

You and the Q.

Newsletter of the Jersey Shore Community Center Project

Issue 1, October 2005

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

by MaryAnn Vitiello

It is with gratitude that I embrace the opportunity to serve as the Chairperson of the Jersey Shore Community Center Project (Madame Chair, if you will) and welcome you to the first issue of *You and the Q.*

Peter Ellyard, futurist and global strategist defines the future as not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths to it are not found, but made; and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination. The Jersey Shore Community Center Project embraces this vision of the future and invites you to join us on our journey. Dreams can be extremely powerful. Dreams, when properly nourished and guided, can become a reality. And so the reality of the **jersey shore Q spot** began as just a dream 9 months ago.

The **jersey shore Q spot** is a program of the Jersey Shore Community Center Project (The Project), a New Jersey nonprofit corporation. Its mission – to foster the health, well being and pride of individuals, groups and families within Monmouth and Ocean Counties' gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) communities – is not unique. What is unique is our commitment to execute this mission in the true spirit of community collaboration.

Our initial steps toward that end included the development of a steering committee, which is now serving as the Project's initial Board of Trustees. I am proud to be working with this dedicated and talented group of volunteers. Together we are committed to accomplishing our goals, chief among them guiding our own evolution into a governing body that truly reflects the diversity of the GLBT community we hope to serve.



Over 300 people filled out needs assessment surveys at this summer's Jersey Pride Festival in Asbury Park.

Incorporated in July 2005, the Project also continues to develop its infrastructure, including the development of our working committees and website. With regard to programming and services, we collaborated with other GLBT centers to focus our attention on assessing our community's needs. This assessment process, initiated in June 2005, includes the ongoing analysis of the responses we've received to a survey designed to collect information about who you are and what you'd like to see and do at a community center such as the **jersey shore Q spot**. Survey results thus far overwhelmingly confirm that a GLBT community center would be welcomed and enthusiastically supported. They also show widespread interest in supportive services for youth, seniors and families that would include a wide range of social, educational, personal and professional development activities and programs. The Board of Trustees and our newly formed committees are actively working to design and implement programs, events and activities that address these identified needs and interests.

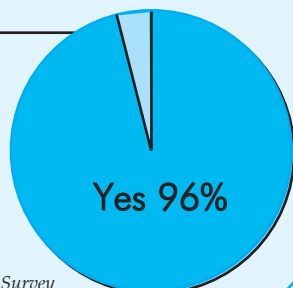
We are also focusing considerable effort on finding a suitable home and conducting intensive fundraising efforts to pay for it. We envision the creation of a safe comfortable (tastefully decorated of course!) space, one that is easily accessible by public transportation, with enough room to accommodate all our activities... a des-

continues on page 4

SURVEY SAYS...

Would you support a
GLBT Community Center
in Monmouth County?

Yes 96%
No 4%



Source: 2005 Q Spot Needs Assessment Survey

MEET YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Like most other non-profit corporations, the Jersey Shore Community Center Project is governed by a Board of Trustees. The members of our current Board, all of whom volunteer their time, represent the wide range of interest, experience and skill needed to establish a community center like the one we envision. We thought you'd like to know a little more about them. Listed in alphabetical order, they are:

Joe D'Andrea has a long history of involvement in GLBT and HIV/AIDS organizations. Currently he is the publisher of GayAsburyPark.com, and before moving to New Jersey, Joe published a weekly GLBT newspaper for more than 10 years in suburban New York. He has been active in local GLBT and business groups.

Sue Henderson is the guidance counselor at Ocean Township High School and has a long history of teaching and counseling at area schools. She is involved in the school's athletics program. Sue is a member of the LGT Caucus of the NJEA and president of the Asbury Park Homeowners Association. Most recently Sue has been instrumental in getting a GSA chapter started at her high school.

Jim Nappi is an attorney in private practice focusing on the special needs of members of the gay and lesbian community. He has served on the Boards of several other local non-profit groups, including the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County, the Asbury Park Homeowners Association and the Asbury Park Historical Society.

Tom Oprea is an interior architect and for the past 10 years operates his own firm specializing in space planning, and design and construction particularly renovation and redesign of existing buildings. Tom has been involved in fundraising for many GLBT organizations throughout New York City and New Jersey.

Brent Pawlecki is a physician and is the medical director in charge of a Fortune 500 company's clinics and wellness programs in the United States and serves as a medical consultant for the corporate disability department. He is actively involved in numerous organizations, including the Coalition to Promote Minority Health.

Jill Potter is a local small-business owner and "team leader" assigned to a superior court criminal judge. She

has served on the board for the Asbury Park Marketing Fund and has produced major entertainment events raising tens of thousands of dollars for GLBT causes. Jill is the founder of the Asbury Park "L" Group.

