

You and the Q.

Newsletter of the Jersey Shore Community Center Project

Issue 5, October 2006

KEEPING THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN

VOLUNTEERS KEEP "YOU AND THE Q" PRESSES ROLLING AND LAUNCH REFRESHED WEBSITE

It's been clear from the very beginning that communication was going to be critical to our success in getting the *jersey shore Q spot* in operation. After all it only makes sense – this dream can't come true without the support of the community and the community can only become vested in the dream if it knows and understands what is happening.

It's also been equally clear that in our case the most effective means of communicating with our community is the internet. With no permanent physical space, the web provides us an economical and efficient place to exist virtually. And the optimum package for delivery of information: e-mail blasts and a substantive and professionally produced newsletter.

Of course, drafting e-mail messages, producing a newsletter and managing our space on the web requires constant attention and technical skills not generally possessed by members of the public at large. We were lucky to find them all in our late friend, Joe D'Andrea, whose absence is felt in many ways, none more so than in this critical area of communications.

Enter a second critical element to our success: volunteers. Progress toward our goals would be impossible without the experience and skills they offer. Fortunately for us, luck has again delivered in the form of Linda Phillips and Ray Luistro, who since May have joined with vice chair, Jim Nappi, to form our communications working group.

Linda, a resident of Asbury Park, is employed by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University where she does graphic and website design. Drawing upon her substantial workday skills and experience, Linda does all the layout work for *You and the Q*, turning the content she receives from Jim into the polished and professional newsletter our readers have come to expect. "Now that we've settled into a process for producing the newsletter that seems to work well, I'd like to start focusing on ways we can improve our process for distribution of information beyond the internet," said Phillips. "This will be part of a project our working group will undertake to develop a comprehensive public relations program." Linda has also contributed significant input to our website refreshment project.

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1ST ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EVENT A SUCCESS

On September 23, 2006, approximately 30 volunteers and board members gathered at the home of vice chair, Jim Nappi, for the *Q spot's* 1st Annual Leadership Happening, an event designed to thank the dedicated volunteers who have made a commitment to help the *Q spot* reach its goals. With a buffet prepared and generously donated by MaryLuz Kuilan of From the Heart Catering, attendees enjoyed a much deserved afternoon of relaxation and socializing. A special award was presented to Taka Hirai, Bill Kessler and David Martocci of Asbury Park's TAKA Japanese Restaurant for their endless support and generosity. Below: Sue Henderson, trustee, Phyllis Long, senior initiative, Joe Cutter, family initiative, enjoy the fun.



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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 in New Jersey. Its mission is to foster the health, well being and pride of individuals, groups and families within Monmouth and Ocean Counties' GLBT community by providing resources, referrals, public education, outreach services and general support that will empower them to live their lives in dignity and freedom.

HOW YOU CAN CONTACT US

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jersey Shore Community Center Project

MaryAnn Vitiello, chairperson

Jim Nappi, vice chair and acting treasurer

Donna Harrison, trustee

Sue Henderson, trustee

Christopher James, trustee

Brent Pawlecki, trustee

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JOE D'ANDREA - THE HONORS CONTINUE

On November 4, 2006, the Liberty Fund of the New Jersey Lesbian & Gay Coalition will bestow a posthumous Honor Award on our beloved and much missed friend, Joe D'Andrea. Established in 1988, the Honor Award recognizes people who have worked for the betterment of the LGBTI community through a single significant effort or a sustained period of transforming work. And that certainly describes our Joe.


The awards ceremony will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 21 Kingsbridge Road in Piscataway. A cocktail reception begins at 6:00 pm; the awards follow at 7:00 pm. The festivities also include dinner and dancing. For more information about the Coalition, its Liberty Fund and the Honor Awards visit www.njlgc.org.

In similar fashion, the Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce recently remembered Joe at its Carousel Awards banquet held at the Berkeley Carteret Hotel on October 12, 2006. The Chamber's \$1,000.00 donation to the Joe D'Andrea Memorial Fund stands as a testament to the strong relationships Joe was able to build with many of the City's business leaders. Like all other such donations, the Chamber's gift will be used to cover the cost of establishing and operating a **Q spot** home space. Those interested in supporting the Fund can send their donations to Joe's Fund at 57 South Main Street, #234, Neptune, NJ 07753. **Q**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On the evening of **December 1, 2006**, the **jersey shore Q spot** will join The Center in Asbury Park, Asbury Park's Trinity Church, and CheckMate, Inc. in marking the 19th annual International World AIDS Day.

