

April 19, 2000

## NYC / Revolutionary Voices Return to Stonewall

The use of physical space has been a central tool in the way that gay men and women have created community for the last twenty-five years. It was in fact a sense of collective ownership of physical space, and the attack on it by NYC police, that sparked the Stonewall Riots----an event that is generally regarded as the epiphany of the modern gay civil rights movement.

On an individual level, this was a moment in which each man put himself on the line, each defending his right to sexual freedom. On a collective level, it was a moment in which gay men discovered that they were not alone, that there was power in standing up and standing "out," and that signifying physical space provided a tool for creating both identity and community.

Today, more than 25 years later, a quieter revolution is taking place on the same site of the Stonewall Riots----quieter, but no less vocal and no less courageous. And again, it's all about creating "space." Under the banner of "Brandon's Poz Social," HIV+ gay men are gathering in a room above the Stonewall Bar on Christopher St. in Greenwich Village. Frustrated by the politics of AIDS, shunned by many HIV- gay men, alienated by many gay institutions, wearied of the appropriation of their serostatus by the endless trail of physicians, therapists, and social workers, HIV+ gay men come together to speak for themselves and to nurture one another. One by one, and increasingly in twos and threes, they walk through the door to share an evening out together, putting themselves and their identity on the line, exercising the same courage that in an earlier era brought gay men together in riot strength and defiant unity.

Like those men 25 years ago, the goal of coming together is social....a chance to make some new friends, have some fun, and let some healing into our lives.

### BRANDON'S POZ SOCIAL

Upstairs at the Stonewall Bar

53 Christopher St. (Sheridan Sq.)

Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm / 2-4-1 All Night