

The Aquarian Research Foundation

In 1969, against a backdrop of war and fading flower children, Art Rosenblum, then a 42-year-old Peter Pan started Aquarian Research Foundation in Philadelphia. His purpose was to find out how a whole new age of freedom, harmony and love could come about, and to do whatever it would take to help it happen quickly and peacefully. Spiritual insights would be combined with a scientific approach. With the help of his wife, Judy, whom he married in 1976, and the assistance of dozens of other sympathetic people over the years, Art has kept Aquarian alive and flourishing. His idealism about the future of the world stems from having lived fifteen years in a religious community, twelve of them in primitive conditions in Paraguay.

Two years spent setting up print shops for the peace movement in the mid-1960s brought Art into contact with many alternative communities, which led him to view communal living as an answer to the neurotic lifestyles of so many present-day nuclear families. Art saw much of the current malaise in society due to people's fears of change and feelings of powerlessness to make needed changes.

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In A.R.F.'s first year, a printshop was installed in the little house in Germantown in which Aquarian is still based. A newsletter was started, originally intended as a monthly letter to Art's friends and acquaintances. In the early and mid-1970s, when new ideas about health and lifestyles were being promulgated by many individuals and groups, Art became a fact-finding journalist of the new age movement. He drove to Mexico to investigate a laetrile clinic, to California to check out Jim Jones' People's Temple. He researched claims about alternate energy devices, tested pyramids, studied mind control, and learned about physical affection and the origins of violence.

One of the most intriguing concepts encountered, which has occupied Aquarian's attention up to the present time, has been that of mental control of conception, with its obvious implications of total empowerment of the individual. In 1971,

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The Rosenblums

Aquarian published one of the first books available on natural methods of birth control. Besides mental control, it also described a method based on moon phases, which had been researched by the Czech medical doctor, Eugen Jonas. Over the years, feedback from several hundred women as well as information on other natural methods has required Aquarian to revise the book five times. One of the newest methods, hypnosis for birth control, is being researched locally by a native Philadelphia Ph.D., as well as internationally. Details will appear in the sixth edition, slated for publication in February. Art's wife, Judy, has had a major hand in the more recent revisions.

Art met Judy, a former art teacher in the Philadelphia public schools, at an alternative press book fair during the Bicentennial celebration. For months prior to their meeting, she had been practicing mental programming in order to find a husband and a new job. After a zany courtship of twenty-eight days, they married.

Art and Judy and cohorts became networkers of the alternatives movement. Art became a pilot. They soon obtained the use of an airplane and started taking people on guided tours of various intentional communities. Aquarian had become a clearinghouse for information on new age lifestyles. The Rosenblums enjoyed a brief taste of Utopia, until reality broke in.

Judy was one month pregnant with their daughter, Serendipity, when the Three Mile Island accident occurred in March, 1979. That very day, Judy had been taking notes for an article at a hearing at the

Federal Courthouse in Philadelphia. Disabled veterans exposed to fallout from nuclear bomb tests in the early 1950s were requesting that the federal government warn families of such former soldiers of the possibility of birth defects in their future children. The government refused.

Soon after, when Dr. Helen Caldicott began warning people of the very real danger of nuclear war, the Rosenblums decided to shift their priorities, realizing that the new age would never come unless we survived the present one. They shared their quarters freely with peace activists, provided room and board for printing apprentices interested in the cause, and donated printing labor for peace and safe energy groups.

Always interested in positive approaches, the Aquarians contemplated novel ways of drawing public attention to the peace issue, as well as spreading new age awareness. They focused on the technique of attaining a goal by first visualizing it as already having happened, a concept well-known among metaphysical groups, and even referred to in the Bible.

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Two years ago, they decided to send out humorous-looking invitations to a worldwide, week-long party in October 1984, to celebrate world disarmament. Recently, Dr. Robert Muller, Assistant Secretary-General of the U.N., gave his approval of the event. After having distributed over 100,000 invitations, the A.R.F. people are now expanding the concept to celebrate world transformation, hoping to make "transformation" a household word by the end of 1984. They believe that in order for peace to be achieved, a profound change in the world's thinking must occur quickly. They want to reach people with the message that we are all responsible for the survival of the planet, and that it is now time for us to take the next giant step for humanity, which is to learn to love one another.

Aquarian Research Foundation is located at 5620 Morton St. in Philadelphia. Their telephone number is (215) 849-3237.

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