Details will be available shortly. Please plan to attend.



there's more to
japanese food
than sushi

TAKA

lunch wed-sun: noon-3:30pm - dinner wed-sun: 5-10pm
632 mattison avenue - asbury park - (732) 775-1020

Q SPOT - SPONSORED
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING

SUNDAYS - 7:00 P.M.

TRINITY CHURCH
503 ASBURY AVENUE, ASBURY PARK, NJ 07712

INITIATIVE UPDATES

Under the direction of its co-leads, Jamie Nappi and Liz Bennett, and with the help and support of Board liaison, MaryAnn Vitiello, the **Family Initiative** is making steady progress in establishing itself as a primary source of organized social activity for GLBT families living in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. On August 13, 2006, the group participated in a Day at the Beach social organized by Rainbow Families of New Jersey and held in Bradley Beach. The day included refreshments, plenty of games and activities for the kids, and lots of opportunity for the adults to meet and socialize.

Following up on the success of the well attended beach event, on October 8, 2006, the Initiative held its first **Q spot** family social at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Asbury Park. Seven families, with kids ranging in age from one week to 11 years, and three single supporters, traveled from Freehold, Atlantic Highlands, Belmar, Ocean Township and Asbury Park, to spend an informal afternoon socializing, sharing experiences and information, and expressing gratitude for an organized venue where they can meet and develop relationships with other GLBT families. While the kids enjoyed having the entire gym to themselves, the adults agreed that for now, the Initiative would best serve them by offering a regular opportunity to be together. And so it was decided that they will do so on the first Sunday of each month, the next gathering being Sunday, November 5, 2006, at 3:00 pm. Father David Stout, Rector of the Trinity Church, has graciously offered his facility as a regular meeting place. Anyone is welcome – define “family” as you see fit. Just bring a “covered dish” for a pot luck feast and a willingness to join in the fun.

Meanwhile, the **Health Initiative** is also making steady progress toward its initial goal of providing the **Q spot** community with an entertaining, engaging and user-friendly website to provide timely news updates on health and fitness issues that impact the GLBT community, along with links to other important health sites. Headed by Board liaison, Dr. Brent Pawlecki, the Initiative is hoping to have the site ready for Board of Trustees review in mid-December and approved for launch in January 2007.

On September 25, 2006, the **Senior Initiative** sponsored a very successful **Quesdays** program on the issues surrounding care giving for the elderly or seriously ill. The program was moderated by Winifred V. Quinn, Associate State Director-Advocacy at AARP New Jersey, and included presentations by Maryann Buchanan, Joe Cutter, Phyllis Long and Liz Ruga, and Lee Parker, each of whom has been touched by the issue. With the help of Board liaison, Donna Harrison, the Initiative is developing additional activities for the near future.

Finally, hoping to kick-start its **Youth Initiative**, the Board of Trustees has recently authorized several of its members to develop a comprehensive plan for the establishment of a youth peer support group. Drawing from resources provided by the National Association of LGBT Community Centers, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition and other already-established gay youth advocacy organizations, the group hopes to have the plan ready for Board review in the first quarter of next year. **Q**

A NIGHT OF FUN AND GAMES AT QUESDAYS

On July 31, 2006, **Quesdays** took a break from its usual presentation format and offered attendees the chance to socialize over refreshments and a few of those board games that until that evening had been packed away for the last

decade or so. If you think you’ve seen everything, you need to watch four grown, gay men play Candyland! Thanks to all who joined in the fun and to TAKA and Asbury Park Roastery for their continued support. **Q**



Christopher James, Marty Fried, Chris, and Jim McKenna conquer Candyland.

Maryann Buchana, Wendy Slotter and Asbury Park Roastery's Alli Kennedy (Who looks like she could use a cup of her own Joe!), enjoy a round of Yahtzee and a few laughs.




COMMUNICATIONS (continued from page 1)

Ray comes to us from Ocean Grove. His extensive training and experience in documentation and website management has recently landed him a new position at Ingenix Corporation (i3Global Enterprise), where he generates validation deliverables for clinical database systems and (GUI) Interfaces. Over the course of the last few months, Ray has concentrated substantial effort on refreshing our website. "After the loss of Joe [D'Andrea] we found ourselves in a position where we had to hand off management of our website to a new webmaster, so we took the opportunity to review the website in total – its design, its functionality, and especially the ease with which it can be operated," said Nappi. "Most of all we were determined that we would never again be dependent upon a single individual for the upkeep of our site."

