



Grieving

Friday July 28, 2023

Sound Mind Company Session #4.

Facilitator, Rosas - RT

Location, San Quentin Hosp Group Rm 3.

Customary 5 min meditation

Session began with the observation of a new participant from Condemned Unit North - Seg Miss Mickle, in her gracefulness.

Floyd (cg), the groups curator was 1st to respond to the introduction of a video titled GRIEVING presented by facilitator Rosas (sa).

While the very powerful video addressed the HIV/AIDS impact of death for the LGBTQ+ community, it did so, as usual, from a Eurobized perspective.

Floyd (cg), in an effort to amplify the message in the video, created an ethnographic connectivity translation environment for the all Black participants of this session.

Floyd (cg) presented the story of Bobby DeBarge, the lead singer of the R&B group SWITCH.

Rosas (sa), brilliantly began to play the first stanzas of the song, "I call your name" by SWITCH, as Floyd made the presentation, and then Floyd (cg) asked Rosas to search Bobby DeBarge cause of death.

Rosas, read the search results, "He died of AIDS".

A very notable gasp came over the group:

Miss Robinson (t), stated;

"I didn't know that, I do remember back in school.....
(Singing lyrics from some of SWICH's most popular songs)

Miss Micklett stated;

"I'm from San Francisco and knew a lot, but I didn't know about how Bobby DeBarge did either."

Floyd (g) stated;

I did this to show how sometimes the story of the LGBTQ+ Community, don't always include the Heroes and Stereos that are valued in the inner city streets of America, and how the impactful message of safe-sex practices could have saved more lives had our everyday notables like Bobby would've been "More" accessible to our generation at that time.

They exposed more about Bobby's Father's molestation of his sons, than Bobby's sexual orientation!"

Miss Robinson (t);

"They always unfairly associate pedophilia with being gay, and they have nothing to do with each other, and that creates even more of a stigma in our marginalised communities"

Floyd (g);

They say when an Adult male have sex with a child, it's Childmolestation because the adult was a homosexual, but when an Adult male molest a child who is female, nobody says he did it because he was heterosexual, or when a Female Adult School teacher have sex with a minor Male student, nobody says she did it because she's heterosexual."

So with Bobby DeBarge we miss and opportunity to properly grieve, and moreover are also deprived access to impactful information that can be lifesaving about HIV and AIDS.

Miss McKle (t);

"Yeah, because I had to be one way in the cell, and be another way outside of the cell, and not be able to relay a lot of valuable things to who I was in the cell because, do you understand what I'm saying?"

Floyd (g);

"I been to a lot of groups, and this is the only group where we can actually do work, and a space like this don't exist in the Education Dept, Religious Dept, or Vocational Dept for the condemned, so we fought hard for this so you can be you . . ."

Rosas (sa);

"Yes, having a safe space to be vulnerable and expressive is valuable to your mental state"

Floyd (g);

"Exactly, that's why we created The Sound Mind Streamer Media televised program, so people who are still in the cell, and don't feel safe to come to a group, can have access to affirming content simply by turning on their personal TV's. There is a lot of people like you, and Bobby DeBarge that are not struggling with their own sexuality, we all struggle with how society and community struggles with our sexual orientation because when they say LGBTQ+, all they hear is SEX, we are more than SEX."

The short session was long in part to the realization of the need to grieve, and how communities grieve, and how individuals process grieving.

It's evident how the topic of AIDS and HIV is forever stigmatized, and connected with "Homosexuality", and not so much associated with Transgenderism from the perspective of "The Hood." Or just ask the average person what's the first thing that comes to mind when they hear the acronym AIDS/HIV.

Betty DeBorja didn't identify as Transgender, and also not "Openly Gay," but for the Black community in those days, AIDS was still a so-called White Gay person's disease, and some believe it was a "god sent plague" to exterminate all "undesirables", a concept right out of the Hitler handbook.

The Sound Mind content is media that generates these valuable conversations. You can find these kinds of videos @ Sound Mind Streamer/YouTube.

Go to playlist/Go to Sound Mind Streamer #1, push play and allow the program engulf you about the sector of the demographic of residents that require a safe place to land, a safe place, to be, a safe place to simply just be.

Can't wait until the next session because we never know who's gonna show up, or what the session topic will evolve into.