Tamara Richardson is the Workforce Development Director for the City of Asbury Park. Tamara is a long-time resident of Monmouth County. She has 25 years of experience as an educator/counselor within New Jersey. She has developed many Career Planning and Placement, Student Leadership, Minority Student Service and Peer Tutorial Programs.

Ted Scheffler is currently a teacher at Colts Neck High School. A father of nine years, Ted has previously been the Assistant Director of Manhattan Plaza's AIDS Project. He has been a teacher, staff developer, and curriculum writer with the NYC school system.

Eva Sipos is currently employed by the City of Asbury Park as a Police Dispatcher. She was the founder and facilitator of a lesbian discussion group, has been active in her local neighborhood watch group and was board member of the former Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Asbury Park.

MaryAnn Vitiello is a Nurse Practitioner with 30 years of nursing experience - 20 of which have been in HIV/AIDS and community development/ mobilization. She currently maintains an appointment on the Governor's HIV Advisory Council. She is a mother and grandmother.

OUR MISSION

The **jersey shore Q spot**, a program of the Jersey Shore Community Center Project, was established to address the unique needs and concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals living in and around Monmouth and Ocean Counties, New Jersey. Its mission is to foster the health, well being and pride of Monmouth and Ocean County's GLBT community. Through its provision of resources, referrals and general support, the **jersey shore Q spot** cares for individuals, groups and families in need and provides public education and outreach services that empower GLBT individuals and families to live their lives in freedom and dignity.

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Your Ad Here
Reaches The
Jersey Shore
GLBT Community

CREATIVE FUNDRAISING IS THIS VOLUNTEER'S SPECIALITY

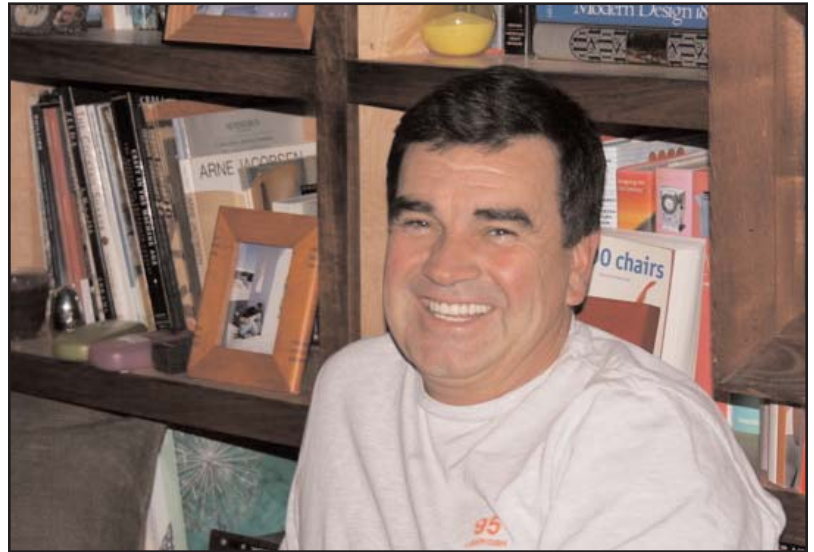
As anyone who has ever been involved with a non-profit service organization knows, you're only as strong as the people who support you. Support with time, support with funding, support of any kind is critical if such an organization is ever to have any hope of accomplishing its goals.

To date, even at this early stage in our development, the **jersey shore Q spot** has been lucky enough to receive encouragement and help of all kinds from members of both the gay and straight communities from all over Monmouth and Ocean Counties. And while every bit is greatly appreciated, we hope to periodically spotlight those who have made particularly significant contributions or who have found unusual, interesting or creative ways to help.

So, in this issue, we'd like to tell you about the efforts of longtime Asbury Park resident and businessman Billy Meisch.

To anyone familiar with the ever-changing face of downtown Asbury Park, Billy is a staple. He's been in business on Cookman Avenue for twenty-five years, currently operating his House of Modern Living at number 718. An expert on mid-20th century furnishings, accessories and design, Billy is responsible for the renovation of his building and store, as well as for his second-story living space, a temple to the notion of fine living through functional design. His interior design work can also be experienced at several well-known Asbury Park establishments, including Bistro Ole and Moonstruck.

But Billy's life is not all about his work. For years he has also lent his creativity and energy to a number of local groups and organizations. For example, it was Billy who planned and coordinated the now famous Night in Hollywood benefit for the Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce, and he was instrumental in making the Night of 100 Parties events happen for the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County.



And it's apparent that Billy has now set his creative sights on helping the **jersey shore Q spot**. For example, clients of Billy's recently made a very generous donation, explaining that they did so at Billy's request and in lieu of paying him a fee for his services. When asked to comment, Billy simply said it was the easiest and most painless way to get much needed funding to an organization worthy of support. "If it falls in my hands first, there's a good chance you ain't getting' it," he added with a laugh.

Billy is also collecting autographed books by gay and lesbian authors for a future event designed to raise money and establish a **jersey shore Q spot** lending library, and he's signed on to work with the fundraising committee on a major event we're hoping to produce next spring.

