (\$225 for Non-Members)

Starting Dates: Classes are filled on a first come, first served basis. Currently, there is one on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The next class starts Sept. 12 on Monday nights.

Please call TCMC at 612-822-5892 to be placed on the waiting list. State name, address, telephone, preferred starting class. Or if you need further details, call our Anger Management coordinator, John Hesch, on the Anger Management phone 612-229-3102.

MEN TALK ADVERTISING RATE SCHEDULE

Full Page	7 1/2" x 10"	\$200
1/2 Page	7 1/2" x 4 7/8"	\$125
1/4 Page	3 5/8" x 4 7/8"	\$65
Biz Card	3 1/2" x 2"	\$25

(612) 822-5892

tcmc@tcmc.org

THANK YOU!

The Men's Center receives generous donations of baked goods from Wuollet's and Breadsmith Bakeries.

You can find them at 25th and Hennepin
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 3249 Hennepin Ave S

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Half Day (4 hrs)	\$25	\$50
Hourly	\$7.50	\$15

(612) 822-5892

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TMC Office Hours: M 11:30am–12:30pm, 2:30pm–4:00pm; Tu, Th, F 1:00pm–4:00pm. Our telephone (612) 822-5892 is answered 24-hours per day by US West voicemail, and an attempt is made to return calls within 1 or 2 days. Our FAX number is (612) 821-6424.

TMC is in the lower level of "Uptown Office Park," a brick office building on the Northeast corner of West 33rd Street and Hennepin Avenue in south Minneapolis, Enter through the door on the north (3249) end of the building (it has 2 numbers: 3249 and 3255!), immediately turn left and descend the stairway through the fire door to Suite 55. (Formerly) handicapped access is easiest through a side door on West 33rd Street.

Check out our web site: www.tcmc.org or correspond at our e-mail address: tcmc@tcmc.org

The Men's Center
3249 Hennepin Avenue South, Suite 55
Minneapolis, MN 55408 USA

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4

BOOK REVIEW — TAPPING POWER: A MAN'S GUIDE TO ELIMINATING PAIN, STRESS, ANGER, DEPRESSION AND OTHER ILLS

Tapping Power will be the first book to offer the techniques of Energy Medicine to help men, and the women who love them, regain inner strength and power in their lives.

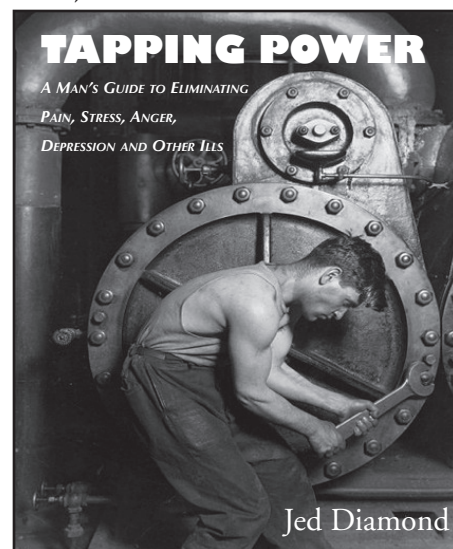
Throughout the world men are networking—seeking new ways to boost energy, reduce stress, effectively handle physical and emotional pain, sleep better, resolve the inner mysteries of PTSD, develop skills for managing anger, lift depression, heal addictions, solve conflicts at work, have a more satisfying sex life, and play more crucial and positive roles with family and community.

Energy Medicine is proving to be the perfect tool for a great many men. It is action oriented. The techniques are simple to learn. Talking is not required. There are no pills to take. No need to re-live painful experiences from the past. Relief is often immediate. And results are lasting. Though all this may seem too good to be true, new scientific studies reveal that Energy Medicine works wonders. Women, too, are vitally interested in learning ways they can help men to heal themselves and their relationships.

About the Author

Jed Diamond, Ph.D., is Founder and Director of the MenAlive, a health program that helps men live long and well. Though focused on men's health, MenAlive is also for women who care about the health of the men in their lives. Since its inception in 1992, Jed has been on the Board of Advisors of the Men's Health Network.

Diamond has been a licensed psychotherapist for over 40 years and is the author of nine books including the international best-selling Male Menopause and Surviving Male Menopause that have thus far been translated into 22 foreign languages and The Irritable Male Syndrome: Understanding and Managing the 4 Key Causes of Depression and Aggression, which is also developing a world-wide readership. Mr. Mean: Saving Your Relationship from the Irritable Male Syndrome was published in May, 2010.



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