To help ensure that management of the website could easily be transferred if necessary, Luistro recommended that it be reconstructed on an online website that provides access to user-friendly site construction and management tools. "I've used 1and1.com before and found it to be very accessible," said Luistro. "Everyone on the working group is now able to make content revisions and updates and even change design and functionality elements, if required." Luistro stressed, however, that while access to make content revisions and updates may ultimately be granted to initiative leads and others, for site security purposes, at present all changes and updates must flow through him.

The refreshed website has a new brighter look and in addition to offering visitors the ability to read all issues of *You and the Q*, subscribe for e-mail updates or sign up for the mailing list, and register as a volunteer, there are now separate pages dedicated to each program initiative and to our *Quesdays* program. "Linda will be our contact for all newsletter issues and Ray has volunteered to serve as our webmaster," said Nappi. "But because we are now operating in a much more user-friendly environment, in our absence, the others on the [communications] working group can fill in and make sure things keep going," added Luistro.

"Keeping up with *You and the Q* and maintaining the website in operation after Joe's death has been tough," said Nappi. "But with volunteers like Linda and Ray things are getting a bit easier and we're very grateful for their help."

You can visit the *Q spot's* newly refreshed website at www.jsQspot.org. And the working group recommends that if you've signed on as a subscriber or registered as a volunteer in the past few months and you have received no response, you might want to visit the new site and sign up again. Of course, good communications work both ways, so if you have comments or suggestions just send them to info@jsQspot.org. 

UPCOMING QUESDAYS PROGRAMS

A series of workshops, seminars and panel discussions.

November 6, 2006 – Internet Security

Speaker: Det. Robert M. Angelini, Computer Crimes Unit, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
 Synopsis: Just in time for holiday shopping, learn the ins and outs of surfing safely on the internet.
 Where: TAKA, 632 Mattison Ave., AP
 Time: Doors open at 7:00 pm for social time; program begins at 7:30 pm
 Cost: \$5 suggested donation (more if/less if)
 Refreshments: Coffee, soft drinks, dessert snacks.

November 19, 2006* – Holiday Wine Tasting**

Speaker: Steve Knox, Allied Beverage Group, LLC
 Synopsis: Discover fine wines that will work well with your holiday menus.
 Where: TAKA, 632 Mattison Ave., AP
 Time: Doors open at 1:30 pm for social time; program begins at 2:00 pm
 Cost: \$15 suggested donation
 * Note Special Day - Sunday

December 11, 2006 – Quesdays Authors Series

Speaker: Kim Powers, The History of Swimming
 Synopsis: Powers, a screenwriter who has also written for Good Morning America, shares his memoir, which is centered on a three-day search for his missing twin brother, Tim.
 Where: TAKA, 632 Mattison Ave., AP
 Time: Doors open at 7:00 pm for social time; program begins at 7:30 pm
 Cost: \$5 suggested donation (more if/less if)
 Refreshments: Coffee, soft drinks, dessert snacks.

January 13, 2007* – There's Always Time to be Fit

Speaker: Fred Fernicola - President and Personal Trainer, Premiere Personal Fitness, AP
 Synopsis: A demonstration of exercise routines to keep you fit in as little as 15-30 minutes, three times a week.
 Where: Newberry Fitness, 614 Cookman Ave., AP
 Time: Doors open at 1:00 pm for social time; program begins at 1:30 pm
 Cost: \$5 suggested donation (more if/less if)
 Refreshments: Healthy snacks and beverages.
 * Note Special Day - Saturday

February 4, 2007* – For the Love of Chocolate**

Speaker: Donna Harrison, Trustee & Chocolatier.
 Synopsis: Spend an afternoon exploring the wonders of the world's favorite sweet treat.
 Where: TAKA, 632 Mattison Ave., AP
 Time: Doors open at 1:30 pm for social time; program begins at 2:00 pm
 Cost: \$15 suggested donation
 * Note Special Day - Sunday

**Reservations suggested for wine and chocolate events. Watch at www.jsQspot.org for details.