Whether it's time, ideas or the fees he should have gotten from his clients, support like Billy Meisch's is exactly what the **jersey shore Q spot** needs. We thank Billy for his efforts to date and hope others will find creative ways to follow his lead. **Q**

OH GIVE US A HOME....

It's among our highest priorities. The Board of Trustees is actively seeking a place to call our own. Ideally, it would provide us with space for meetings, programs and events. A comfortable, safe and easily accessible place where community members can gather to socialize or just relax. Maybe a computer room with internet access and even that lending library and reading room we're hoping for.

It all sounds real good, but truth be told, at this point, we'd settle for a "starter home". We are pursuing some

promising leads and will keep you posted on our progress. In the meantime, we'd be happy to hear any of

your suggestions or ideas. And when the time comes, we hope we can count on you to help make our home, however humble it may be, a place we can all be proud of. **Q**

HOW YOU CAN CONTACT US NOW

For the time being, our home is virtual. We're coordinating all our activities through our mailing address, our mailing lists and our website. For more information, or to volunteer or make a donation:

FOR U.S. MAIL:
57 So. Main St. #234
Neptune, NJ 07753

ON THE INTERNET:
www.jsQspot.org
info@jsqspot.org

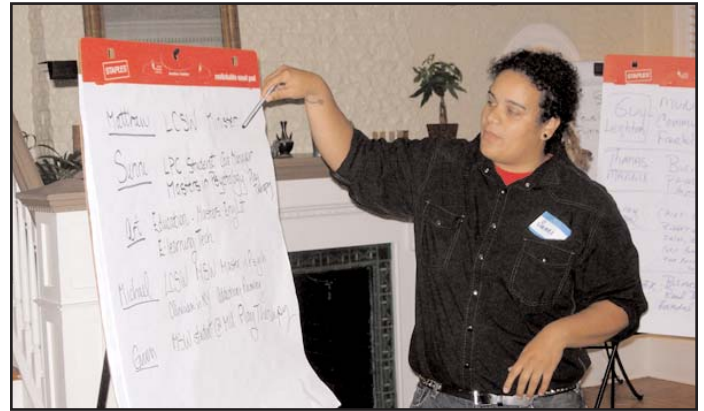
ARE YOU A PIG OR JUST PLAIN CHICKEN?

“The difference between ‘involvement’ and ‘commitment’ is like an eggs-and-ham breakfast: the chicken was ‘involved’ - the pig was ‘committed’.”
- anonymous

For any non-profit, the only thing harder than asking people to give up their cash, is asking them to give up their time - most people have precious little extra to give, and what little they do have they generally don't want to spend attending meetings, stuffing envelopes, and working at events they could otherwise simply attend and enjoy.

But let's face it, without a solid base of strong volunteers an organization whose success depends on those who will contribute their talents freely is doomed to failure. That's why the jersey shore Q spot needs you. Especially now, while we are still developing; while we are still laying the groundwork for the community center we all want us to be.

How can you help? Start by joining our other volunteers on one of the committees established to date. The Programs, Projects and Events Committee will arrange and conduct all regularly scheduled programs and oversee all projects and events conducted to further the purposes of the jersey shore Q spot. Our Fundraising Committee plans and implements special and ongoing funding and endowment development activities and develops programs for maintaining and expanding our donor population. And the Publicity Committee writes and arranges for the distribution of this newsletter, and other articles and flyers publicizing the Q spot's current programs and future ventures, maintains our website and a scrapbook



A dozen volunteers turned out at a recent volunteer meeting to begin the planning and implementation of the Q Spot.

and other documentation to record the history of the Jersey Shore Community Center Project.

We've already had our first volunteer coordination meeting, which attracted a fantastic group with exactly the talent and energy we need. A second orientation session is scheduled for December 3rd. Details regarding the time and place of that meeting will be posted on our website shortly, so keep checking and plan to join us.

The jersey shore Q spot is destined to make history for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Being involved is easy - show up at an event, throw out a suggestion here and there, or sign on as member when that becomes an option. Making a commitment to play a more significant role in making our history takes a bit more guts. You can be involved to whatever extent you choose. We'll appreciate it no matter what. But the more of you who take that step and make a real commitment, the better off we'll all be.

So. We ask again. Are you a pig? Or just plain chicken? **Q**

NEXT VOLUNTEER MEETING DECEMBER 3RD. CHECK THE WEBSITE TO APPLY NOW

Welcome Message From The Chairperson
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Continuation to meet friends, use the internet, socialize, relax. We are also in the process of developing our membership structure and will keep you updated.

There is much work to be done to develop a sustainable GLBT Community Center. The future success of the jersey shore Q spot will require vision, perseverance, patience, imagination, humility. This will not happen without focused intentional activity. Please join us in this effort... there are going to be some fabulous history making times ahead! **Q**

